

Londonderry, for a total extent of 1200 square miles. Three layers of the basalt, where it touches the coast, bear a remarkable columnar appearance. The first is seen at the promontory of Fair Head, where the massive pillars are truly Cyclopean in character, and upwards of 200 feet high. The other two rise above the sea-level at Burgne Head; the lower, forming the *Causeway*, and exhibiting above the surging waters and the shining diamond-spray, an irregular pavement—fit place for sea-nymphs to disport—composed of the tops of polygonal columns, collocated together with

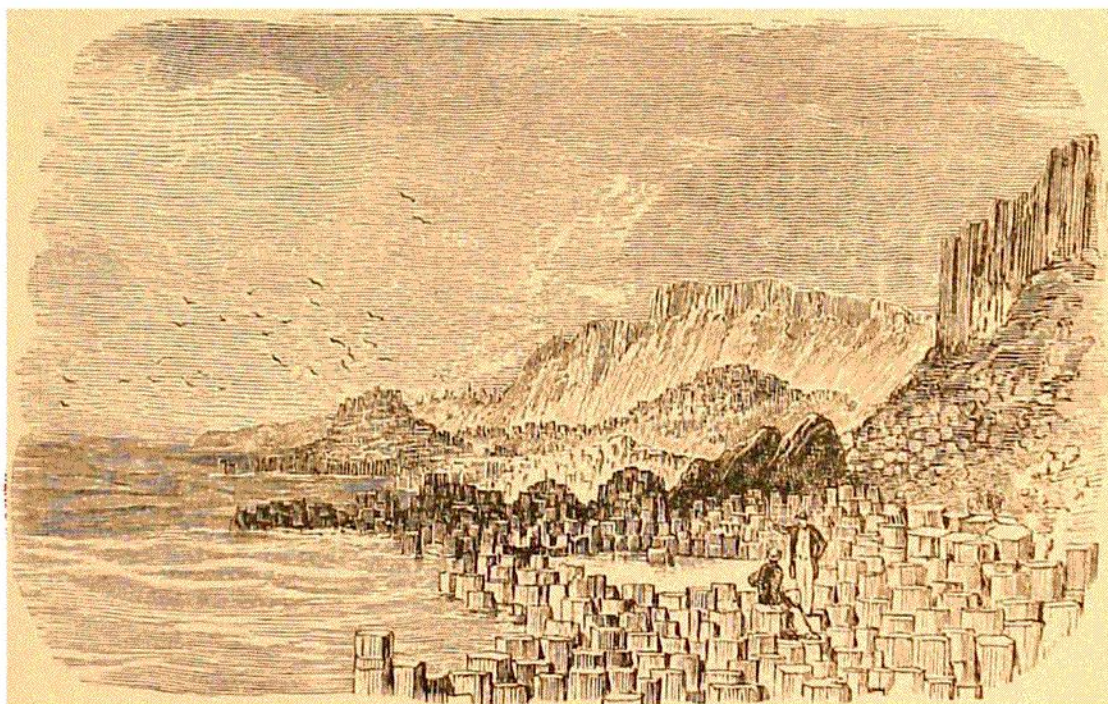


FIG. 42.—THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY (IRELAND).

such admirable exactitude that the blade of a knife can scarcely be thrust between them. The average diameter of each pillar is from twelve to fifteen inches.

The Causeway is divided into the Large, Middle, and Little Causeways; the former is the lowest of the three columnar beds, about 30 feet wide, and 600 feet in length, from the cliff to its submersion in the sea.

But perhaps this columnar structure is nowhere more beautifully exhibited than in *Fingal's Cave*; a locality of such marvellous natural splendour that we need not wonder it has given birth to a vast number of myths and fanciful legends. Here a tremendous arch