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ALPINE CAVE MEN IN SWITZERLAND.

Believe it or not, but there are actually two duly occupied cave dwellings in Switzerland! By automobile it takes only twenty minutes from Berne to reach their location in the picturesque Lindental near the village of Krauchtal. Here, in a fertile agricultural region, rise abruptly two huge rocks. To the east they drop down perpendicularly to pleasant meadows and fields, but their top and background is covered by dense woodland. Thousands and thousands of years ago a mountain torrent must have been at work in this mighty bulwark of nature, with the result that two great caves were gradually formed. These caves have a length of 50 - 65 feet and a height of 33 - 50 feet. There is no visible evidence that they were inhabited in prehistoric times, but their excellent location, space and security came to the attention of a thrifty peasant family ten years ago. In simple, but perfectly comfortable fashion, they built themselves rooms into one of the caves, and another family followed suit by occupying the other cave three years later.

These Swiss cave dwellers are self-supporting farmers with happy rosy-cheeked children. Several acres of land belong to each, directly below their remarkable habitations. Their stables accommodate respectively four heads of cattle, and directly above is a storage place for hay. Smaller sheds house some goats. The approach to these cave dwellings is a narrow, steep path, and the manure for the fields, as well as all harvested products, are rolled down and up, as the case may be, by means of a primitive cable device.

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All correspondence should be addressed to :-

W. Ungemuth, Secretary,  
Clarence Rd., Northcote,  
Auckland.