

tators,—a kind of mysterious awe and subdued dread, as if one momentarily expected the sea-goddess to rise from the depths, attended by her conch-blowing Tritons and sleek-tressed Nereids,—as if one felt that the place belonged to another world, where the myths of the poets might suddenly be converted into realities.

“ A savage place, as holy and enchanted
As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted
By woman wailing for her demon lover.”

The common story runs that the grotto was discovered in 1822, by two English visitors; or, more truly, by a fisherman of the island, called Ferrara. But it was not only known when Addison travelled through Italy, and when Capaccio described it in 1605, but was frequented by the Romans, who seem to have used it as a bathing-place.

Between the landing-place known as the Marina Grande and the Blue Grotto, lies the *Grotto of the Stalactites*, discovered in 1851, and deriving its name from the rich fantastic decorations of its roof.

On the south side of the island are the *Passaggio e Grotta Verde*, or the Green Passage and the Green Grotto, forming a cavern of no great extent excavated in the limestone rock. Their roofs and sides assume a bright green tint, as if studded with dazzling emeralds. The entrance is about twenty feet high.]

The water which is found in all caverns occasionally passes into the condition or form of ice. Among these natural glaciers, or ice-caves, the most celebrated are those of Fondeurle; of La Chaux, six leagues from Besançon; Saint-Georges, in the Jura; and finally, that of Mont Vergy, in the Valley of Reposin, near Cluses. The latter was visited, in 1861, by M. Thury, who describes it as presenting a spectacle of great magnificence.

In these interesting and very curious cavities the soil is nothing more than a sheet of limpid ice, while their roofs are embellished with large pendent icy lustres, resembling brilliant stalactites. When