

Finch & C^o



A CURIOUS VICTORIAN PETRIFIED BASKET OF FRUIT, NUTS AND FLOWERS

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19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 15CMHIGH, 17CMWIDE, 11CMDEEP – 6 INS HIGH, 6¾ INS WIDE, 4¼ INS

LITERATURE

FORMED BY MEANS OF A CALCAREOUS DEPOSIT DRIPPING THROUGH TUFA FROM THE ROOF OF A WELL THESE MAN MADE CURIOSITIES WERE CREATED IN MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY AS VICTORIAN SOUVENIRS. OF THE THREE PETRIFYING WELLS MR JOSEPH PEARSON'S WAS THE LARGEST, AND AFTER PRINCESS VICTORIA'S VISIT OF 1832 BECAME KNOWN AS THE 'ROYAL PETRIFYING WELL'. ALL THREE WELLS PRODUCED A MARVELLOUS PROFUSION OF PETRIFIED OBJECTS RANGING FROM STAGS HEADS TO WIGS AND BIRDS NESTS.