

the atmospheric influences or the agency of water, has led to the formation of numerous natural grottoes, which derive a characteristic poetry of aspect from their lofty prismatic columns. Undoubtedly the most famous of these is to be found in the island of Staffa, where it is known as Fingal's Cave.

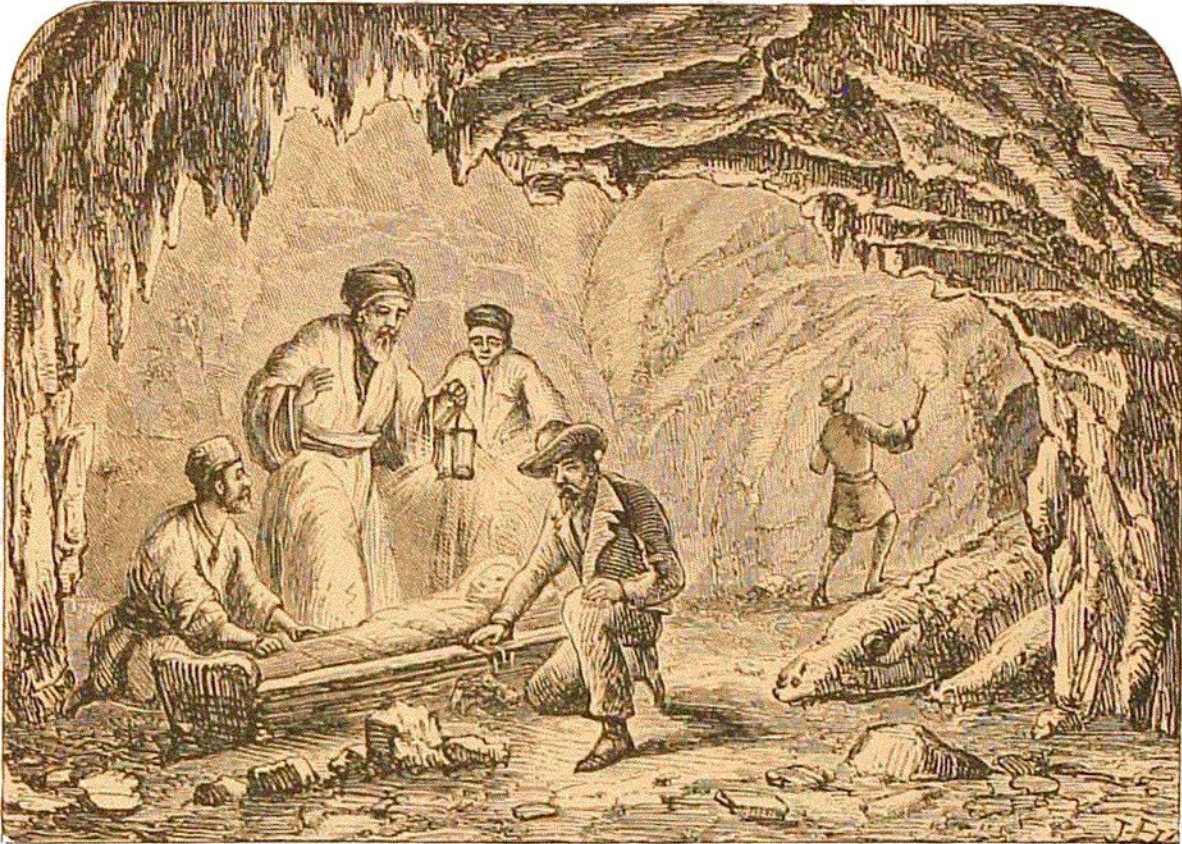


FIG. 173.—INTERIOR OF THE GROTTA OF SAMOUN.

[This justly celebrated natural curiosity derives an additional interest from Wordsworth's beautiful Sonnet :—\*

“ Thanks for the lessons of this spot—fit school  
 For the presumptuous thoughts that would assign  
 Mechanic laws to agency divine;  
 And, measuring heaven by earth, would overrule  
 Infinite Power. The pillared vestibule,  
 Expanding yet precise, the roof embowed,  
 Might seem designed to humble man, when proud  
 Of his best workmanship by plan and tool.  
 Down-bearing with his whole Atlantic weight  
 Of tide and tempest on the Structure's base,  
 And flashing to that Structure's topmost height,  
 Ocean has proved its strength, and of its grace  
 In calms is conscious, finding for his freight  
 Of softest music some responsive place.”]

\* [Wordsworth, “ Poems of the Imagination :” *Sonnets.*]