142

~~congratulation of~~

1892

Crystal Route

February 14th

I ~~been~~ was very busy for the last 3 weeks improving the Sampson's Route. & ~~therefore~~ had no time to explore. While blasting in the North Dressing Room yesterday I opened a hole that seemed very deep ~~because~~ as I could not hear a stone strike bottom for ~~quite a while~~ a long time after I threw it down. There is a strong current of air going down it. My curiosity was excited &, this morning I & 3 companions took over 100 feet of rope & explored it. I went down first and found a water-worn-channel leading North-west on the Main crevice Y. X. J. came down & together we went about 300 or 350 feet in the crevice & found it to be very pretty, but difficult to explore on account of small holes.

March 12th

Sampson's Palace Route.

Father & I finished the "oven" this evening. I am not a bit sorry that it is through with, in fact I had begun to get tired of it for it hindered the ~~progression of~~ finishing development for about 5 weeks. We now have the "oven" so that we can walk through it by stooping & it ~~may~~ need more improvement at some future date but at present it is ~~very good~~ in good shape, considering other ~~powers~~ farther on

1892

— Crystal Route —

— March 19th

George A. Stabler & I made an exploring trip in the Crystal Route this afternoon. Our object was to find another pocket of quartz crystals, similar to those between the second & third division of Crystal Palace.

We first went to the North West end of Crystal Palace & turned to the right on the largest circle of the Crystal Route. When we came to the first room we turned to the right, into the passage that Bill Pope & I discovered on the 25th day of November 1890. From this room we tried to find a passage leading to the right & after searching thourily, we found ~~no new passage leading to the right~~ none until we got to the farther end of the room.

We ~~found~~ had lots of crawling through "oven" shaped passages & one small room, when ~~we came to a place that~~ I knew. ~~That~~ was about one-third the distance between Crystal Palace & the large Stalactite rooms on the main circle of the Crystal Route.

We then started to the Stalactite rooms on the "main circle" ~~but after we got about~~ after we went through two rooms we found a place that we ~~wished~~ wanted to explore. After following this passage for about half an hour it came out where our first part of the ~~exploring~~ trip ended. We ~~was~~ were not entirely discouraged with ~~to~~ how defeats ~~however~~ & ~~we~~ determined to try it again before we went to the entrance.

1892

March 19th concluded

We started back in the passage from which we ~~had just~~ came & soon found a passage leading to the left. The passage was a little like a crevice & led N.W. & S.E.. After going about 50 feet we found a hole leading up. I went up about 30 feet & found that it was wedged full of rock. It looked ~~very much like~~ as if there was a large opening above but we could not get up so ~~we~~ followed the passage on to the South East & soon came to a place that I ~~ago~~ recognized. We ~~soon~~ came to a room just below the Flour mill Hopper. We then went to the entrance by way of ~~the~~ Crystal Palace. I will give an illustration of the inscription that we put in the first room that we discovered on this trip

G.A. Stabler
A.F. McDonald
First discovery Mch. 19th 1892

March 20th

Colosseum Route

It has been bad weather on the exterior part of this country all day. We expected a load of visitors from Hot Springs today but the weather has been so bad that ~~we did not look for them today~~ they did not come. About 10 o'clock G.A. Stabler, J.D. McDonald, C.L. McDonald & myself started in the cave on ~~an exploring expedition~~ to explore. At first we hardly knew where to go, as there ~~is~~ are so many places that need exploring, but I suggested that there

was a good chance to explore ~~on~~ in the Collesium Route and ~~then~~ we decided to explore there as I was the only one of the party that had seen it, so the rest ~~of the party~~ were ~~as~~ curious to see the ~~Route as well~~ it and as explore in it. The collesium Route, as far as it is explored at the present date, mostly overlies the Castle Garden Route. There are three entrances to it from the Castle Garden Route that are already discovered. They are near the places named. The first one is between the Scenerie of Wickelow on the Castle Garden Route & the Garden of Gods on the Collesium Route. The second entrance is between the Council Chamber on the Castle Garden Route & the Fair Grounds, our latest discovery on the Collesium Route while the third is between the Tennis Court on the Castle Garden Route & the Marble Quarry on the Collesium Route.

We entered the Collesium Route V.I.A. the Scenerie of Wielow & from there we went through a winding passage to the Garden of Gods. Here we found some of the finest scenery in the cave. The roof is a series of beautiful arches, finer and more beautiful than any production of art. After looking through the room for a while we took a passage at the North-West corner ~~of the room~~ and proceeded to explore it. We went through two small rooms & past a cataract of water formation before we got in any place that I had not explored before. From here we turned to our left and three of us explored while the other

Z. U. Q. = A. F. McDonald.
Y. X. J = E. L. McDonald.

stay ... ssage
that ... one
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and ... ugh
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crevi ... ecog-
-nize ... party
& we ... at
I ~~sa~~ fi ... for
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I ha ... that
... and
had an opening at the top and ... the bottom Elmer & I went down in the bottom ~~and explored~~ for about 20 minutes but found nothing so ~~we~~ returned to the remainder of the party. We tried the compass and found the crevice ~~to~~ extended East and West. We then tried the passage that led from the upper part of the room & had ~~more~~ better success. After climbing up we turned to the North West and found a chamber about 15 × 20 feet and about 8 feet high. in this room G. A. Stabler and I placed the following incription.

smoked on the roof

Y. X. J.
Z. U. Q.
March 20th 1892
J. D. Mc. Donald
G. A. Stabler

From this room Elmer found a passage leading to the right and he soon came on a string that was partly decayed with age. I found the string to be

Callesium Route

stayed with the string. The passage that George Stabler followed and the one that I followed came together so we joined and explored it together. I went through a small hole to the right and soon found a crevice shaped room that I thought I recognized so I called to the rest of the party & we proceeded to explore this newroom for I ~~saw that~~ finding I was mistaken about ever being ~~in the~~ room before. We found the room that I had discovered was of good size and had an opening at the top and one at the bottom Elmer & I went down in the bottom ~~and explored~~ for about 20 minute but found nothing so ~~we~~ returned to the remainder of the party. We tried the compass and found the crevice extended East and West. We then tried the passage that led from the upper part of the room & had more success. After climbing up we turned to the North West and found a chamber about 15 × 20 feet and about 8 feet high. in this room G. A. Stabler and I placed the following inscription.

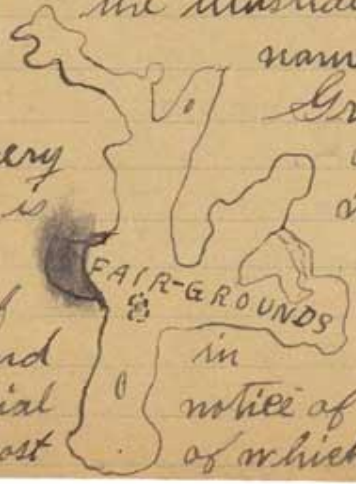
smoked on the roof

Y. X. J.
Z. U. Q.
March 20th 1892
J. D. McDonald
G. A. Stabler

From this room Elmer found a passage leading to the right and he soon came on a string that was partly decayed with age. I found the string to be

one that R. N. Norcutt, William Ranger & I stretched on the 17th day of July 1891 That was at the same time that the Collesium was discovered. We then went to the Collesium by way of the string that we had found & after looking through the room for a while we decided to go to the Marble quarry & explore from there. We started from the West End of the Collesium & went by the place that Mr. Ranger left a fine specimen of pop-corn-work. That place was at the bottom of a small hole that led down from near the west end of the Collesium. From there we went through a very long low passage to the Marble Quarry, arriving there at 2:30 P.M.. Here we took a taste of ~~our~~ lunch, for that was all of it, and after a rest we started to ~~explore for new cave~~ for fresh adventure. We went out of the Marble Quarry by way of the North Entrance & after going ~~for~~ about a hundred yards through an airy passage ~~for~~ we arrived at the third entrance of the Collesium Route, ~~that is~~ the one that comes up from the ~~college~~ Council Chamber I ~~had~~ thought of leading the party to explore to the North East of the entrance but I saw a passage leading to the West and I told the party to wait until I saw if it would pay to explore it. I then went in the passage and found that it ~~soon~~ turned to the North West and kept getting larger until I concluded that it would pay to explore and I then returned to the remainder of the party. We had ~~got~~ gone a little farther than I ~~had got~~ went when George H. Stabler noticed a large hole

in the roof. We were all looking up the hole & wondering how we could get up there when I suggested that we could follow that long rock and climb up from the other end of it. I did not know that we could get up there at the time that I made the suggestion, but only said so to break the monotony. The rock was about 40 feet long and laid North West and South East, the South East end was toward us. We started up the rock which was about 15 feet higher at the other end and when we got where the stone stopped there lay above us and on all sides of us an enormus cavern. We went up in the room where we could see it better and we were on one side of the it but we could see neither the other side or either end of it We found that the room extended North & South by the compass, G. A. Stabler & I explored to the North & E. L. McDonald explored to the South while J. D. McDonald Staid by our candles and string near the entrance of the room. After we had explored through it for about an hour we found the room to be of this shape, that is the shape of the illustration. George A. Stabler named the room the "Fair Grounds" and the name is very appropiate for the floor is unusualy level and it contains nearly every kind of specimens that are found in the cave. We took special notice of the beautiful argonite frost of which some parts



of the room are elaborately decorated. We estimated the length of the room to be about 65 rods while the breadth ~~of it~~ will average about 5 rods making an area of over 2 acres the average height is about 15 feet although in some places it is fifty. The Fair Grounds contains by a carful estimate 88481.25 cubic feet We explored a hole in the North end of the Fair Grounds leading down and found a room lying to the North East. In the South end of this room I recognized a passage as the one the led to the North East and then to the North West of the third entrance of the Collesium Route. This of course added another circle to our list which is already large. We explored for a while longer and found a hole that leads to the third tier of chambers somewhere near the College. The upper end of it was near the north end of the Fair-grounds. We could drop a large stone down the hole and the effect was surprising. It would first strike the side about 20 feet below and then bit first one side and then the other until it got about 50 or 60 feet below. We could then hear it ring in the box-work and the next we heard was a thump on what we supposed was the floor of a room. by this time the sound was faint but we listened close and found that it rolled down an incline and completely out of hearing. I all my experance in the cave that was the first hole that I could find no bottom to by dropping a stone down. We had no rope with us and as we considered it dangerous to climb down without one

Collesium Route

we returned to the "Fair Grounds" and then prepared to go to the entrance of the cave.

We went out of the Collesium Route by way of the Council Chamber. ~~From~~ from there we went to the Vestibule by way of the Saint Dominic Chamber. There we left our packages and went to see the Tabernacle which is second ~~at~~ only in size when compared with all of the different rooms in cave so far as explored at the present date. We returned to Vestibule and there prepared for a trip ~~out~~ to the entrance. I guess the majority of the party were tired for when I suggested that we would go and see the Sailors Delight they said that they would rather use their muscle to get to the entrance with. We went to Castle Garden by way of the College and Chamber De Morentt. We went from the South end of Castle Garden to Monte Cristo's Palace & from there to the Chamber of Bells. We arrived at the entrance at ~~8:00~~ 7:30 P.M. We were tired and hungry but ~~nevertheless~~ never-the-less we were well satisfied with our trip.

I will give an illustration of an inscription in the North west end of the Fair Grounds by George R Stabler.

FIRST DISCOVERY
March. 20th 1892.
J.D. McDonald - E.L. McDonald.
A.F McDonald - G.A. Stabler

High Route

March 29th

At 8 o'clock this morning Ernest A. Knight, William Ranger & I started in the cave on an exploring trip. We started to explore from the Fallen Flats on the Sampson's Route & took the passage leading to the South-West of the room. After going through a low passage for about 50 feet we came into a very pretty room that was about 30 feet in diameter, after crawling over two shelves on the side of the room until we got to the bottom we found that it was about 25 feet deep & decorated with the finest quality of box-work. From there we went through a small hole in the west side of the room and came into a room that Elmer discovered on the 2nd day of August 1891. This room is about 100 feet long by 35 feet wide and has an average hight of 12 feet. The rock is generaly bare although there is a few geodes and some very nice box-work in the room. In the North-west corner of this room there is ~~about~~ 6 or 8 large rocks piled up lengthwise with the room. From there there is a hole leading up about 55 or 60 feet. I could see a well developed passage leading from the top of this hole but I could not get to it on account of dangerous climbing so I thought that the hole would still be there when I got to be a better climber and then I would explore it. We then went to that small hole that leads from the west side of the chamber with the intention of going through it and exploring for new chambers on the other side. The hole is noted for being a hard one to get through but all three of us got safely through that 12 feet of passage in about ten minutes. We found

High route

ourselves in a chamber that had loose rock in the bottom of it. This room was about 25 x 50 feet & about 35 feet in height. As we were but a little ways from the Lake side-scenery we determined to make an effort to find a passage leading to it from this room so as to avoid the small hole that we had just came through. The Lake-side-scenery lay to the South of us and, as we could find no passage leading in the desired direction we tried a passage that led from the West side of the room. It soon turned South east and after we crawled around for about 20 minutes we found a direct passage leading to the fourth room of the Lake-side-scenery. We then returned to the room that we started to explore from and tried to find a passage leading to an upper room but after I crawled through the loose rock for nearly half an hour we gave it up. We then took a passage leading to the west and after taking three or four angles we came into a very pretty, oblong room which was about 40 feet in length. From there I found a passage leading to the west through some loose stone, and we had to move several of them before I could get through. I found the room to be much the same shape as the one that I had just left but I could find no passage leading from it so I returned to the remainder of the party. Ernest Knight & I found a passage leading to the South of the room which soon led us into a small chamber about 7 x 10 feet. From there I discovered a hole leading East and after crawling on my hands and knees for about 15 feet I came into an irregular room about 40 feet across. Here I sent word by Ernest to

Mr Ranger to bring every thing if he had to use a pack mule. When he came we left him with the string and tried to find our way out of the room. I explored the west side of the room while Ernest explored to the south. We both came back unsuccessful, but Ernest soon found a good passage leading to the East. Will Ranger & I followed him and we soon came into a very large room which I recognized as the ~~Ca~~ Catheteral which is near the Diamond mine. This room was discovered the 5th day of July 1891 which is the same time that the Diamond Mine was discovered. Here we ate our lunch and after resting awhile we went to the Diamond Mine and then to Grand View which is one of the finest chambers in the cave. We climbed up the west side of Grand View for about 50 feet where we reached the ceiling. Here we found the following inscription smoked on the ~~roof~~ ceiling

A. F. McDONALD
JULY 12 1891

~~We~~ Here we took a passage leading to the East and after ~~climbing~~ going about 50 feet we climbed up through a small hole and turned directly back into a very nice room that was about 20 feet in diameter and 20 feet high. Will Ranger explored to the ~~right~~ left while Ernest & I explored to the right. We climbed up into a hole in the side of this room & slipped ~~down into~~ down into a pretty little room that was ornamented with white sandstone. We named it the Carriers Roost. On the wall I placed the following with a lead pencil

Ernest A. Knight
March 29th 1892

High Route

We heard Ranger callings to us and as we could get no farther, we went to him. He had found some beautiful argonite frost and also found the Bottomless pit. I think that this pit opens out in the cathedral and therefore has not bottom According to my judgement it must be over 125 feet deep. After exploring around for an hour we found several small rooms that were completely lined with beautiful frost work. In one place within 50 feet of the top of the bottomless pit we found a seam of Black Hills Diamonds but they were small and we did not try to take any to the entrance with us.

We returned to Grand View and after packing a few pieces of frost-work that we brought with us we started on around the circle. We passed through 2 large rooms that were not named and then we came to the Largest chamber on the route which is Paradise Regained. From the largest end of this room we found a passage leading South West. After we went about 300 feet through difficult passages we came to a large room with irregular shape and about 75 feet in diameter. The ceiling was about 9 feet high. We went on about 200 feet in a South-westerly course and came unexpectedly into the Cathedral. We then made our way back to the Paradise Regained. We then started to the White Rose chamber but after we got into the third large room we found a passage leading to the North East that aroused what little curiosity we had left, so E. A. Knight & I started to explore it. It was oven shaped and led straight ahead for 150 feet without a break. It then opened out into a small, low room with a passage leading to the right &

High Route

one leading to the left. I took the passage leading to the left and Ernest took ~~the one that led~~ to the right. Both passages came together in about 60 feet and then I left Ernest and went on to see whether or not it would pay to put a string in the passage. It sloped gently down for about 200 feet and came to an abrupt stop, as there was a crevice cross-cutting the bottom of the passage about 4 feet from the end I began to hunt a way down. I soon found the desired passage and found the bottom of the crevice in about ten feet. I tried to work to the left but could not and had no other show but go to the right. This I dig and soon found that it opened into a good passage. Here I called to Ernest and He and Ranger came with the string. We went South East for about 150 feet from where they overtook me when I recognized the passage and told Ranger to burn the string off for we had no use of it. Here we rested a while and also noted two peculiarity's in the place, The first was the floor which resembled the waves on water and the second was the ~~wind~~ gas or air was going toward the entrance. I went to the passage that we had just came through and found that the air was mooring out the other way. This showed that there was a passage some where near that the air came out of, so we started to hunt for it. I found it in about 5 minutes and it led South East according to guess-work for we had no compass with us. I crawled the hole which was about 35 feet in lenght and named it Dago Misery ~~Mr Ranger then named the passage the the stretch the string through the Dutch Misery~~ From there we went about 450 feet through an irregular passage and arrived at a large

room with about the same formation as Recovered Paradise. It was about 250 feet long with a very irregular shape and the ceiling was about 10 feet from the floor. Ranger staid with the string while Ernest & I explored the surroundings. We found several small chambers to the left & also a large passage leading straight ahead which we all followed. It was open for about 100 feet and then it became smaller and turned gradually to the left. We were soon in another large chamber but not so large as the one we had just left. We again left Mr. Ranger with the string and I found a large passage leading North West While Ernest found a smaller but more important passage leading to the South East. After taking a few loose rock from the passage that Ernest found I was soon able to get through it. We found it to be a room with regular dimensions and the floor was covered with great boulder like rocks. The room was about 80 feet long by 25 feet wide and 30 feet high. At the farther end of the room Ernest found a hole about 4 or 5 feet in diameter and much the shape of a well which led up out of sight. Excited by curiosity he climbed up it and found the top in about 60 feet but he had a harder climb to get down than he had getting up but he reached the bottom with safety in a few minutes. I found a hole leading down near the bottom of the hole that Ernest had just came from but it was to small to get through so we all looked for another way to get down. Mr Ranger found a passage ledding down from the East side of the room so we went down it to see what we could find. We went to the South East and soon came into a room which was about the size of the

one that we had just left. We looked around for 15 or 20 minutes and found nothing so we decided to start for the entrance. We were then about four miles from it and as we did not have an over supply of light there was some compulsion about it so we started immediatly We went to the Garden of Eden by way of the hole in the floor and arrived at the entrance at 6:30 P.M. being 10 hours and 30 minutes on the trip. We were all three tired and hungry but for all of that we did not regret the trip.

Colosseum Route

Monday June 19th 1892

At 9 o'clock last evening I started in the cave with A. J. Vagg of Hot Springs & 5 other gentlemen as visitors. Our trip was intended to be on the Colosseum Route with the "Fair Grounds" as the special object in view. Instead of going the upper way to the "Fair Grounds" we went most of the distance on the Castle Garden Route giving up into the Colosseum Route v.i.a. the Alpine Way.

When we got to that small room at the top of the Alpine way I proposed an exploring trip to the North East. As I had not visited that part of the cave for a while I was anxious to make a trip there in order to keep myself familiar with the cave. We first started on a peculiar oval shaped passage and, after we followed it for about 150 feet we came into the large room that was discovered in August 1891 by Z. V. G.