

termination of the Great Colonnade and Causeway. The entrance is worthy of a palace for the ocean-god of Greek mythology, consisting of huge columnar ranges, spanned by a magnificent Gothic arch; the sides are formed of lofty pillars; the floor is the rippling azure of the sea; and the general appearance is that of an ancient cathedral, into whose recesses the waters have made their way, filling roof and aisles with solemn mysterious music.

Its exact dimensions are:—288 feet in length from the east high-water point to the head; 212 feet in length from the commencement of the arch to the head; 33 feet in width at the entrance; 59 feet in height from high-water to the point of the arch; and the depth of water in it 25 feet at the entrance, and generally about 24 feet to the head.

“ The shores of Mull on the eastward lay,  
 And Ulva dark, and Colonsay,  
 And all the groups of islets gay  
 That guard famed Staffa round.  
 Then all unknown its columns rose,  
 Where dark and undisturbed repose  
 The cormorant had found,  
 And the shy seal had quiet home,  
 And weltered in that wondrous dome,  
 Where, as to shame the temples decked  
 By skill of earthly architect,  
 Nature herself, it seemed, would raise  
 A Minster to her Maker's praise!  
 Not for a meaner use ascend  
 Her columns, or her arches bend;  
 Nor of a theme less solemn tells  
 That mighty surge that ebbs and swells,  
 And still, between each awful pause,  
 From the high vault an answer draws,  
 In varied tone prolonged and high,  
 That mocks the organ's melody.  
 Nor doth its entrance front in vain  
 To old Iona's holy fane,  
 That Nature's voice might seem to say,  
 'Well hast thou done, frail child of clay!  
 Thy humble powers that stately shrine  
 Tasked high and hard—but witness mine!'" \*

Other caves on the further parts of the coast also exhibit the basaltic columnar arrangement. Thus: the *Boat Cave* measures 16 feet in height, 12 feet in width, and 150 feet in length; and the *Cormorants' Cave*, 50 feet in height, 48 feet in width, and 224 feet in length. The columnar sweep at the entrance, and the pillared aisle of the interior, are of a beauty that would almost justify any exaggeration of

\* [Sir Walter Scott, "Lord of the Isles," Canto iv. s. 10.]