

entrance to this most splendid cavern is about fifty feet broad, and one hundred high. The entire length of the cave is two hundred and fifty feet. On each side there is a series of beautifully-formed and regular columns, and the broken pillars of the roof present the appearance of the enrichments of Gothic architecture. "But if this cave," says Dr. Macculloch, "were even destitute of that order, symmetry, and richness, arising from the multiplicity of parts, combined with greatness of dimensions and simplicity of style, which it possesses, still the prolonged length, the twilight gloom, half concealing the playful and varying effects of reflected lights, the echo of the measured surge as it rises and falls, the transparent green of the water, and the profound and fairy solitude of the whole scene, could not fail strongly to impress a mind gifted with any sense of beauty in art or in nature. If to those be added that peculiar sentiment with which perhaps nature most impresses us when she allows us to draw comparisons between her works and those of art, we shall be compelled to own it is not without cause that celebrity has been conferred on the cave of Fingal."

Many other of the Western Isles exhibit beautiful examples of the trap-rocks, among which we may especially notice the picturesque Island of Egg. The Scur, which is the most remarkable appearance, is an immense columnar mass of trap, of that variety called pitchstone porphyry, and is upwards of thirteen hundred feet above the level of the sea. "Viewed in one direction, the Scur presents a long irregular wall, crowning the summit of the highest hill, while on the other it resembles a huge tower. The clouds may be often seen hovering on its summit, and adding ideal dimensions to the lofty face; or, when it is viewed on the extremity, conveying the impression of a tower, the height of which is such as to lie in the region of the clouds. Occasionally they sweep along the base, leaving its huge and black mass involved in additional gloom, and resembling the castle of some Arabian enchanter, built on the clouds and suspended in the air."

We have noticed these few instances of columnar structure sometimes assumed by the trap-rocks, but it must not be considered as a universal appearance. They are not unfrequently found to overlies the stratified rocks, and in this state they possess all the distinguishing characters of recent volcanic products. It is not unusual for them to form groups,