

BONE CAVES IN FRANCONIA.

* * * CAPTAIN WILLOUGHBY MONTAGU having favoured me with an account of the state of the principal caves in Franconian Switzerland, which he visited last summer, the subjoined extract may be useful to the continental traveller. The newly-discovered cave of *Sophienhöhle* appears to be highly interesting; the stalactites remaining uninjured, and the ossiferous floor in the state in which it was discovered: the much-frequented caverns being stripped of every relic by the spoliations of visitors during the last century and a half.

“ The northern part of Bavaria, which is denominated ‘ Franconian Switzerland,’ is situated about the centre of a triangle, formed between Bamberg on the N.W., Bayreuth N.E., and Nuremberg S.; the best road from this latter city diverging beyond Erlangen to the north.

“ The nearest route from London is through Belgium, from Ostend or Antwerp, by the line of railroad which (since October, 1843) passes on from Liege and Verviers, by Aix-la-Chapelle to Cologne. Thence by steam up the Rhine, by Coblenz to Mayence, and again by railway to Frankfort. In summer there are steam-boats up and down the Maine, as far as *Wurzburg* daily, and higher up, *between* Schweinfurt and Bamberg, which latter distance is performed in eight hours going up, and five down. Or there is a diligence (*eilwagen*) from Frankfort direct to Nuremberg, from which place (or Bamberg, &c.) a carriage must be hired to Muggendorf, the principal village of that interesting district. It lies about half way on the post road between Erlangen and Bayreuth, and has two tolerable country inns; the people are civil, and moderate in their charges, at least for the freshest trout, and good wine of Bavaria.

“ This charming spot and neighbourhood attracts not only the geologist and lover of the picturesque, but also the angler,