

commending him to God and the charitable, to aid him in seeking his fortune in the world. The poor fellow was so anxious to go, that, more for the sake of pleasing him, than with any hopes of his being useful,—though, had we not been leaving the country of the Sclavacks, his Polish would have helped us considerably, as the two languages have a great similarity,—I told him to mount the box and off we went.

Our horses' heads were now turned towards Aggtelek, a small village about twenty miles off, and remarkable for possessing one of the largest caverns in the world. Torches we had already provided, and guides were soon found to accompany us; for, unlike Demenfalva, Aggtelek is well known, and is often visited by foreigners as well as by Hungarians. It is not necessary to give a minute account of what has already been often described. The cavern is formed in a lime-stone rock, like all others we know of, and extends to a great distance underground. It is said to communicate with two small caverns* which open at ten miles' distance from Aggtelek. In the vastness of its halls, the huge proportions of its columns, and the mysterious windings of its long passages, Aggtelek is superior to anything of the kind I have seen. In some places, too, it is of exquisite beauty. While H—— was making a sketch of the *Tanz Saal* (Ball-room),

* In these caverns there is said to be ice, as at Demenfalva, though nothing of the kind is seen at Aggtelek.

where in summer the peasants sometimes hold their fêtes, the guides conducted me to an offset from the great cavern, called the Garden of Paradise. For a full quarter of an hour we crept on our hands and knees; sometimes wading through the small brook which makes its way out by this passage, sometimes sliding back over the slimy rocks, and sometimes squeezing through narrow crevices where there was scarcely room for the human body to pass. At last we once more stood upright; we had reached the Garden, and well does it deserve the name of Paradise; for anything more beautiful than the thousand fantastic forms—trees, fruits, waterfalls, serpents,—into which the stalactitic pillars have formed themselves, it is impossible to conceive.

As far as I can guess, we followed the great cavern for not less than two or three miles, and during the whole of our route we were presented with a constant succession of beauties, to all of which the imaginations of the peasants have appropriated names and likenesses. The guides could speak only a very few words of German, but among them were "*Deutsche Hosen*;" and they did not fail to apply them with a look of most sovereign contempt to a curious formation of the stone which imitated with sufficient accuracy a pair of knee-breeches,—in the opinion of every true Magyar, the most ridiculous and despicable covering for humanity ever invented.

When we returned, the sun had already set; but

the accommodations were so very indifferent at Aggtelek, that we determined to push on a stage further that night. The Haiduk was ready with four horses; but it was easy to see they had been at work all day, and that they were little inclined for further exercise. When we got about two miles from the village, and were just on the borders of a great forest where the roads were sadly cut up, this indisposition manifested itself in a still more positive manner, for they stood quite still; nor could all the flogging, shouting, or even crying of the boy who drove us, — for the poor lad cried with passion at the disgrace, — incite them to any other movement than kicking at the carriage. It was certainly a disagreeable dilemma: it was just getting dark; we knew nothing of the country, but we had heard at Vienna, that it was one of the worst parts of Hungary for robbers, and that it was not safe travelling without a guard of soldiers. Something, however, must be done; and, requesting H—— not to let the boy take away the horses, I set off to get some assistance from Aggtelek. Having at last found the only man who knew anything of German, and having looked into every stable and ox-shed in the village, and having in consequence been attacked by some score furious dogs, from which nothing but a huge stick and a pistol saved me from suffering, I at last got four oxen, and returned again to the carriage. But here a new misfortune awaited me; the boy and the

not without its influence on his decision. I am really sorry for the lovers of the marvellous, that I have nothing more romantic to tell them than that we ate our supper, drank our wine, smoked our pipes, laughed over the adventures of the day, and slept so soundly, that six fresh horses were already harnessed to the carriage, and a dozen fine good-tempered peasants lifting at the wheels, before we opened our eyes the next morning, and wondered what it was all about. We reached Miskolcz the same night, and were glad to luxuriate in a good bed and a clean room,—comforts we had scarcely enjoyed since we left Kaschau.

The continual clanking of the prisoners' chains, which never ceased to ring in our ears so long as we tarried in Miskolcz, has left but a disagreeable impression of the place on our memories. It must require long habit before one can feel accustomed to the sight of chained prisoners performing the work at which in happier lands we have seen only free labourers employed. I have witnessed it in Germany and Italy, as well as in Hungary; but I never could pass those melancholy strings of wretched beings without a feeling of shame that man should expose these moral diseases of his species to the gaze of the whole world, instead of covering them with the veil of secrecy and carefully administering to their cure.

We obtained a servant here who could speak Hungarian, and dismissed our little Pole with