Finch & Co



A VICTORIAN PETRIFIED BIRDS NEST WITH ITS EGGS

A VICTORIAN PETRIFIED BIRDS NEST WITH ITS EGGS
19 TH CENTURY
SIZE : 17 CM X 16.5 CM DIA. , 11 CM HIGH – 6¾ INS X 6½ INS DIA. , 4¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

OF GREAT CURIOSITY TO THE VICTORIANS THE PETRIFYING WELLS OF MATLOCK BATH IN DERBYSHIRE CREATED PETRIFIED SOUVENIRS FOR THE ARISTOCRATIC TOURIST TRADE . IN 1832 THE PRINCESS VICTORIA VISITED MR JOSEPH PEARSON'S 'GREAT PETRIFYING WELL' WHERE THE WATER FILTERING THROUGH A MASS OF TUFA DROPS FROM THE ROOF AND SIDES AND LOSING A PART OF ITS CARBONIC GAS FORMS EARTHY PARTICLES UPON THE SUBSTANCES ON WHICH IT FALLS . THE OBJECTS WERE PLACED UNDER THE DROPS WHICH THEN PRODUCED A CALCAREOUS DEPOSIT WHICH IN TIME ASSUMED THE HARDNESS OF STONE .
'THE ROYAL PETRIFYING WELL'AS IT BECAME KNOWN AFTER THE PRINCESS'S VISIT WAS THE BIGGER OF THE THREE ; MR SMEDLEY'S BEING UNDER HIS SPAR SHOPS AND MRS BODEN'S SITUATED NEAR THE POST OFFICE . ALL THREE OF THESE WELLS WERE FILLED WITH A PROFUSION OF ARTICLES PUT IN TO BE PETRIFIED : STAGS HEADS , WIGS , BASKETS OF FLOWERS , BIRDS NESTS ETC. ALL OF WHICH HAD TO BE TURNED EVERY FEW WEEKS TO PREVENT THEM FROM GROWING TO THE BOTTOM .