But this is an early digression. Too much wandering will be done hereafter to allow of any here.

Cave City, the nearest station on the L. & N., is about ten miles from the cave and eighty-five from Louisville. When we arrived there we found that the stage, which was to carry us the remaining ten miles, would not leave for several hours, so we decided to walk the miles intervening between us and our destination. Leaving our valises to be brought by the stage, we started off, and, after several hours of warm work, arrived at the hotel. This is an architectural curiosity. It is a long, low, L-shaped pile, the older part made of logs and the later portion of frame. A broad porch extends along its whole length and makes a delightful promenading ground. Big forest trees surround it, their welcome shade making the warmest day bearable.

After eating a hearty supper and providing ourselves with caps and canes, very necessary articles in cave travel, we were ready for our second tramp. Our guide to the region of darkness was an ancient darky whom every one calls "Old Nick." With him we are to view the river Styx. Nick takes our tickets and leads the way to the mouth of the cave and down some rough stone steps to the level of the cave floor. The first thing we notice is a very strong current of cold air flowing outward. This takes place whenever the outside air is higher in temperature than that of the cave. When lower the current flows inward. The temperature of the cave is very constant, averaging in summer fifty-nine and in winter fifty-eight degrees F.

After passing in a few hundred feet Nick unlocks an iron gate, which bars our way, allows us to pass through and then relocks it, so that we are completely in his power. We are now in the Narrows. After walking a short distance over well-beaten clay, the passage broadens into a large hall several acres in extent, called the Vestibule. On our right a broad passage called Audubon's Avenue extends. Several years ago a company was started to cultivate mushrooms in this avenue; finding it unprofitable they soon suspended operations. In the Vestibule we see the remains of salt-petre vats which were worked from 1808 to 1814, principally to obtain salt-petre for our army during the war of 1812.

The main cave in which we are now walking extends for several miles with an average height of fifty and breadth of eighty feet. Our first stop after leaving the Vestibule is at what the guide calls the Methodist Church. The pulpit is formed by a ledge of rock on the left, about fifteen feet above us. Here in the summer time service is frequently held by visiting clergymen. After lighting Bengal lights from the pulpit, so that we may have a good look at it, we move on. On the ceiling overhead a thin layer of gypsum has been deposited, upon which in places the black oxide of manganese appears in startlingly realistic forms. One of these, the ant-eater, is especially perfect. Moving on we come to a huge rock on our right which is about forty feet long, twenty broad, and ten high. We know by its shape that it must be the Giant's Coffin.

After passing a decided bend in the cave, we come to two roofless stone cottages, where, in 1843, a party of consumptives lived for a few months in hopes that the even temperature and bracing air might prove beneficial. Whether from lack of sunshine or from being already in a too far advanced stage of the disease, they soon gave up the experiment, after one of their number had died.

Next, we come to the celebrated Star Chamber, whose "heavenly" appearance is given by thousands of little spots of sulphate of magnesia upon a background of black gypsum. It is really almost impossible to believe that we are not gazing upon the studded heavens, for we can see what closely resembles the Milky Way, and all the mock stars seem to twinkle. We sit down on the benches provided, put out our lanterns, while Old Nick leaves us, so that we are in complete darkness. Soon off to the left we hear a cock crowing and a faint light appears. It is Nick at a distance showing us the dawn. Now a black cloud sweeps over the heavens, shutting out the stars; then the dim light grows brighter, the