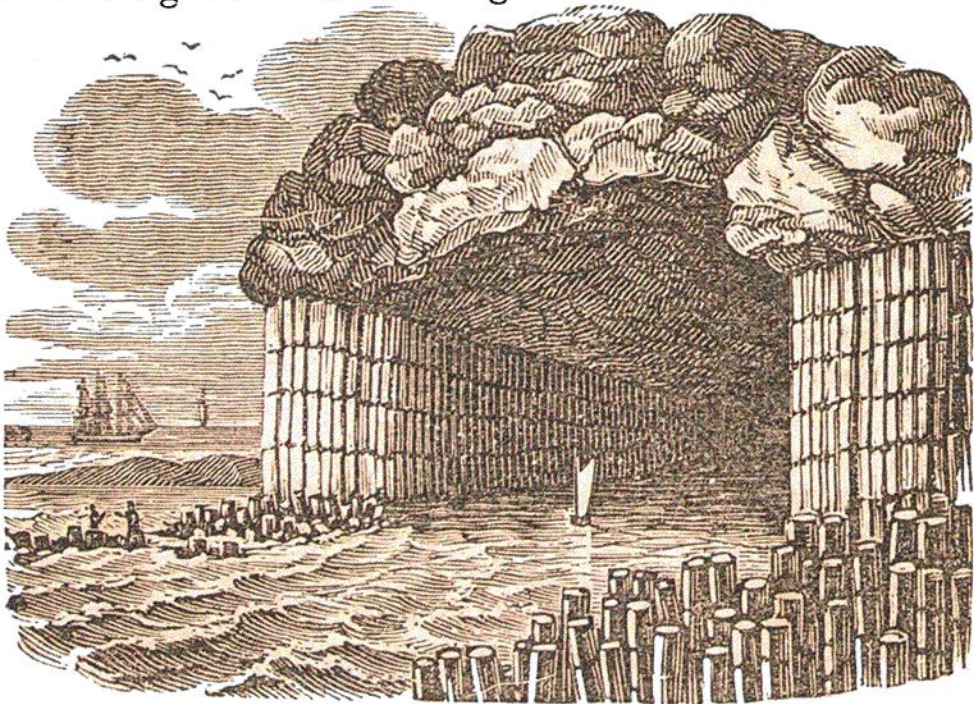


the stratified rocks, but have also filled up the fissures which have been made in them, and produced veins.

One of the most singular circumstances in connexion with the trap rocks is the columnar structure they sometimes assume. The Giant's Causeway and Fingal's Cave are two justly celebrated examples.

The Giant's Causeway is situated on the northern coast of Antrim, in Ireland. It commences, in one direction, at the base of a cliff rising to the height of six hundred feet above the level of the Atlantic. The causeway consists of an immense number of columns, which project into the sea to a considerable distance below low-water mark. Its length at low water has been computed at about six hundred feet, and its greatest width at about two hundred and forty feet: the height of the columns varies. The majority are not more than twenty feet high, while others have been found to measure six-and-thirty. But besides the mass of columns which constitutes what is called the Giant's Causeway, there is a great number of the same kind spread over the country to a considerable distance; the causeway is in fact only a portion of a great area consisting of basaltic rock.



Fingal's Cave.

Fingal's Cave, in the Island of Staffa, one of the Hebrides, is formed of the same rock as the Giant's Causeway. The