visit it, as it is tedious & would occupy too much time - The depth is not known but it is said to be from fifteen to twenty feet wide according to the state of the water. This place is about a mile from the entrance - Another mile passed in the same way led to the "Musical hall" where the echoes are very fine & where a band from Cooperstown have sometimes performed - from this we went through other rooms, larger as we proceeded & more or less difficult of access sometimes crawling along narrow ledges on the sides, then clambering over rocks or wading through a small stream to some high & vaulted halls hung with stalactites of delicate forms - The rooms grew wider and higher & the aspect of the place wilder as we advanced and the passage was occasionally so dangerous that in the day light we should hardly have dared to venture, but the dim light of our lamps, concealing the actual risk, seemed to prevent the dizziness which we might have felt - At one passage of some twenty yards when we hung by a ledge hardly wide enough to put one knee before another & slippery with mud & slime, I pushed a stone over which after rolling among the rocks plashed into the water below - A very difficult & steep climb over broken rocks fallen from the ceiling is called the rocky mountains - and beyond a serpentine gallery is worn through the solid limestone by the action of water, ten or twelve feet in height & about wide enough for a man to pass - Still farther on is the Rotunda, a sink hole, about thirty feet in ~~and~~ diameter & of a height so great that large rockets have been fired without reaching the top - All these rooms are filled with bats, the only living thing there. beyond this, at the distance of a mile is a second lake that has not yet been explored but the passage was filled with water and the guide would not take us on - The rooms beyond are said to be still larger than those we had passed. It was now about one o'clock, & we concluded to return, retracing our steps for the six miles we had advanced, & lugging some specimens with us - At daylight we again reached the outer earth - Very few persons have ever ventured so far out as the cave increases in grandeur at every step we found ourselves well repaid - You never saw such objects as we were, covered with mud, & by the light of our lamps looking as we crept through the rocks like so many pirates - After a couple of hours of sleep we returned here -

Your friend Mrs Coit is here & the Borlands - Mr Van Buren, Judge & Mrs Kent - Mrs Van. Miss Emily & the Lieutenant & others many - Howlands Meredith, Frank Oliver, Henry Sheldon - Many go to morrow so that we shall have a thinner house & the President can get in if he comes -

What do you hear from Wool

Yours ever

G.

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