

the contemplation of the geologist, especially when we reflect that this phenomenon recurs in a great number of places, and over a very extended space of country. These caves have been the object of research of several naturalists, some of whom have well described and figured the bones which they contain; and even before they were explored by the naturalist, they were celebrated among the common people, who, according to their custom, added many imaginary prodigies to the natural wonders which are really observed in them. The bones which they contain were long, under the name of *fossil unicorn*, an important article of commerce and materia medica, on account of the powerful virtues which were attributed to them; and it is probable that the desire of finding these bones contributed much to the more accurate knowledge of these caves, and even to the discovery of several of them.

The most anciently celebrated is the cave of *Bauman*, situated in the country of *Blankenburg*, which belongs to the Duke of Brunswick, to the south of the city of that name, to the east of *Elbingerode*, and to the north of the village of *Rubeland*, the nearest inhabited place, in a hill which forms one of the last declivities of the *Hartz* toward the east. It has been described by many authors, among whom we shall particularly mention the great *Leibnitz*, in his *Protogæa*, pl. i. p. 97, where he gives a map of it, borrowed from the *Acta Eruditorum* 1702, p. 305.

Its general direction is east and west, but the entrance faces the north. It is very narrow, although it is under a pretty large natural vault. The first cave is the largest. From this to the second, one must descend by