

Naimh-bim, or cave of music, from the murmuring echoes occasioned by the surges, which, in rough weather, dash with violence into the chasm. To the elegant and effective pencils of Miss Duppa, and of Miss Jane Allnutt, I am indebted for the beautiful sketches of this singular cave (Tab. 148), and of the island (Tab. 147), with which these remarks are illustrated.

The Isle of Staffa is a complete mass of basalt, covered by a thin layer of soil; it is about two miles in circumference, and forms a table land of an irregular surface, being surrounded on every side by steep cliffs, about seventy feet high, which are formed of clusters of angular columns, possessing from three to six or seven sides. It is intersected by one deep gorge, which divides the higher and more celebrated columnar portion from the other division of the island. At the highest tides, the columns which form the south-western cliffs, appear to terminate abruptly in the water; but the retiring tide exposes a causeway of broken columns at their base. The greatest elevation of the island is about 120 feet, and its surface is covered with soil of considerable depth clothed with herbage.*

Fingal's Cave, first made known to the public in 1772, by Sir Joseph Banks, is on the south-east corner of the island, and presents a magnificent chasm 42 feet wide and 227 in length. The roof, which is 100 feet high at the entrance, gradually

* Dr. MacCulloch.