

The basalt, of which the columns are composed, is of a dark greenish-black hue, highly coloured by iron; a thin layer of silicious cement is seen between the joints, or articulations, which is called mortar by the islanders, and strengthens their persuasion that this wonderful cave is the work of art. Another cave, but of inferior dimensions, lies at a short distance; and many others of less note are seen in various parts of the cliffs, into which the sea breaks with a noise resembling that of distant heavy ordnance.

28. THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY. — In the sister kingdom, a magnificent range of basaltic pillars appears on the northern coast of Antrim. It consists of an irregular group of hundreds of thousands of pentagonal, jointed, basaltic columns, varying from one to five feet in thickness, and from twenty to two hundred feet in height. The structure of these masses I have already described; their prevailing colour is a dark greenish-grey. In the cliffs, a chasm, formed by the inroads of the waves, presents a natural cavern, about sixty feet high, and of great picturesque effect; the entrance is nearly thirty feet in width, and the walls are formed of dark basalt. But the great interest of this spot, in a geological point of view, is the altered structure observable in the sedimentary rocks wherever they have been traversed by the basalt.

29. ROCKS ALTERED BY CONTACT WITH BASALT. — I have frequently had occasion to allude to the