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AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT

Of the immense salt-mines of Poland.

The fait mines of this country are finding objects of natural curiosity. Theſe are wonderful caverns, ſeveral hundred yards deep, at the bottom of which are many intricate windings and labyrinths. Out of theſe are dug four different kinds of ſalts; one extremely hard, like cryſtal; another, ſofter, but clearer; a third, white but brittle; theſe are all brackiſh; but the fourth is freſh and freſhers. Theſe four kinds are dug in different mines near the city of Cracow; on one ſide of them is a ſtream of fait water; and on the other, one of freſh. The revenue ariſing from theſe and other fait mines is very conſiderable, and formed part of the royal revenue, till they were ſeized by the emperor, being fortuated within the territories which he did not purchaſe from Poland; the annual average profit of that of Wieliczka, was 3,500,000 Poliſh florins, or $87,222. Ad. ded. ſtanding. The latter, indeed, is the moſt conſiderable ſaltmine in the world, and from its great part of the continent is ſupplied with that article. Wieliczka is a ſmall town about eight miles from Cracow; the mine is excavated in a ridge of hills at the northern extremity of the chain which joins to the Carpathian mountains, and has been wrought above 600 years, for they are mentioned in the Poliſh annals, as early as 1237 under Boleſlaus the Chaſte, and not then as a new diſcovery; how much earlier they were known cannot be aſcertained.

There are eight openings or deſcents into this mine, ſix in the field, and two in the town itſelf, which are moſtly uſed for letting down the workmen, and bringing the fait; the others being chiefly uſed for letting in wood and other neceſſaries.

The openings are five feet ſquare, and about four wide; they are lined throughout with timber, and at the top of each there is a large wheel with a rope as thick as a cable, by which things are let down and drawn up; and this is worked by a horſe. When a ſtranger has the curioſity to ſee the works, he muſt deſcend by one of theſe holes; he is firſt to put on a miner's cloaths over his clothes, and then being lifted over the mouth of the hole by a miner, who ſerves for a guide, the miner faſtens a ſmall rope to the large one, and ties it about himſelf; he ſits in this, and, taking his ſtranger on his lap, gives the ſign to be let down. When ſeveral go down together, the cuſtom is, that when the firſt is let down about three yards, the wheel ſtops, and another miner takes another in his lap, and deſcends about three yards farther; the wheel then ſtops for another pair, and ſo on till the whole company are fixed; then the wheel is again worked, and the whole firing of adventurers are let down together. It is no uncommon thing for forty people to go down in this manner. When arrived in a freſh fait ſtopping, they never ſtops till they are all down; but the deſcent is very ſlow and gradual, and is in a very uncomfortable time, while they all remember their lives depend on the goodneſs of the rope. They are carried down a narrow and dark well to the depth of ſix hundred feet perpendicular; this is in reality an immenſe depth, but the terrors and ſolitude of the deſcent make it appear to moſt people vaſtly more than it is. As ſoon as the firſt miner touches the ground at the bottom, he ſlips out of the rope and ſet his companion upon his legs, and the rope continues deſcending till all the reſt do the ſame.

The place where they are ſet down is perfectly dark, but the miner ſtriks fire and light a ſmall lamp, by means of which (each taking the ſtranger by his ſide or by the arm) they lead him through a number of ſtrange paſſages and wonders, all deſcending lower and lower, till they come to certain ladders by which they deſcend an immenſe depth, and in this through paſſages perfect dark. The damp, cold, and darkneſs of theſe place, and the horror of being ſo many yards under ground, generally make ſtangers heartily repent before they get thus far; but when at bottom they are well rewarded for their pains, by a ſight that could never have been expected after ſo much horror.

At the bottom of the laſt ladder the ſtranger is received in a ſmall dark cavern, walled up perfectly cloſe on all ſides. To increaſe the terror of the ſcene, it is uſual for the guide to pretend the utmoſt terror on the apprehenſion of his lamp going out, declaring they muſt periſh in the maſes of the mine if it dark. When arrived in this dreary chamber, he puts out his light, and by accident, and after much care, catches the ſtranger by the head, and drags him through a narrow creek into the body of the mine, when there is ſuch an ſtrange ſcene in view a world, the like of which is ſcarcely to be imagined. It is a ſpacious plain, containing a whole people, a kind of ſubterraneous republic, with houſes, barriages, roads, &c. This is wholly ſcooped out of one vaſt bed of fait, which is as hard rock, as bright and glittering as cryſtal, and the whole ſpace before him is formed of lofty arched vaults, ſupported by columns of fait, and roofed with the ſame, ſo that the column, and indeed the whole mine, ſeem compoſed of the pureſt cryſtal.

They have many public lights in this place continually burning for the general uſe, and the blaze of theſe reflected from every part of the mine, gives a more glittering proſpect than any thing above ground can poſibly exhibit. Were this the whole mine of the fort, it would ſtill be an attract our wonder; but this is only a ſmall part. The fait (though generally clear and bright as cryſtal) is in ſome places tinged with all the colours of precious ſtones, as blue, yellow, purple, and green; there are numerous columns wholly compoſed of theſe kinds, and they look like maſſes of rubies, emeralds, amethyſts, and ſapphires, ſtriking a radiance which the eye can hardly bear, and which has given many people occaſion to compare it to the ſuppoſed magnificence of heaven.

Beſides the variety of forms in theſe vaults, tables, arches, and columns, which are formed as they dig out the fait for the purpoſe of keeping up the roof, there is a vaſt variety of others, which they have ſtrangely figured, the work of nature, and theſe are generally of the pureſt and brighteſt fait.

The roofs of the arches are in many places full of fait, hanging pendant from the top in the form of icicles, and having all the hues and colours of the rainbow; the walks are covered with various compoſts of the ſame kind, and the very floors, when not too much trodden and battered, are covered with globules of the ſame ſort of beautiful materials.

In various parts of this ſpacious plain ſtand the huts of the miners and ſmiths; ſome ſtanding ſingle, and others in clutches villages. They have very little communication with the world above ground, and hundreds of people are born and live all their lives here.

Through the midſt of this plain lies the great road to the mouth of the mine. The fait is ſtrewed by the ſide of the road, with maſſes of fait out of the fartheſt part of the mine, and carrying them to the place where the rope belonging to the wheel reaches, the drivers of theſe carriages are all merry and ſinging, and the fait looks like a load of gems. The horſes kept here are a very great number, and when once let down, they never ſee the day light again; but ſome of the men take frequent occaſions of going up and breathing the freſh air. The inſtruments principally uſed by the miners are pick-axes, hammers, and chiſſels; with theſe they dig out the fait in forms of cylinders, each of many hundred weight. This is found the moſt convenient method of getting them out of the mine, and when they have got ſufficient, they are broken into ſmaller pieces, and fent to the mills, where they are ground to powder. The ſmaſt fort of the fait is frequently cut into toys, and often paſſes for real cryſtal. This hard kind makes a great part of the floor of the mine; and what is moſt ſurprizing to the whole place is, that there runs a ſtream over this, and through a large part of the mine, a ſpring of freſh water, ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants and their horſes, ſo that they need not have any from above ground. The horſes uſually grow blind after they have been ſome little time in the mines, but they do as well for ſervice afterwards as before.

After admiring the wonders of this amazing place, it is no very comfortable reminiſcence to the ſtranger, that he is to go back again through the ſame diſmal way he came, and indeed the journey is not much better than the proſpect; the only means of getting out of the rope, and little form or ceremony is uſed in the journey than in the drawing up of a piece of fait.

The fait dug from this mine is called green fait, but from the ſmall quantity it is difficult to determine, its colour being in iron grey; when pounded, it has a diſmal color, like what we call brown fait. Theſe are the ſalt mines, which, indeed, will eaſily be conceived from the following account of its dimenſions, given by Mr. Coxe: Its known breadth (ſays he) is 1113 feet, its length 1964 feet, and depth 743; this, however, is to be underſtood only of the part which has been actually worked; as to the real depth, or longitude of the extent of the mine, it is not poſitively to conjecture.

The ſubſcriber refpectfully acquaints the public, that he has removed to the corner of Ninth and E ſtreets, where he continues to manufacture all the kinds of Ornaments for Chamney pieces, Door Caps, Pronuſpieces Metal Saſhes, &c. which may alſo be had at his ſtand No. 51, Barclay ſtreet, New-York, and Mr. Wilcs's ſtore, Market ſtreet, Baltimore.

GEORGE ANDREWS.

Who has gold leaf for ſale by the package book.

May 8, 1801. 1y

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of a writ of Venditioni Exponas to me directed, from the General Court for the Weſtern Diſtrict of the ſtate of Maryland, returnable to October Term 1801, will be ſold at Public Sale, for ready money, on the twenty ſecond day of October nxt.

ALL that part of ſquare numbered ſeventy four in the general plan of the City of Washington, which is bounded within the following lines, that is to ſay, Beginning on Pennſylvania Avenue, at the corner of the party wall between the third and fourth three ſtory houſes from the weſternmoſt of the buildings now erected on the ſaid ſquare, and running thence by a line running northwardly through the middle of the ſaid party wall one hundred and twenty ſix feet, through the centre of wall between the third and fourth three ſtory houſes from the weſternmoſt of the ſaid buildings built at the back part thereof, and ſtopping at the corner of the ſouth wall of the ſaid houſes then eaſterly parrelel with the lines of Pennſylvania Avenue, through the middle of the ſouth wall of the ſaid back buildings and houſes, ſo far as a line drawn from Pennſylvania Avenue, through the middle of the meſſuation wall of the fourth houſe eaſtward, from the moſt weſternmoſt houſe built on the ſaid ſquare, one hundred and twenty ſix feet forming a right angle with the ſaid line, and thence with the ſaid Avenue to the beginning, together with all and ſingular the houſes, buildings, and improvements thereon, ſtanding, being, and neceſſarily appertaining, or belonging to the ſaid lot being.

Will be alſo ſold on the ſame day and by the ſame authority, Lots numbered ſeven, eight and nine, on ſquare numbered thirty-eight in the general plan of the ſaid city of Wſhington each of the ſaid lots mentioned three lots having thereon a two ſtory brick houſe. Alſo, one dozen mahogany chairs, 3 mahogany tables, 2 mahogany bedſteads, 2 mahogany tea tables, a mahogany card table, 1 mahogany book caſe, a pair of looking glaſſes, 8 framed prints, 2 carpets, a feather beds complete, 2 ſets of china, a pair of brass andirons, fenders, ſhovels and tongs, ſome kitchen furniture, and one Negro boy ſtave named Butler, about fifteen years of age. The above property is taken as the property of Isac Polock, in ſatisfy a judgment of Abraham Vanhoghen against him.

The ſale will commence at eleven o'clock on the day, and continue until all is ſold.—The houſe and houſes will be ſold on the premiſes reſpectively, and the perſonal property upon ſquare thirty-eight in the City of Washington.

NOTLEY MADDON, late Sheriff of Prince George's County.

October 2. 1aw1s

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, Aug. 19.

By reſpectable advices from Ratiſbon, of the 6th inſt. there is but little hope that the diſtricts of indemnity will be ſoon ſettled. The Pruſſian miniſter in a ſecret conference has declared, in the moſt poſitive manner, that his majeſty, the king of Pruſſia his maſter, would certainly oppoſe with all his power and influence, the ſecularizations in Germany, which have for object the indemnification of Italian princes. A declaration to the ſame purport has been made by the Ruſſian Ambaſſador.

We received the following paragraph from a gentleman, of whoſe knowledge and veracity the public have had ſome experience: A phenomenon at this ſeaſon, and ſtill more ſo in the preſent warm ſtate of the atmoſphere, ſeverely to be aſcertained for the principles of natural philoſophy, was obſerved in the nights of the 7th of July and 3d. of Auguſt between 10 and 11 o'clock, in the neighborhood of Bourn. This was the Aurora Borealis, which began in the north-eaſt, and paſſing over Bootes, M. Alterion, and Urſa Major, ſtretched conſiderably to the weſtward. It was in the zenith of the perſon who obſerved it at eleven, remarkably red, and tremulous, and terrifying to an illiterate mind."

LONDON, Auguſt 20

Admiral Pole's ſquadron, conſiſting of 6 ſail of the line and two frigates, ſailed yeſterday from Portſmouth. It is ſuppoſed he is going to reinforce Sir James Saumarez.

Several regulations have been made by the new Emperor of Ruſſia, all tending to ameliorate the condition of the ſubject.—Fifty thouſand peaſants were allotted for inſtance, as vaſſals to ſupport the different orders of military knighthood. By a late ukaſe, vaſſalage is completely leſſened, and in lieu thereof a tax is levied on the diſtrict, to be applied to the ſame purpoſe, but to be collected by the agents of the national treaſury.

LONDON, Aug. 21.

The return of Lord St. Helens from Petersburgh may be very ſhort expected. According to the letters from Petersburgh of the 17th inſt. Mr. Garſtke had received credentials as ambaſſador to ſucceed him in Germany.

If an article in the Paris papers under the head of Petersburgh, be entitled to any degree of credit, it would appear that the kings of Sardinia and Naples, and the petty princes of Germany, have not much to expect from the interference of the Ruſſian cabinet in the adjuſtment of the indemnities in Germany, or the regulation of the political balance of Europe. It is there ſtated, that the political ſketch of the ſituation of France, which appeared in the Moniteur of the 8th of July, has been copied into the Petersburg Court Gazette, with this ſingular remark, "that it is very favorable to the tranquility of the continent."

The Madrid Court Gazette ſays, that the ſpaniards loſt much fewer men than the French in the battle of Algeziras.—The provincial regiment of Rondo loſt, due eleven men.

The libraries of all the convents in the vicinity of Cologne are now undergoing a ſearch, in order to procure valuable books for the National Library. It is not conceived, that any thing worthy of attention will be diſcovered, as the inhabitants of theſe convents were notorious for preferring well furniſhed cellars to good Libraries.

Auguſt 22.

The arreſt of the French Emigrants at Barcelona, by order of the king of Pruſſia, appears to have excited no ſmall ſenſation on the continent. The following are the exact names, &c. of the perſons thus arreſted at the expreſs deſire of the French: St. Felix was a Major in the Catholic army in La Vendee, where he loſt his wife and two ſons, and eſcaped