

Staffa is an irregularly shaped island, of a general oval form, extending from north to south, and measuring about a mile and a half in circumference. It may best be described as an uneven table-land, partly sloping towards a rocky and wave-worn shore; but, in the main, supported upon huge mural columnar cliffs, which are freely pierced with caves. The maximum height is obtained on the south-

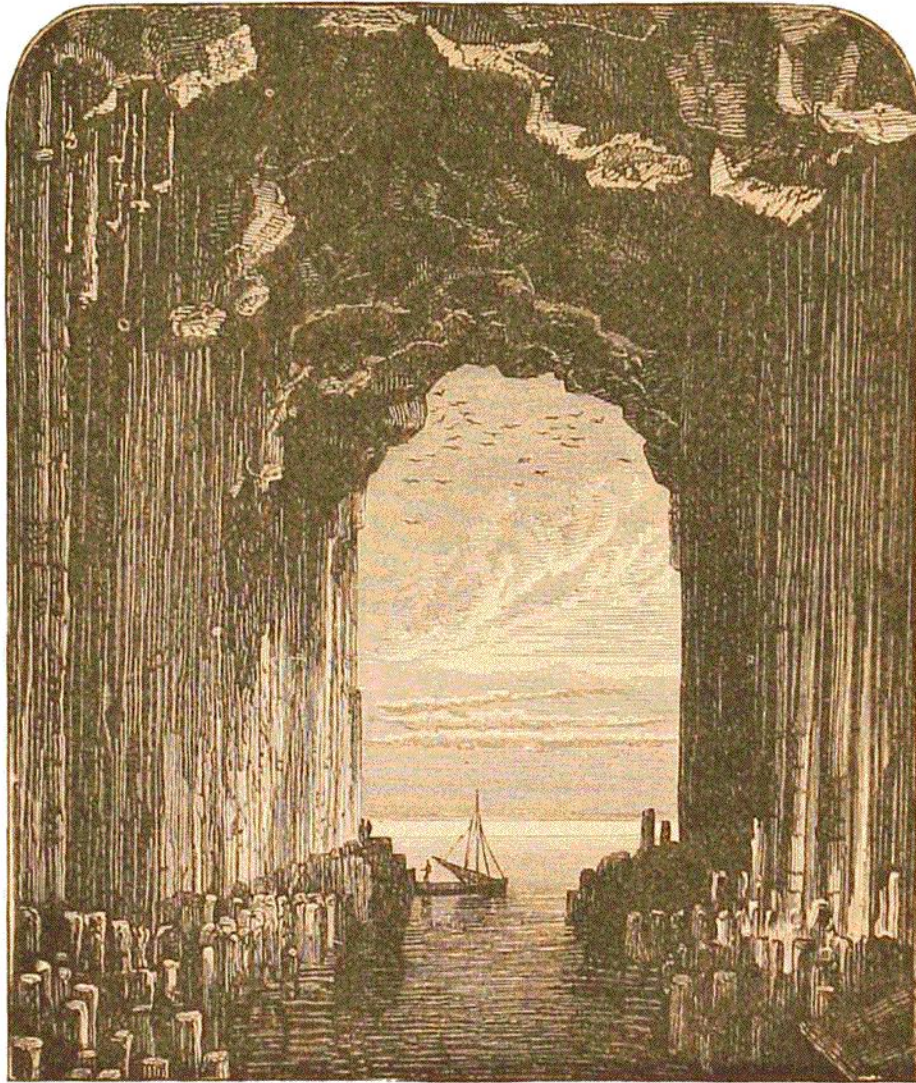


FIG. 174.—INTERIOR OF FINGAL'S CAVE.

west side, where the crest of the sea-wall is 129 feet above high-water mark. Its rocky shore on the north-east is flat, narrow, and low, but tolerably sheltered from the prevailing winds. At the other parts of the coast, the cliffs vary in height from 80 to 112 feet. They are composed of three kinds of rocks: the lowest is a foundation of conglomerated tufa; next is the columnar basalt, arranged in rows of Cyclopean pillars, and forming both the façades