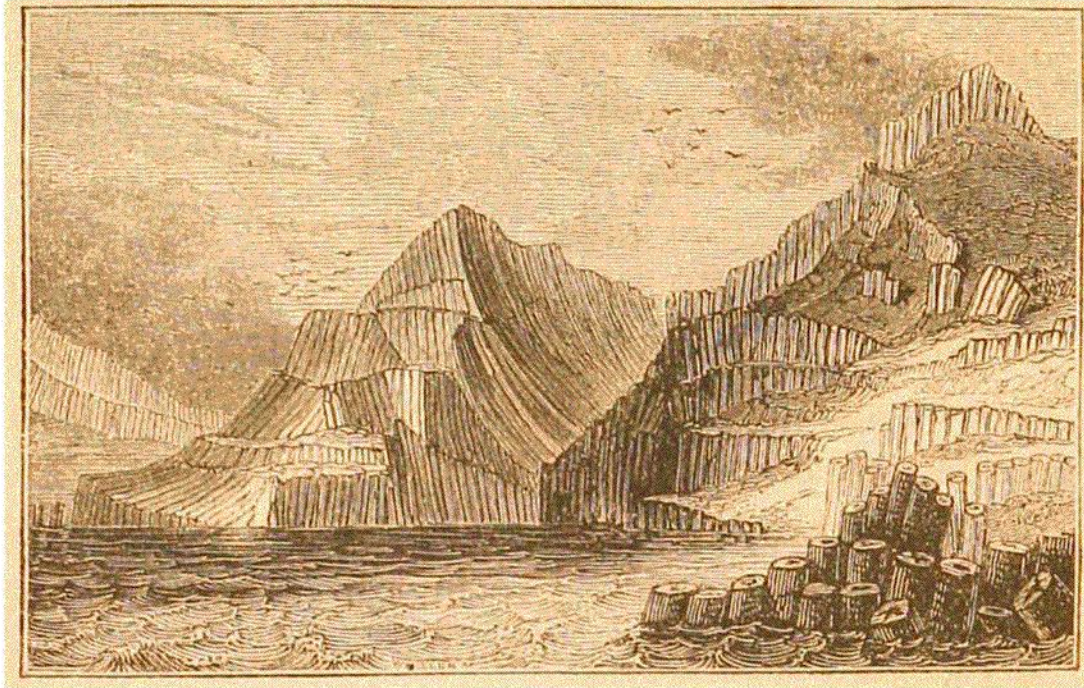


I will digress for a few moments, to direct your attention to some highly interesting examples of the columnar structure in basalt, and the changes effected on the contiguous strata, by the intrusion and contact of this ancient volcanic product.



TAB. 147.—THE ISLE OF STAFFA.

(*Drawn by Miss Duppa.*)

27. STAFFA—FINGAL'S CAVE.—Many of the Hebrides, or Western Isles of Scotland, are almost wholly composed of trap rocks. The island of Staffa\* is the most celebrated, from a chasm or recess in the rock, which has been produced by the degradation and removal of the basaltic columns by the waves. This natural cavern is of singular beauty, and is well known by the English name of Fingal's Cave; but it is called by the islanders

\* Staffa, a Norse term, signifying staff or column.