

THE COMPLETE SCOTLAND

OBAN.

Access.- From Glasgow via Loch Lomond, see previous chapter; via Inveraray, see earlier chapter; from Perth and Killin, see later chapter, etc. Steamer route from Glasgow direct, see earlier chapter; via Ardrishaig see earlier chapter.

By Rail: Oban is the western terminus of a L.M.S. line crossing the country from Stirling and Perth; the L.N.E.R. is joined at Crianlarich.

Distances.- *By Road.*- Ardrishaig, 39 m.; Ballachulish, 36 m.; Edinburgh (via Callander and Crianlarich), 124 m.; Fort William, via coast and Ballachulish Ferry, 48 m.; via Kinlochleven 68 m.; via Dalmally, Bridge of Orchy and Glencoe, 80 m.; Glasgow, via Tarbet, Arrochar and Inveraray, 100 m.; via Tarbet and Crianlarich, 93 m.; Loch Awe Pier, 22 m.; Taychreggan, 20 m.

Early Closing.- Thursday.

Fishing.- Good sea-fishing and trout and salmon abound in neighbouring hill lochs.

Golf.- *Oban Club* course at Ganavan, adjoining Bathing Beach, 9 holes. Day, 1s. 6d.; week, 7s. 6d.; fortnight, 12s. 6d.; month, 17s. 6d.

Glencruitten course, half-mile from Oban Railway Station. 18 holes. Excellent club-house. Visitors - Ladies: Day, 2s.; week, 7s. 6d.; fortnight, 12s. 6d.; month, 15s. Gentlemen: 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week; 15s. per fortnight; 20s. per month.

In the Corran Parks there are two 18-hole **Putting Courses**.

Hotels.- *Park* (100 rooms; R. & b., fr. 9s. 6d.), *Alexandra, Great Western* (110 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *Station* (R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *King's Arms* (40 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s. 6d.), *Columba* (36 rooms; R. & b., fr. 5s.), *Argyll, Royal* (R. & b., 10s.), *Crown, Marine* (86 rooms; R. & b., fr. 11s.), *Creigevar* and other private hotels.

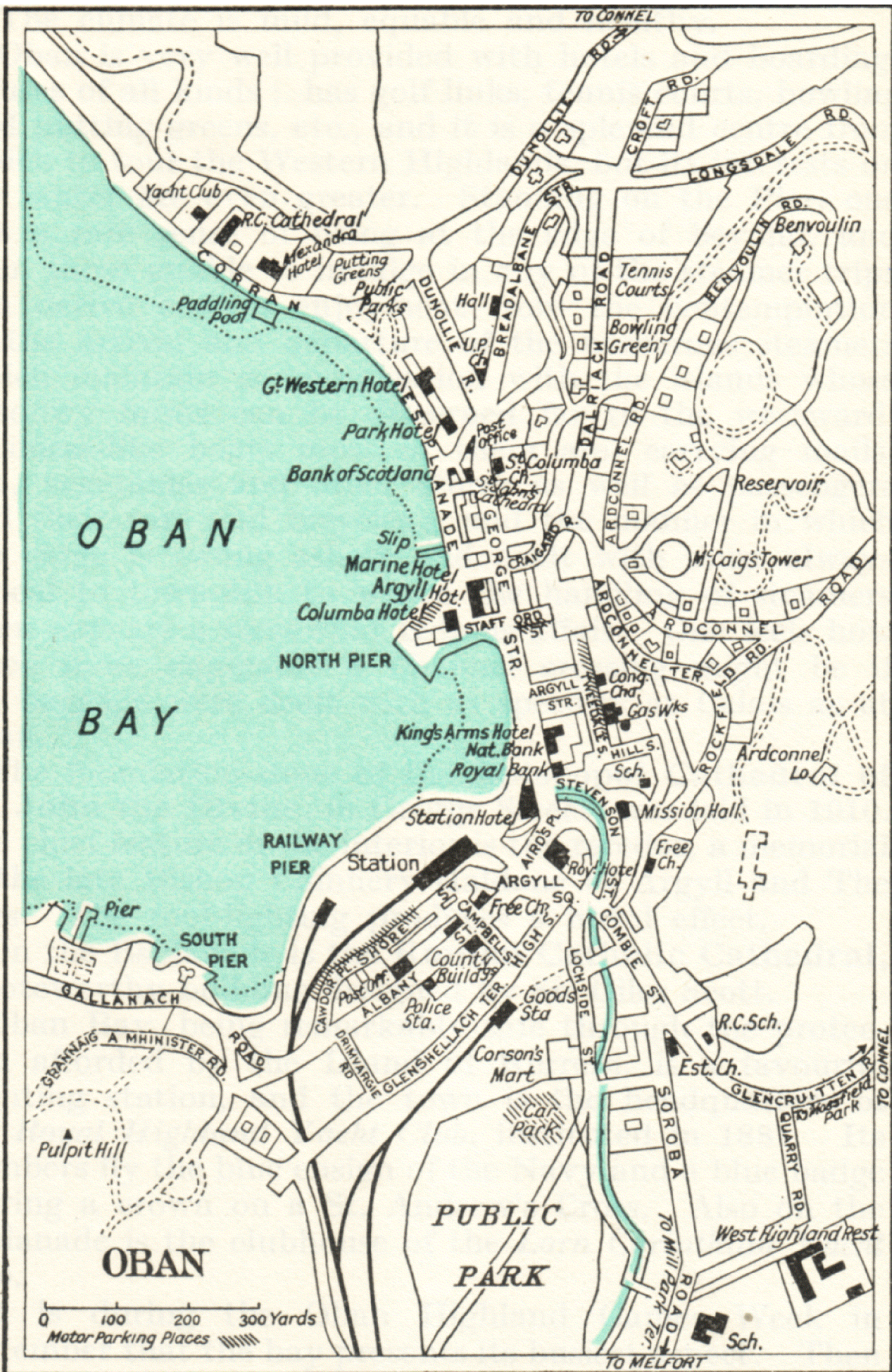
Population.- Just under 6,000.

Post Office.- Albany Street.

Sports.- Bathing, boating (for yachting, see next page), bowls, fishing, golf, tennis. Indoor entertainments include occasional concerts, dances, lectures or cinema shows.

OBAN occupies a natural amphitheatre facing a sheltered bay across the mouth of which is stretched the island of Kerrera. It is hardly more than a century old - a not unpleasing medley of large modern buildings of no particular style jostling smaller shops and houses which contrive to suggest a greater antiquity than is strictly justifiable. On the slopes behind the town are some splendidly situated residences; the skyline is broken by the remains of an abortive hydro-pathic establishment and by an even less picturesque affair which a local banker, McCaig, erected to his own memory late last century. Towards the southern end of the town are the railway station and the Pier, the Post Office, the Municipal Buildings and the banks; running northwards through the town is **George Street**, the principal business thoroughfare, and parallel to that the **Esplanade** curves round the bay and is continued past Dunollie Castle to **Ganavan**, where is Oban's bathing beach.

The climate is mild, equable and healthy.



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Oban is very well provided with hotels and boarding-houses of all kinds; has golf links, tennis courts, bowling and putting greens, etc., and it is a splendid centre from which to tour the Western Highlands, but its interests on the water are even greater. Standing on the Pier, one has a rare sense of being at the edge of beyond, and even those unable to indulge in any of the steamer trips can derive endless enjoyment from the contemplation of the arrival and departure of the numerous steamers which maintain communication with the islands whose shadowy forms can be discerned far to the westward. Business-like boats most of them are, carrying mails, fish, vegetables and other stores as well as passengers and their cars and bicycles; and the manner in which the cargo is swung ashore and dealt with must always appeal to town-folk to whom the handling of steamers often appears a somewhat tedious affair. One feels how much more enjoyable a Channel crossing might be if the baggage were dealt with as speedily at Calais as at Oban.

The foundation-stone of the **Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine**, in George Street, was laid in 1910. The chief feature of the interior is the reredos, a memorial of the late Bishop Chinnery-Haldane of Argyll and The Isles. The roof-lighting produces a novel effect.

On the Esplanade is the **Roman Catholic Cathedral**, a noteworthy building designed by Sir Giles Scott.

Oban Bay, being remarkably safe through the protection afforded by the Island of Kerrera, is a favourite yachting station, and the town is the headquarters of the *Royal Highland Yacht Club*, instituted in 1881. Its members fly the blue ensign of the Navy and a blue badge bearing a crown on a St. Andrew's Cross. Also on the Esplanade is the clubhouse of the *Lorn Corinthian Yacht Club*.

It is during the Oban Highland Games Week in September that the bay presents its busiest aspect. Then may be seen many fine yachts, some of them noted racers, unsurpassed in design, workmanship, and equipment. The town also presents its gayest aspect, for during this week is held the Argyllshire Highland Gathering, to which thousands flock, and when the sports of the day are over, balls occupy the flying hours. Another feature of "the Week" is a Gaelic concert.

The best short excursion from Oban is along the **Corran Esplanade**, with its charmingly placed hotels and boarding-houses, and the continuing road to Ganavan Sands and the Golf Links, 2 miles of continual interest, either ashore or across the water: the sea-views at sunset are especially fine. On the outskirts of the town the road comes in sight of **Dunollie Castle**, picturesquely surmounting a little headland; and on the right is a huge upright pillar of conglomerate known as the **Dog Stone**, from the tradition that Fingal (see shortly), the great hero of Gaelic mythology, used it as a stake to which he tied his great dog Bran. The attention of those who doubt is drawn to certain abrasions such as would be made by the chafing of a chain slipped round the rock.

Dunollie Castle (*open weekdays, 10 - 1, 2 - 6; 3d.*). - The principal part is the donjon or keep; but fragments of other buildings, overgrown with ivy, attest that it has been a place of importance. The keep probably formed one side of a courtyard, the entrance being by a steep ascent from the neck of the isthmus, formerly cut across by a moat, and defended, doubtless, by outworks and a drawbridge. Beneath the Castle stands the modern mansion of the Chief of

the Clan MacDougall.

There is no authentic record of the foundation of Dunollie Castle. It probably dates as far back as the twelfth century, and portions are alleged to have been built in the fifth century. It was the principal seat of the MacDougalls, Lords of Lorn. Their descendant, MacDougall of MacDougall, Chief of the Clan MacDougall, is still in possession. The estate was forfeited in 1715, as its possessor had joined the Old Chevalier, James Francis Stuart, but it was restored to an ancestor of the present proprietor. The word Lorn (or Lorne), by the way, is said to be derived from Loarn Mor, the name of one of the leaders of the Scots when they passed from Ireland to Argyll. The territory to which his name became attached was his share of the spoil.

The MacDougall of Bruce's time married a daughter of the Red Comyn, whom Bruce slew in the precincts of St. Michael's Church at Dumfries. As readers of the *Lord of the Isles* know, he was Bruce's mortal enemy, and sought by every means vengeance for the death of his father-in-law. In 1306 he defeated Bruce at Dalree (between Crianlarich and Tyndrum), and there secured -

"The brooch of burning gold
That clasps the chieftain's mantle-fold,
Wrought and chased with rare device,
Studded fair with gems of price."

For generations the brooch was an heirloom of the family. It fell into the hands of Campbell of Inverawe when Gylen Castle, on the Island of Kerrera, was sacked and burnt in 1647, and it was not restored to the MacDougalls till 1826. Since then it has been preserved at Dunollie mansion-house.

At **Ganavan** (1½ miles farther) are golf links and a bathing beach, and there is a pavilion with tea room, etc. In addition to regular bus services, boats ply between Ganavan and Oban.

Other short walks from Oban include **Glencruitten**, east of the town and reached by a road bearing to the left at the end of Combie Street, which starts at Argyll Square; **Glenshellach**, to the south-west, with grand views and preserving in Soroba Lodge associations with Robert Buchanan (1841-1901), poet and novelist; and **Pulpit Hill**, also to the south-west, the finest of Oban viewpoints (*indicator*). The direct route from Argyll Square is along Albany Street; cross the railway and take footpath in front of Alma Crescent. Another pleasant walk, especially at evening, is along the Gallanach road, looking over the water to Kerrera, to which ferries cross from beyond Kilbowie, as well as from Oban Harbour.

The Island of **Kerrera** (the accent is on the first syllable) is about 4 miles long and 2 broad. From its uplands there is a grand prospect of the mountains eastward, while seaward are the -

"Hebrid Isles
Placed far amid the melancholy main."

Near the south end of the island is the remnant of Gylen Castle, probably erected by Highland chieftains after the expulsion of the Norsemen. It became a stronghold of the MacDougalls of Lorn, who kept here the brooch taken from Bruce at Dalree (see before). The MacDougalls holding the castle for the King in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, it was destroyed by a detachment of Leslie's army.

The island possesses historical interest from the fact that Alexander II died on it in 1249, while advancing against the western islanders who still acknowledged the King of Norway as their master. A hut was

prepared for him in a field on Horseshoe Bay still known as Dalrigh (the king's field), and his body was removed thence to Melrose Abbey for burial. In "The King's Field" is a spring bearing the name of the **King's Well**. Tradition says that Alexander drank of its waters.

In Horseshoe Bay King Haakon of Norway, with his fleet of galleys, took shelter on his way to overwhelming defeat at Largs (1263), at the hands of the Scottish King, Alexander III, who thereby added to his kingdom the Western Isles, held for centuries by the Norsemen. To-day this secluded sheltered bay is utilized as a packing station for the lobster industry. Rafts anchored in the bay contain each about a thousand lobsters brought from the storage pond at Cullipool (Luing), awaiting dispatch under suitable conditions to the markets of the "adjacent island" of Great Britain.

At the north end of the island is an obelisk in memory of David Hutcheson, MacBrayne's predecessor.

Dunstaffnage Castle (*open weekdays from 11 to 5; key at cottage just beside the castle; small fee*), 4 miles north-east of Oban, is reached by a rough track (*motors prohibited*) leaving the Connel road on the left about 70 yards beyond the third milestone (a notice-board marks the road). Motors run daily to the point where the track leaves the main road.

The ruin stands on a promontory, almost an island, at the entrance from Loch Linnhe into Loch Etive. It is said to belong to the thirteenth century, but the oldest portions remaining are believed to date only from the fifteenth century. The building appears to have been square and to have had a round tower at each corner. The entrance is by a ruinous staircase towards the sea; but in former ages it was probably reached by means of a drawbridge. The walls in parts are 9 feet thick. Among the ruins are two guns, one of which formed part of the armament of a galleon of the Spanish Armada, and was raised from the bottom of Tobermory Bay. It is inscribed: "Asuerus Koster, Amstelredam, me fecit." About 200 yards from the Castle are the remains of a small chapel where some of the early Scottish kings are said to have been buried. It is now the burial-place of the Campbells of Dunstaffnage (hereditary Captains of the Castle), whose mansion stands about 2 miles eastward.

Dunstaffnage was a strong place of the Dalriadic Scots during part of the period from the fifth till the middle of the ninth century, when Scone became the capital of the united Picts and Scots.

Its claim to have been their capital is very doubtful, but it boasts that it was one of the places which has held the famous *Stone of Destiny*, now contained in the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. The fabled stone is said to have been Jacob's pillow on the plains of Luz (Genesis xxviii. 11). It was brought from Ireland first to Iona and then to Dunstaffnage, where it served as Coronation Stone of the Scottish kings until taken to Scone about 850. It was in 1296 removed by Edward I to Westminster Abbey, which led later, on the accession (1603) of James VI of Scotland as James I of England, to the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy:

"If Fates go right, where'er this stone is found,
The Scots shall monarchs of that realm be crowned."

About the twelfth century Dunstaffnage fell into the hands of the Lords of Lorn, on whom Bruce had his revenge (for the loss of his brooch at the battle of Dalree (see earlier), when he captured the Castle after smiting the MacDougall clan in the Pass of Brander (1308). The Campbells were then put in charge of it, and to this day the Castle is Crown property, the Duke of Argyll, as Chief of the Clan Campbell, being its "Hereditary Keeper" and the Campbells of Dunstaffnage "Hereditary Captains."

The Castle was garrisoned by Hanoverians during the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. In 1746 it held for ten days Flora Macdonald, while on her way to London as a State prisoner for having, after the battle of Culloden, planned and aided the escape of Prince Charles, whom she conducted to Skye disguised as her tall

Irish maid, Betty Burke. Dunstaffnage has not been used as a residence since 1810, when a great fire made it a ruin.

The view from the Castle embraces Loch Etive and the twin peaks of Ben Cruachan eastward; westward are the mountains of Mull and Morvern.

EXCURSIONS FROM OBAN.

OBAN is the principal port on the West Coast of the Highlands and offers unrivalled facilities for steamer trips. It is also a good centre for rail and road excursions.

LOCH AWE.

Access.- Steamers and a good road run from end to end of Loch Awe, and the ends of the loch are also in touch with the two main routes between Oban and south and east Scotland; the loch can therefore be visited en route to or from Oban, Fort William, etc., or it may form part of a circular trip by road and steamer either from Oban or elsewhere.

The route from Glasgow via Ardrishaig to Ford, at the south end of the loch, has been described in an earlier chapter.

Hotels along the Loch. - *Loch Awe* (70 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s.), near the railway station and pier of the name at the northern end of the loch.

Portsonachan (23 rooms; R. & b., 9s. 6d.), on the east side, about one-fourth of the way down.

Taychreggan, on the west side, opposite Portsonachan.

Ford Hotel (16 rooms; R. & b., 8s.), quarter of a mile from Ford Pier, at the southern end.

Fishing.- The lake abounds in salmon, trout, and other fresh-water fish; the sport is good, and the landlords of the hotels on the Loch shores provide boats and men for their guests. The Loch Awe Hotel has salmon fishing in river Awe.

Oban to Loch Awe by the Melfort Route.

Public motor leaves Oban in the morning for Ford, at the south end of Loch Awe, via Melfort, and returns to Oban in the afternoon, connecting with steamer to and from Loch Awe Pier, whence train or motor may be taken back to Oban. This circular route may also be taken in the reverse order.

The road route leaves Oban by Combie Street and Soroba Road, with a view of Pulpit Hill on the right; then it climbs in among broken little green hills.

The highest point is reached about 2½ miles from Oban. On the right a branch road turns off to **Kilbride**, a mile to the south-west, with a ruined church, an old burial-ground, and a finely carved Celtic cross dating from 1516.

From just beyond the third milestone, Ben Lui may be seen through the trees. Then comes a view of a portion of **Loch Feochan**, an arm of the sea terminating in a lovely glen, watered by a boisterous mountain stream.

Just beyond the new church of Kilmore and Kilbride a road on the left leads back to **Loch Nell** (*Loch of the Swans*). It is a picturesque sheet of fresh water, 2 miles long and about half a mile wide. The best view is obtained from the **Serpent Mound**, on the western side, about a quarter of a mile from the spot at which the lake is reached, the panorama from this point including the double-peaked Cruachan. The mound is formed of boulders and is supposed to be a relic of serpent worship. It is about 80 yards in length, and in the form of an elongated letter S. An exploration of the head of the "serpent" yielded a flint instrument and charcoal.

About a hundred yards south of the mound is a cromlech, of which only the top stone is visible from a distance. According to local tradition, it marks the grave of the Ossianic hero, Cuchullin.

The walk back to Oban can be varied, without being lengthened, by continuing up the road past the loch for a couple of miles to the Glencruitten road.

Hence to the turning for Ford, opposite the ruins of Carnassarie, 28 miles from Oban, the route is described earlier.

Carnassarie Castle was built about the middle of the sixteenth century, and burned as a Campbell possession during the Earl of Argyll's rebellion in 1685. It was the seat of John Carswell, last Bishop of the Isles and Abbot of Iona, and is now cared for by H.M. Office of Works.

Carswell received his preferment that he might transfer the temporalities of the bishopric to the Earl of Argyll, whose chaplain he had been. He is remembered yet in Gaelic satires and proverbs as a type of niggardliness and rapacity. But it must also be recorded that he was the author of the first book printed in Gaelic, a translation of Knox's *Forms of Prayer and Catechism*, in 1577.

Here the road to Loch Awe leaves the Oban-Ardrishaig highway and enters the **Pass of Craigenterive**.

Dog's Head Loch, a small sheet of water about 2 miles on, is held to justify its name by its appearance when seen from the neighbouring hills. Then we come to a pretty reed-fringed lake known as **Loch Ederline**, and shortly afterwards to **Ford**. For the road up the eastern side of Loch Awe cross the bridge opposite the hotel; for the Pier keep straight on for another three-quarters of a mile.

LOCH AWE,

one of the largest and most beautiful lochs of Scotland, is 25½ miles in length, with a maximum depth of 307 feet and a breadth not exceeding ¾ mile. It is surrounded by wooded mountains, and, like so many of the Scottish lakes, is studded with islands, generally beautifully tufted with trees, and some large enough to be pastured.

Unlike most lochs, its tamest part is at the head, a peculiarity geologists attribute to the fact that originally its outflow was at the south, its surplus waters being conveyed into the Sound of Jura, instead of reaching Loch Etive by means of the Awe river, as they do at present.

The district around the north end of the loch originally formed part of the extensive tract

possessed by the numerous and powerful clan, Gregor; but in the fifteenth century the Campbells obtained a footing, and the shores and islands of the loch, and the recesses of the surrounding mountains and glens, were for generations their retreat in time of danger.

Killanure Church, near Ford, is mentioned in the Argyll charters as far back as 1394. After it ceased to be used as a place of worship, tradition says it was the haunt, at night, of spirits undergoing the torments of purgatory; and it is related that -

"A tailor who was sceptical on the subject of apparitions ventured to bet that he would make a pair of trews within the walls of the church during the midnight hours. He went with his torch bravely to redeem his pledge; but he had not sewn much when a sepulchral voice directed his attention to a hand of gigantic size arising from one of the graves in the area of the church, and he heard the words, 'Seest thou this huge, hoary hand, tailor?' 'I see that, but will sew this,' said the tailor. The voice again uttered, 'Seest thou this large, grey head, tailor?' 'I see that, but will sew this,' said the tailor. Thus the conversation proceeded until all the members of the skeleton appeared. Then the tailor fled; and it was time, for the bony hand that was stretched out to seize him struck and left its impression on the wall."

Fincharn Castle, near the church, was once a strong-hold of the Macdonalds. Passing pretty islets we come, 8 miles from Ford, to **Portinnisherrich**, on the eastern shore. Visitors from across the Atlantic will be interested in "New York," on the western shore opposite Portinnisherrich. About half a mile north are Dalavich Church, on the western shore, and, near the eastern bank, the islet of **Innis Connell**, on which are the ivy-coloured ruins of the **Castle of Ardconnel**, once the chief seat of the Campbells. Their slogan, or war-cry - "It's a far cry to Lochow," i.e. Loch Awe - with which they derided their foes, is said to have indicated the impossibility of reaching them in their distant fastnesses. A legend connects it with a remark of Campbell of Inverliver, on carrying away (1499) the red-haired little Muriel, heiress of Cawdor, in distant Nairnshire, to the protection of his chief here. "Suppose she should die?" said one of his men. Inverliver laughed and replied, "Muriel of Cawdor will never die as long as there is a red-haired lassie on the shores of Lochow."

The **Falls of Blairgour**, about 2 miles north of Portinnisherrich, are about 90 feet. in height.

On the west side of the loch for a length of about 9 miles is **Inverliver Estate**, maintained by the Government as an experimental State Forest. Beyond it the little river *Avich* comes down to the loch from **Loch Avich**, Ossian's Loch Launa, a picturesque sheet (over 3 miles long) surrounded by scenes of Highland grandeur, and with a level 200 feet above that of Loch Awe. A hill road runs from Loch Awe along the northern shore of Loch Avich to Kilmelfort on the Oban - Ardrishaig road (see earlier); and is continued 8 miles along the western side of Loch Awe to Taychreggan.

Some miles farther are the piers of **Taychreggan** and **Portsonachan**, each with an hotel and connected by a ferry (*apply at hotels: fare, 3d.; cycle, 9d.; motor-cycle, 2s. 6d.*). The meaning of these formidable names is respectively "the house on the little craig," and "the port by the mound in the little field." The former place is on the western, the latter on the eastern bank.

Taychreggan is near the head of **Glen Nant**, a favourite route over from Taynuilt.

A little over a mile from the hotel at Taychreggan is the old grave-yard of **Kilchrenan** ("the church on the little craig"), containing a massive granite monument erected by a Duke of Argyll in memory of his ancestor, Cailean Mor ("Great Colin") - whose descendants were the Macallum Mores of Sir Walter Scott - to whom the Campbells owe the foundation of their greatness. He was the hero of many of the clan's forays; and it was while returning from one in 1294 that he was slain by an arrow shot by an enemy lying in ambush on the Streng of Lorn, 8 miles from Kilchrenan, the exact spot where the chief fell being marked by a large cairn.

Beyond Portsonachan the loch once more becomes wider. In about 2 miles we pass the **Priests' Isle**, so called from a tradition that it was the residence of a colony of priests. Two miles farther the loch attains its greatest width, and the view becomes magnificent.

From Cladich, on the eastern shore, a road runs through Glen Aray to Inveraray (see earlier).

Inishail, "the isle of repose," a green spot, and one of the most interesting of the many islands on the loch, was at one time the site of a Cistercian nunnery, and was for ages the burial-ground of the various clans who held sway in this part of Argyllshire. On the southern part of the island is the ruin of a chapel. From near this point there are good views on the left of the **Pass of Brander** (see earlier), which stretches between the high hills, and encloses a narrow arm of the loch leading to its outlet into the River Awe.

North of Inishail are a number of smaller islands, of which the first is **Eilean Fraoch**, named, according to a Celtic tradition, after a gallant knight, the lover of the fair Gealchean.

Fraoch means simply "heath," but here is the story. The girl's mother, Mai, also loved the hero, and that she might be the successful rival of her daughter she bade Fraoch fetch from the island the apples of immortal youth which were under the protection of a dragon. Desirous of pleasing her for her daughter's sake, Fraoch undertook the quest. He slew the dragon but died of the wounds he received, while Mai was poisoned by eating the fruit. In 1296 Alexander III gave the island to Sir Gilbert MacNaughten, on condition that he would entertain the king of Scotland should he ever visit that part of the country; and the head of the family in 1745 accordingly made preparations for receiving Prince Charles Edward in case he passed that way when he landed at Glenfinnan. Only fragments of the castle wall remain.

The monument prominent on a height on the right commemorates Duncan Ban McIntyre (1724 - 1812), the Highland bard.

On a peninsula about half a mile beyond, at Loch Awe station, is the ruin of **Kilchurn (kil-hoorn) Castle**.

The oldest portion is the tower, built in 1440 by Sir John Campbell, ancestor of the Breadalbane family. Sir John soon after left for a crusade in the Holy Land. When he had been seven years from home and his lady had heard nothing of him, a report reached the castle that he was slain in battle; and his supposed widow in due time accepted another suitor, MacCorquodale. The wedding-day was fixed, but on its morning the missing lord entered the castle in disguise. Amid the festivities preceding the celebration of the nuptials, he disclosed himself, to the great delight of his lady and his followers. (A similar story is told in Scott's *The Betrothed*, and as there were no crusaders about the year 1440 the story must be regarded as apocryphal.) The castle was greatly enlarged in 1615, and it continued to be a residence of the family till 1740. It owes its ruinous condition to an economical steward who took out the roof timber for use in the castle that was being built at Balloch, or at Taymouth. The ruin shows a square tower surrounded by high walls, with battlements

and round turrets at the angles.

TO STAFFA AND IONA.

Steamer leaves about 9 a.m. and is due at Oban again about 6 p.m.

The boats for landing at Staffa and Iona are large, each capable of carrying from forty to seventy passengers. At Iona is a concrete jetty for the landing of passengers. At Staffa, handrails of wire-rope are fixed from the mouth of Fingal's Cave to its farthest extremity, to enable passengers to go to the end of the cave without danger. A flight of stairs from the Clam Shell Cave leads to the summit of the island.

The voyage covers about 120 miles. Fare, including boatmen and guides, 20s.; or including lunch and plain tea, about 25s.

Passengers may land or embark at any of the points of call en route and are conveyed to or from them at ordinary fares.

This excursion, the most popular sea trip from Oban, includes the circuit of the island of Mull.

Crossing Loch Linnhe towards the east shore of **Mull**, the steamer makes for **Lismore Lighthouse**. "Lismore" is generally translated the "Great Garden," but in ancient Gaelic *lis* meant "a fort," not (as now) a "garden"; and it is argued that the island took its name, not from its fertile soil, but from the fortified monastery of Moluag, a Pictish saint, who, about the year 560, established his chief cell here. His staff is held to be the Duke of Argyll's title for the possession of certain lands. Before reaching the island the summit of Ben Nevis may be seen far up Loch Linnhe. Nearly opposite the light-house is the **Lady Rock**, covered by the sea at high tide.

The rock owes its name to the tradition that one of the MacLeans of Duart placed upon it his wife, a daughter of the Earl of Argyll. She was rescued from her perilous situation by fishermen whom her cries attracted, and then proceeded to her father's castle at Inveraray. Some days later she was followed by her husband, in deep mourning. Having sorrowfully told his father-in-law of the mysterious disappearance of his wife, he was surprised to see the door open and the lady present herself before him. He was allowed to leave the castle in safety, but some years afterwards he was slain in Edinburgh by his brother-in-law, Campbell of Calder.

Joanna Baillie's tragedy of the *Family Legend* and Campbell's spirited poem of *Glenara* are founded on this legend.

Duart Castle, the seat of the chief of the MacLeans, may be seen on the nearest prominent point of Mull.

A castellated tower near the point is a memorial of William Black the novelist (1841 - 98). The site is singularly appropriate, being in the vicinity of the closing scene of one of his most powerful stories, *Macleod of Dare*.

The view from the steamer at this point is one of the finest imaginable. In front are the hills of Kingairloch, Morvern, Ardnamurchan and Mull. On looking backward, Ben Cruachan is seen towering above the Argyllshire hills. Northward are Ben Nevis, the Peaks of Glencoe, and Loch Linnhe, and southward are the Paps of Jura and the Isle of Colonsay.

Having passed Duart Castle, we are in **The Sound of Mull**, a strait 2 miles wide and nearly 20 miles long, separating the island of Mull from Morvern on the mainland. From **Craignure**, the first place of call, the steamer passes over to the Morvern shore, where, on a

projecting rocky site, is the shell of the feudal keep of **Ardtornish**, one of the principal strongholds of the Lords of the Isles - a line of independent or semi-independent chiefs who governed the Western Isles.

Westward of Ardtornish the steamer passes the mouth of **Loch Aline**, "the beautiful loch," its steep sides picturesquely wooded. At its head is, **Kinlochaline Tower**, which tradition says was built by an Amazon of the Clan McInnes, who paid the architect with its bulk in butter. It is national property and is open to inspection (key at neighbouring cottage).

Some 5 miles west from Lochaline Pier is the Manse of *Fiunary*, the home of three generations of clerical Macleods. It was the original of Norman Macleod's *Manse in the Highlands*, and forms the subject of one of the finest of Gaelic songs, *Farewell to Fiunary*, composed by the father of Norman Macleod on becoming parish minister of Campbeltown.

Across the Sound is **Salen** (see shortly). We next pass the ruin of **Aros Castle**, once a residence of the Lords of the Isles, and get a fine view of the saddle-shaped mountains, Ben Talaidh (or Talla) and Ben More (3,169 feet), the highest point of Mull. Steaming by Drimnin, a calling-place for the Mull mail steamer, we glide into the harbour of **Tobermory** (see shortly), the chief town in the island.

Beyond Tobermory **Loch Sunart**, striking off from the north end of the Sound of Mull, pierces into North Argyll for a distance of 20 miles and separates classic Morvern from the district to the north of Loch Sunart which is called **Ardnamurchan** from the name given to its extremity ("the cape of the great seas"), the most westerly point on the mainland of Scotland - being, indeed 20 miles west of the meridian of Land's End.

After leaving Tobermory we pass on the Mull side *Bloody Bay*, the scene of a sea-fight between the Macleods and the Macleans in the fifteenth century. On the Ardnamurchan shore just opposite is **Kilchoan** (*hotel*) and on its right on the coast the ruins of **Mingary Castle**, where James IV held a court in 1495 and received the submission of the island chiefs. Then rounding **Ardmore Point** we are on the open waters of the Atlantic.

Far away to the north are visible the islands of **Canna**, **Rum**, **Eigg** (egg), and **Muck** (see later), and westward are **Coll** and **Tiree**. Coll and Tiree are paradises of the wild-fowler. Among the birds which regularly visit these isles and which should not be shot is that magnificent and graceful wild swan, the Hooper.

Turning southward, we pass near the **Treshnish Isles**, a rocky ridge extending for 5 miles in a north-easterly direction. The best known is the Dutchman's Cap, at the south of the group. On the left we pass the supposed scene of Campbell's popular poem, *Lord Ullin's Daughter*, for Loch na Keal in Mull is the "dark Loch Gyle" and at its entrance is "Ulva's Isle."

"Now who be ye would cross Loch Gyle,
This dark and stormy water?
Oh, I'm the chief of Ulva's Isle,
And this Lord Ullin's daughter."

Loch Tuath separates Ulva from Mull and is connected with **Loch na Keal**, which nearly bisects the island of Mull, there being only 4 miles between its head and Salen Pier.

Lying so close to Ulva as to appear part of it when viewed from the deck of the steamer, is the smaller and less lofty island of **Gometra**.

Ulva and Gometra rise respectively to a height of 1,025 and 503 feet, and by some are considered as much worthy of admiration as the Giant's Causeway in Ireland.

Southward of Ulva and Gometra, **Little Colonsay** is passed. Beyond it and nearer Mull is **Inch Kenneth**, a small green islet on which Dr. Johnson and Boswell spent what the Doctor called the most agreeable Sunday he ever passed, at the cottage of Sir Alan MacLean and his two daughters.

Due west of Inch Kenneth, 6 or 7 miles, is -

STAFFA,

"the isle of staves or columns." It is roughly oval in shape and about 2 miles in circumference and uninhabited. Its length is a mile; its breadth a quarter of a mile. On the south its cliffs rise to a height of 135 feet.

The chief object of interest is **Fingal's Cave**, so named from Fion-na-Gael (Fingal), the great Gaelic hero, whose achievements have been made familiar by the *Fingal* of Macpherson. It is entered by a majestic arch, domed over, and resting on basaltic pillars. The roof rises 60 feet above high-water mark, and the cave penetrates 227 feet into the isle, its width gradually decreasing from 42 feet at the mouth to about 20 feet at its far end. It is very remarkable that this stupendous basaltic grotto remained unknown to the outer world until 1772, when it was visited by Sir Joseph Banks, who, on his way to Iceland, was driven into the Sound of Mull, and there heard from the inhabitants of the great natural wonder.

The Gaelic name of Fingal's cave - Uaimh Binn - means the "musical cave," and has reference to the harmonies called forth by the billows.

Under suitable conditions of wind and tide boats are rowed to the extremity of the cave. The end of the cave can be reached by walking along the tops of the broken columns, the pedestrian being protected by a wire rope attached by holdfasts to the rocky sides.

Terminating in a long projecting point at the eastern side of the great cave is the **Causeway**, also formed of columns. The pillars are for the most part hexagonal, some few are pentagonal, and others have seven, eight, and even nine sides. There is said to be only one square stone on the island - the Corner Stone, as it is called.

The Causeway affords a fine view of the **Bending Pillars**, which present the appearance of being made crooked by the immense weight they support. Half-way along the Causeway is **Fingal's Chair**, a rocky throne in which one has only to sit and form three wishes to have them fulfilled!

Separated from the Causeway by a narrow channel is **Buachaille**, or the Herdsman, a conical pile of columns rising to the height of 30 feet and forming the first of the series of pillars known as the **Colonnade**.

A staircase at the end of the Causeway gives access to the top of the cliffs, from which is obtained the best view of the **Clam Shell** or **Scallop Cave**. This cannot be entered either by boat or on foot. It is 130 feet long by 8 broad and 30 high. On one side are basaltic pillars bent like the ribs of a ship; on the other are ends of columns protruding and honeycombed.

A little to the west of Fingal's Cave is the **Boat Cave**, which can be entered only by sea - hence its name. It is a long opening resembling the gallery of a mine, about 16 feet in height, 12 in breadth, and 150 in length. The columns which overhang it, and those in its neighbourhood, are the longest in the island.

The most notable of the many other caves in the island is the **Cormorants'** or **Scarts' Cave**, also called **Mackinnon's Cave**, the westernmost of three opening into the south-western face of the cliffs. It is easy of access by a small boat. From the entrance nearly to the end the height is 50 feet and the breadth 48. The cave is 224 feet long, and terminates in a gravelly beach, where a boat may be drawn up. As it is excavated in the

lowest stratum, the interior is without ornament. The gloom is so deep in some of its recesses that the movement of the oar excites the phosphorescent gleam, of the floating medusæ.

There are the remains of what is believed to have been an ancient Chapel on the island, which for over a century has been uninhabited, the only sounds heard in its solitudes being the cries of the sea-birds.

South of Loch Scridain is the long promontory known as the **Ross of Mull**, introduced in Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. It is separated from Iona by the Sound of Iona, less than a mile wide (ferry from Fionphort).

After a voyage of 6 miles from Staffa, lasting a little over half an hour, we reach the sacred island of -

IONA.

Access. - See earlier.

Hotels. - *St. Columba (temp.)*, (22 rooms; R. & b., 9s. 6d.), *Argyll (temp.)*.

Iona was anciently known as I-Chalum-Chille (that is to say, "the island of the cell of Columba"). The early name was simply Hy. "Iona" is an adjective form of this. *Iona Insula* means "The island of Hy." But the earliest spelling is Ioua, or simply the "island."

Iona, which belongs to the Duke of Argyll, is 3 miles long by one and a half wide. Its shores are marked by low headlands and small bays; the only landing-place is a concrete jetty. Wordsworth, who wrote three sonnets on Iona, thus alludes to the children's share in a traffic originating in the practice of pilgrims carrying away relics or charms:

"How sad a welcome! to each voyager
Some ragged child holds up for sale a store
Of wave-worn pebbles; pleading on the shore
Where once came Monk and Nun with gentle stir,
Blessings to give, news to ask or suit prefer."

The island first became celebrated through St. Columba crossing over to it from Ireland with twelve companions in the year 563, and founding a monastery from which missionaries went forth to spread the doctrines of Christianity over the adjacent mainland. Iona was afterwards famous as the burial-place of the kings and princes of Scotland, who were influenced in their choice not only by its supposed sanctity, but also by a desire of preserving their remains from the fate awaiting those buried in less favoured spots; for it was foretold that

-
"Seven years before that awful day,
When time shall be no more,
A watery deluge will o'er-sweep
Hibernia's mossy shore;
The green-clad Islay, too, shall sink,
While, with the great and good,
Columba's happy isle shall rear
Her towers above the flood."

While all this has yet to be accomplished, most literally and completely has been fulfilled the prophecy of Columba: "This place (Iona), small and mean as it appears, shall be honoured not only by the kings of the Scots and their people, but by the rulers of strange nations, and those subject to them. By the holy men also of other churches it shall be held in reverence."

The Purser of the Macbrayne steamer acts as guide to visitors.

The monastery erected by Columba was repeatedly destroyed by the Norse invaders, and about 1200 became a Benedictine house. Of a nunnery founded at the same time there remain the chancel, nave, and portions of the vaulted roof of the Chapel, a building of Norman architecture, supposed to have been built in the early part of the thirteenth century. The charter of the nunnery is one of the treasures of the Vatican. The ruin measures 60 feet by 20, and contains many tombs, the most notable being that of the last prioress, Anna, who died in 1543. West of the Nunnery is the Street of the Dead, leading from the Martyr's Bay to Reilig Oran (St. Oran's Cemetery), passing the Established Church and Manse, and **McLean's Cross**, 11 feet high. It dates from the fifteenth century.

Reilig Oran, "the Westminster Abbey of Scotland," has claims to be the oldest Christian burial-place in Scotland. In it is "gathered together perhaps the most extensive holy alliance or congress of European sovereigns." It is said to contain the graves of forty-eight Scottish, two Irish, one French, and two Norwegian kings, and other powerful chieftains and ecclesiastics, but discrepancies occur as to the number of the mighty dead.

According to tradition, the tombs were arranged in nine rows or "ridges," but these can scarcely be distinguished, owing to the levelling influences of time. The kings, it is recorded, were buried in three tombs in the form of small chapels, and were in the third row. The tombs have long since been swept away.

The last monarch buried at Iona was Macbeth, who was preceded here by Duncan I of Scotland, who began to reign A.D. 1034, and six years later was killed by Macbeth.

In the cemetery is **St. Oran's Chapel**, 40 feet long by 22 wide. It is the most ancient structure in the island, having probably been built late in the eleventh century by St. Margaret, queen of Malcolm Canmore. It is said to occupy the original site of St. Columba's Church. Its name is due to the tradition that Columba's disciple Oran was buried alive under the foundation as a sacrifice to the earth god.

On approaching the Cathedral we see, opposite the west door, the celebrated **St. Martin's Cross**. It is 14 feet high and 18 inches broad, and is ornamented by sculptured figures, including the Holy Family, David with the harp, Daniel in the lions' den, the Sacrifice of Isaac, etc. It was erected in memory of St. Martin of Tours, who lived in the sixth century, but the cross probably dates from the ninth or tenth century.

North-east of the Cathedral is the recently restored **St. John's Cross**, one of the finest specimens of its kind in Scotland.

Near the west entrance of the Cathedral are the foundations of a small cell or chamber, called **St. Columba's Tomb**, but Ireland claims that the bones of St. Columba were transferred to County Down, while Dunkeld also professes to have received them.

Iona Cathedral

was dedicated to St. Mary and was once the chief church in the Diocese of the Isles. In 1899 George, eighth Duke of Argyll, conveyed the ruins to a public trust that has carried out the restoration of the church and fitted it for worship. Various religious bodies are allowed to hold occasional services in it.

The building is 160 feet long by 24 wide. Its erection was begun in the twelfth century, and it is mainly of Norman and Early Pointed architecture, but from the mixture of styles it is evident that it grew, piecemeal, down to the days when, in the sixteenth century, it fell a victim to the iconoclastic zeal of the Reformers or to neglect. A square tower, at the intersection of the nave and transept, rises 70 feet, and is supported by four Norman arches and plain cylindrical columns, about 10 feet high and 3 in diameter. The proportions of the other pillars in the church are similar. Their capitals are short, and some are decorated with grotesque figures, still sharp and well preserved.

In the chancel, St. Columba's pillow - a block of stone - is preserved in a brass case.

Cloisters were enclosed on three sides by the nave, one of the transepts, and the refectory. The Monastery was situated north of the Cathedral, and north of the Monastery are the remains of the Bishop's House.

Behind the Cathedral rises **Dun-I** ("the island fortress"), a grey hill, 332 feet high, from the summit of which more than thirty islands may be seen.

Iona contains much that cannot be seen in the time during which the steamer waits. Besides the objects which have been described, and which cannot be more than hastily glanced at unless at least a night is spent on the island, there are the **Spouting Cave**, **Port-na-Curaich** ("the port of the Coracle"- the traditional landing-place of St. Columba), the **Cell of the Culdees**, and the **Marble Quarries**.

The island has a population of about 140, most of whom dwell in the village of **Threld**, which also has a Gaelic name, Baile-Mor, signifying "the great city."

There are two temperance hotels (*St. Columba; Argyll*) (see earlier) and a golf course.

Leaving Iona, we steam along the **Ross of Mull** (see earlier), the most southerly part of the island. The coast abounds with columns of basalt, indented with deep ravines and caves. From the quarries in the Ross of Mull was obtained the red granite used in the construction of the Albert Memorial, Blackfriars Bridge, and the Holborn Viaduct, London.

At first we thread our way through the **Torrins**, or **Torran Rocks**, a dangerous reef which stretches from the neighbourhood of **Erraid Island**, celebrated by "R.L.S.," half-way to St. John's Rock, 16 miles away, the site of **Dubh-heartach Lighthouse**, distinctly visible in clear weather.

After clearing the reef, and rounding Ardalanish Point, there comes into view, on the south shore of the Ross, a bold headland called **Gorry's Head**. Beyond are the **Carsaig Arches**, formed in basaltic rocks by the action of the sea, and very similar to those at Staffa. The larger is 150 feet long, 60 feet high, and 55 feet in breadth. The smaller arch is 70 feet in height, but only a few feet in length. Just eastward of the arches is the **Nun's Cave**, remarkable for carvings believed to be the original designs of the Iona Crosses. From its vicinity the freestone for Iona Cathedral was obtained and the stone was sculptured in the

cave.

Beyond **Carsaig Bay** we pass **Loch Buie**, at the head of which are the old and new castles of the MacLaines. Dr. Johnson and Boswell spent a night at Loch Buie on their way from Iona to the mainland, during their tour in the Hebrides.

A small and almost imperceptible hole in the cliffs, just east of the entrance to the loch, is pointed out as **Lord Lovat's Cave**, and is said to have been one of the hiding-places of that notorious schemer after the battle of Culloden. At Loch Buie Head the steamer turns from the Mull coast and shapes its course for the Sound of Kerrera, entering Oban Bay from the side opposite to that of its departure in the morning.

THE ISLAND OF MULL.

Daily throughout the year, Sundays excepted, a steamer connects Oban with Craignure, Salen and Tobermory, returning next day. Tobermory is in the fortunate position of having a double daily connection with Oban during the season.

Mull is one of the largest islands of the Hebrides. In shape it is extremely irregular, and its coast-line is so much indented that it measures quite 250 miles in circumference, while the longest walk in a bee-line across the island would be but 30 miles, and the shortest only 3.

The southern and eastern part is mountainous, the peaks varying from 1,500 to over 3,000 feet in height. The northern portion of the island is hilly, but no eminence attains an elevation of 1,500 feet.

The land is well adapted for grazing. It has a very hardy race of small black cattle, and black-faced sheep also are reared.

Much of the island can be seen in the course of a day's excursion from Oban, but it deserves more time, although Dr. Johnson described it as a dreary country, much worse than Skye. "Oh, Sir! a most dolorous country." Boswell apparently formed a less unfavourable impression, for he spoke of it merely as "a chilly country diversified with heath and grass and many rivulets."

The greatest indentation of the island is **Loch na Keal**, on the western side. It is a favourite resort of seals and at its head is a beautiful sandy beach. Coal is found at Ardtun, on the shore of the loch, and the leaf-beds here are rich in fossils.

The columnar shores and promontories of Loch na Keal and the Sound of Ulva are clothed with ivy and with oak and ash copses. The shores of Loch na Keal, the long promontory called the Ross of Mull, and some other portions of the island, are particularly interesting to geologists.

There is a ferry to Iona from Fionphort on the Ross, 49 miles by road from Tobermory and 39 from Salen.

A description of the northern shore will be found on an earlier page, so too of the western and of the south-eastern.

The island abounds in lochs, most of which contain yellow trout. The rivers also provide sport for anglers. The residents at some of the hotels have the right of fishing in certain waters, and the proprietors of preserved waters will occasionally give permission for a day's fishing when application is courteously made.

Those who desire to climb Ben More should disembark at **Salen**, which commends itself to visitors by its central situation. (Postal address, Aros, to avoid confusion with Salen on Loch Sunart.) The village is connected (4 miles) by a good road, through Glen Aros, with **Loch Frisa**, providing good fishing. An easy road runs from Salen south-eastward to **Glen Forsa**, some 3 miles distant. In the woods of the glen and in the corries of the adjacent hills are many red deer.

Ben More (3,169 feet) is the highest summit in the island. The ascent can be made with comparative ease. The distance from Salen to the foot of the Ben is 7 miles, and, reckoning from that spot, the ascent and descent may be made in from 3½ to 4½ hours.

From Salen follow the road westward of the hotel for a trifling distance, and then turn to the left. Soon the road bends to the right, and leads across the low col separating the Sound of Mull from Loch na Keal. In about a mile it crosses the Ba, issuing from Loch Ba, and then at Knock turns sharply to the right. For the rest of the distance, some 3½ miles, the route lies along the south shore of **Loch na Keal**.

Before reaching a bend of the road in full sight of the island of Eorsa, leave the road near Dishig and make for An Gearna, the north-east shoulder of the mountain, from which the actual summit of Ben More is seen. The ascent thence to the summit is simple and requires no description.

By the same road one may reach **Mackinnon's Cave** at Ardmeanach, on the west shore. Its size is so vast that it has given rise to the legend that the cavern extends right across the island. It is supposed to be more than 100 yards long and from 50 to 80 feet high, and can be entered from the shore only at low water. The floor consists of sand. At the inner extremity is a huge stone called "Fingal's Table," which is believed to have been used as an altar by early anchorites. The southern part of Ardmeanach headland, known as *The Burgh* was presented in 1936 to the National Trust. Here is **MacCulloch's Tree**, one of the most famous fossil trees in the country. The old conifer still stands erect to a height of some 30 feet and though now cased in rock the centre of its stem still contains the charred remains of its former self.

Loch Scridain, a large inlet of the sea a few miles south of the cave, is famous for its fishing.

From Salen to Tobermory by land is 10 miles. The road, a pleasant one, lies along the Sound of Mull and passes the ruin of **Aros Castle** (2½ miles from Salen), an ancient stronghold of the Lords of the Isles.

Tobermory.

Early Closing. - Wednesday.

Hotels. - *Mishnish* (15 rooms; R. & b., fr. 6s. 6d.), *Mull, MacDonald Arms* (14 rooms; R. & b., fr. 6s. 6d.), *Western Isles* (31 rooms; fr. 15s. per day).

Population. - 850.

Recreation. - Salt-water fishing, boating, bathing, tennis and golf (18-hole course).

Steamers. - To Oban and back (daily, except Sunday). From Glasgow about every ten days by MacBrayne steamer or M'Callum Orme steamer.

Tobermory, "the Well of Mary," is the chief town in the island of Mull. Founded in 1788 by the Society for the Encouragement of the British Fisheries, it has not realized the hopes of its founders by becoming an important fishing station. It stands on the shore of a bay which affords safe and spacious anchorage and is protected by the small island of Calve, much in the

same way as Oban Bay is by Kerrera.

One of the ships of the Spanish Armada was sunk in the bay in 1588 by Donald Glas MacLean, who, retained as a hostage, set fire to the magazine. Some of her timbers, brass and iron guns, shot, silver-plate and other relics have been recovered at various times. Diving operations are still being carried on for the recovery of treasure. Thomas Campbell's poem on *The Parrot in Exile* owes its origin to this historic wreck.

Dr. Johnson and Boswell paid a visit to Tobermory in October, 1773, and were the guests of Dr. MacLean, whose residence was about a mile from the place. Johnson was greatly pleased by the varied accomplishments of Miss MacLean, who, besides possessing a smattering of French, could draw, sew, make "shell-work," play on the spinet, translate Gaelic literally, and milk the cow.

A small stream, which empties itself into the bay, tumbles over a pretty double cascade at the back of the town. Towards the north-west is **St. Mary's Well**, which gave its name to the place and was once believed to have healing virtues. The lighthouse on Rudhanan Gall ("Strangers' Point"), on the cliffs at the northern extremity of the bay, commands an extensive panorama. About 2 miles from the town, in the grounds of Aros House, are the Aros Waterfalls. Visitors may walk through the grounds, which are extremely beautiful. (Admission at the lodge near the water's edge, at the end of the street.)

OBAN TO BALLACHULISH AND FORT WILLIAM.

Railway (L.M.S.) as far as Ballachulish. Steamers run daily from Oban during the summer. For motorists the alternative to crossing Connel Bridge or Bonawe ferry is the road by Glencoe (see shortly).

For the road from Oban to Connel see earlier. Walking route up Glencruitten (see earlier) by the old road which carries the telegraph wires all the way.

For Connel and the bridge, see earlier. Bonawe Ferry (see earlier).

From the north end of Connel Bridge a level road runs to the left and then in a straight line across the **Moss of Achnacree**, or Ledaig, supposed to be Ossian's "Plains of Lora." It is notable as the site of an ancient lake-dwelling and for the remains of two large cairns, one of which is said to mark the burial-place of the Gaelic Homer (see later chapter), but a spot near Killin and another in Galloway claim the same distinction.

Two miles from Loch Etive is the village of **Ledaig**. The rocky eminence beyond Benderloch station is **Beregonium**, said to be the site of the capital of the Fingalian kings and the ancient Picts, and the place mentioned under this name in the writings of Ptolemy. The view from the summit is superb. There are remains of two fortifications on Beregonium, and traces of the vitrified wall of the one nearer the sea are yet visible. Where the boats lie on the pebbly beach at the base of Beregonium is **Port Selma**, and the locality around has been identified as the Selma of the Ossianic poems, which have been assigned to the time of the first coming of the Scots from Ireland, in the third or fourth century. The historicity of the Ossianic Poems is, however, more than doubtful (see later chapter).

Beyond Benderloch, while the main road and the railway turn north-eastwards, to make their way round Loch Creran, a rough short-cut for walkers and cyclists branches off to the left

and makes for Shian Ferry, at the entrance to the loch.

Standing in beautiful scenery about 2 miles north of Beregonium, between the Shian road and the main road, and at a short distance from the shore of Loch Creran, is **Barcaldine Castle**, the ancient seat of the Campbells of Barcaldine, cadets of the noble house of Breadalbane.

Four miles east of Barcaldine Castle a road leaves the main highway and strikes south-eastward up **Glen Salach**, between lofty hills. On the left is **Beinn Bhreac**, "the spotted mountain" (2,324 feet).

The ascent through the glen continues for fully 3 miles. From the highest point, 516 feet, there is a steep descent of over a mile, giving a fine view of Loch Etive, and of the more distant Ben Cruachan. When the road approaches the loch, turn to the right for the ivy-mantled ruin of **Ardchattan Priory**, a religious house of the Valliscaulian Order, founded in 1231 by Duncan MacDougall, Lord of Lorn. In it Wallace held a council, and in 1308 King Robert the Bruce assembled within its walls the last national council conducted in the Gaelic tongue. It was burned by the MacDonalds in 1644. The principal portion that remained standing was the Prior's Lodge, now forming part of Ardchattan House.

In the ruins of the ancient **Priory Church** are the tombs of two priors, and curious sculptured figures, one of which represents Death with a toad under his knees.

On the hillside is **Baile Mhaodian**, an ancient burial-place containing the ruins of a small chapel built by St. Modan, colleague of St. Ronan, in the eighth century.

Bonawe Ferry (see earlier) is 3 or 4 miles east of Ardchattan House. Cars up to 10 h.p., 3/-; over 10 h.p., 4/-, driver free. Passengers 3d. each. Walkers or cyclists who cross by the Bonawe Ferry can return to Oban by rail or road from Taynuilt (13 miles; see earlier).

Onward from Barcaldine rail and road skirt lovely **Loch Creran**, a long, winding arm of the sea, on whose low islets white sea-swallows make their nests and seals often bask. The railway crosses the loch by a viaduct at Creagan, but the road goes 5 miles round by Creran Bridge (across the River Creran) and rejoins the line at North Creagan. About a mile farther, to the left, is **Invernahyle**, now a farmhouse, but formerly the seat of Donald of the Hammer, who led the Stewarts of Appin at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. Under his territorial name, "Invernahyle," he figures as one of the characters in the Waverley Novels, and many particulars of him are given in Sir Walter Scott's *Tales of a Grandfather*. Sir Walter stayed at the house in 1814.

Northward of Loch Creran, on an islet opposite Appin station, stands the square ruined tower of **Castle Stalker**, built by Duncan Stewart of Appin as a hunting lodge in which to entertain his royal relative, James IV (1488 - 1513). In those days the Stewarts of Appin held the whole region of **Appin** - extending from Loch Creran to Ballachulish. At the ancient seat of the chief of the clan, visible a mile north of Appin station, Sir Walter Scott, when a young man, acquired the knowledge of the region which he used in his *Lord of the Isles*.

For the part the Stewarts of Appin took in the rebellion of 1745 their estates were forfeited, and the management of these was entrusted by Government to Colin Campbell of Glenure (in the same district), whose assassination forms the notorious event known as the **Appin Murder**, familiar to readers of R. L. Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.

Alan Breck, one of the characters in Stevenson's novel, was suspected, but he managed to escape to France; and James Stewart of the Glens, the illegitimate half-brother of Stewart of Appin, who had been heard to utter words that were construed as a threat against the factor, was arrested, tried, found guilty, by a

Campbell jury, as an accessory, and hanged on a little mound close to Ballachulish Ferry station. A monument on the mound commemorates the event.

From Castle Stalker the line and road follow the shore of Loch Linnhe, and after going inland at Duror come out on the shore again at Kentallen and wind round the skirts of Ben Vair or Sgorr Dhonuill (3,284 feet) and of Creag Ghorm (2,470 feet) and the wood of Lettermore to Ballachulish Pier and Ferry at the entrance to Loch Leven.

Ballachulish Ferry (hotels on both sides of Ferry), is within five minutes' walk of Ballachulish Ferry Station. Ballachulish village and Pier are 2 miles farther inland.

Ferry. - The ferry across the mouth of Loch Leven, between North and South Ballachulish, is in operation daily (including Sundays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fare, 2d.; cycle, 6d.; motor-cycle, 1s.; motor-cycle and sidecar, 2s.; motor-cars, 2s. 6d. to 5s., according to horse-power; trailer caravans, 5s.; luggage trailers, 2s.

Ballachulish, the northern terminus of the railway (34 miles from Oban, 39 by road), is a slate-built village situated on the south side of Loch Leven. It is famous for its exports of millions of roofing slates, the largest slate quarries in Scotland being in its neighbourhood. It stands in the midst of magnificent scenery, and offers facilities for boating and sea-fishing besides being busy with the Glencoe traffic. For the Ferry, see above.

Those who take train to Ballachulish with the intention of walking through Glencoe should alight at the terminus, not at Ballachulish Ferry station, but it is from the hotel near the Ferry station that the motors and other vehicles start.

The most direct route between Oban and Fort William crosses Loch Leven by Ballachulish Ferry; the alternative to the ferry is the 20-mile detour by Ballachulish village and Kinlochleven at the head of the loch - a good road and a pleasant ride.

The **Loch Leven** of this excursion is, of course, not the Loch Leven that held the prison of Mary, Queen of Scots, but a long narrow inlet on the eastern shore of Loch Linnhe. From its mouth to its farthest extremity it presents an unbroken succession of grand and romantic landscapes.

Opposite the slate quarries pier is the **Isle of St. Munda**, the burial-place of the Macdonalds of Glencoe. At the entrance to **Glencoe** (see shortly) the road turns off to the left, keeping close to the loch-side and passing **Glencoe House**, built by the first Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. Half-way to the head of the loch are the narrows of Caolasnacon and Corrynakeigh, where Alan Breck hid immediately after the murder of Campbell of Glenure.

Kinlochleven (Kin = "head") in 1900 was merely a pair of houses; now at the head of this romantic loch are the factories of the British Aluminium Company and a town with a small hotel. It cannot be said that man has acted up to Nature's example in the matter of beauty, for Kinlochleven is an ugly little industrial town. The factories produce aluminium and carbon electrodes. The raw material is an ore called *Bauxite*, because first discovered at Les Baux in France. The power for the works is supplied by the water, stored, in a reservoir 8 miles long, by means of a huge dam, three-quarters of a mile long, over 60 feet wide at the

base, and with an average height of 80 feet. (See Blackwater Reservoir, shortly.) In the neighbourhood is an impressive waterfall.

The walk ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile) along the Old Military Road (which leads over by the "Devil's Staircase" into Glencoe, see shortly), to the right of the pipe track, is worth taking for the grand view of the surrounding country.

The road from North Ballachulish Ferry to Fort William has been involved in the gigantic scheme for constructing a great highway to Inverness via Fort William and Glencoe and Tyndrum from the great industrial centres of southern Scotland. **Onich**, a mile west of North Ballachulish, is a pleasant little village with hotels (*Craigdhu (28 rooms); Onich*) and other accommodation and endless amusement in boating, fishing and walking or driving through the grand scenery in the neighbourhood. A Celtic cross commemorates the Rev. Alex. Stewart, LL.D., the enthusiastic and literary Celt, known by his *nom-de-plume*, "Nether Lochaber," who lived at Onich Manse.

North-westward from Onich are the Corran Narrows: *ferry (cars carried)* across Loch Linnhe to **Ardgour (Corran) Pier (hotel)**. Continuous ferry service 8 - 8 in summer, till dusk in winter. Cars 5s. and 7s. 6d.

Farther north, on the far side of Loch Linnhe, is **Inverscaddle Bay**, on the shore of which is Conaglen House. On the right are glimpses of Ben Nevis, and straight in front is the Great Glen, through which runs the Caledonian Canal (see later). For **Fort William** see next chapter.

GLENCOE.

Motors from all parts; steamers and trains to Ballachulish, at foot of Glencoe Road routes from Oban and Fort William, see foregoing pages.

Glencoe, among the grandest and most magnificent glens in Scotland, is finely drawn in Macaulay's *History*:

"In the Gaelic tongue Glencoe signifies the Glen of Weeping; and in truth, that pass is the most dreary and melancholy of all the Scottish passes - the very Valley of the Shadow of Death. Mists and storms: brood over it through the greater part of the finest summer; and even on those rare days when the sun is bright, and when there is no cloud in the sky, the impression made by the landscape is sad and awful. The path lies along a stream which issues from the most sullen and gloomy of mountain pools. Huge precipices of naked stone frown on both sides. Even in July the streaks of snow may often be discerned in the rifts near the summits. All down the sides of the crags heaps of ruin mark the headlong paths of the torrents. Mile after mile the traveller looks in vain for the smoke of one hut, for one human form wrapped in a plaid, and listens in vain for the bark of a shepherd's dog or the bleat of a lamb. Mile after mile the only sound that indicates life is the faint cry of a bird of prey from some storm-beaten pinnacle of rock. The progress of civilization, which has turned so many wastes into fields yellow with harvests or gay with apple blossoms, has only made Glencoe more desolate."

The visitor will not now "look in vain for the smoke of a hut" nor "listen in vain for the bark of a dog or the bleat of a lamb," for there are several cottages in the lower part of the glen, and on its green sides feed many sheep, while recent road-making operations have done much to temper the general air of remote desolation.

Those who see the glen when the sun is shining brightly will be of opinion that in other particulars Macaulay's description is exaggerated. The fact is that the glen is most impressive when viewed amid mists and storms.

At the time of the massacre, this desolate part of the country belonged to a branch of the clan Macdonald. William III had been seated on the throne from which James II had fled, but the change of sovereigns was not pleasing to all British subjects, and among the discontented were the Highlanders. In 1691 the clans were required to take, before the end of the year, the oath of allegiance to William III. All submitted except the clansmen of Glencoe. Their chief, MacIan, an old man, held out to the last day. Then, realizing the folly of resistance, he hastened to Fort William to take the oath, but there was no magistrate in the garrison to receive it. The nearest was at Inveraray, and thither MacIan hurried, but the mountain passes were deep with snow, and it was not until January 6 that he reached his goal.

The magistrate administered the oath, and duly notified the fact to the authorities at Edinburgh. But by their raids the Macdonalds had made many enemies, who now seized the opportunity to have vengeance. The magistrate's explanation of MacIan's delay was withheld from the King's advisers, who were persuaded to cancel the certificate of submission and obtain the royal warrant for the extirpation of the clan.

The punitive force consisted of a hundred and twenty Campbells. At their head was the uncle of the wife of a son of MacIan. In 1907 the original order under which he acted was sold by auction for £1,400. The soldiers entered the glen under a plausible pretext, and the old chief, suspecting no evil, treated them with Highland hospitality. For twelve days they were entertained by the Macdonalds, and on the very night of the fell deed the commander was playing with the chieftain's sons.

At five o'clock on the morning of February 13, the massacre began. Old and young men, women, and children were indiscriminately slain, and nearly all who escaped the bullet or the sword were frozen to death among the precipices to which they fled. The old chief was one of those that were shot.

When the butchery was over the deserted huts were fired, and the executioners departed, driving before them the flocks and herds and Highland ponies that had belonged to the clan.

At the foot of the glen (where is the modern *Glencoe Hotel*), near the modern **Monument** of the massacre, a glimpse may be caught of the house in which MacIan was killed, while for a mile or two up the glen on the same side balusters of green mounds and grey stones mark the sites of the ruined huts of the clan. At the head of the wider part of the glen rises the **Signal Rock**, which owes its name to the tradition that it was the spot from which was given the signal for the massacre. Close above this spot stands the *Clachaig Inn*, 6 miles from Ballachulish Hotel on the old road. In front rises the precipice of the **Black Rock** of Glencoe, with lonely **Loch Triochatan** at its foot. High in the face of the Black Rock is a narrow but deep recess known as **Ossian's Cave**, and **Ossian's Shower Bath** may be seen in a corrie close by. Ossian is said to have been born beside Loch Triochatan. At the head of the pass, high above the river gorge through which the road now goes, is a parapet known as the **Study** (a Scots word for the Anvil). From it the best view of the glen can be obtained.

Looking down the glen from this point, one sees on the left three remarkable mountain masses commonly called the "**Three Sisters of Glencoe**" (or Faith, Hope and Charity). For geological note, see early chapter.

Beyond the summit of the pass, a track on the left, known as the **Devil's Staircase**, climbs over to the head of Loch Leven. The path was the route taken by the two young sons of the chief of the Macdonalds in escaping from the massacre of their clan.

The mountains here on the right are Buachaille Etive Bheag and Buachaille Etive Mor, the **Little and Great Shepherds of Etive**. Also on the right a rough, wild road strikes off over the moor and down to **Glen Etive**, ending by the pier at the head of Loch Etive. All around are grand, rugged mountains.

The road from Glencoe, after crossing the watershed (1,024 feet), crosses the River Etive and passes a quarter of a mile to the west of *Kingshouse Hotel*, which is on the old road on the other side of the river. The road now runs south-east on to desolate **Rannoch Moor**, 20 miles square, which R. L. Stevenson immortalized in *Kidnapped* as the scene of the escape of David Balfour and Alan Breck from the pursuing dragoons. For the route from Kinloch Rannoch, see later chapter. In the far recesses of the moor is the tarn **Lochan a'Claidheimh** (pronounced *Loch na Clive*, and meaning Sword Loch). Into its waters the Earl of Atholl, late in the fifteenth century, cast his sword, renouncing all claim to the adjacent lands in favour of the Camerons, until his brand should be recovered. Its waters flow into the great **Blackwater Reservoir**, 8 miles in length, impounding the streams that flow into the head of the salt-water Loch Leven, and supplying motive-power for the aluminium works at Kinlochleven (see earlier).

Rounding the north-east shoulder of Beinn Chaorach at a height of 1,143 feet, the new road descends to the west end of Loch Ba. After passing between that loch and Lochan na-h-Achlaise the road strikes southward and after a short rise drops rapidly down to the east end of Loch Tulla, and thence along the south side of that loch to **Bridge of Orchy**. (*Inveroran Hotel* is 2½ miles distant on the old road at the west end of the loch.) From Bridge of Orchy the new road keeps to the west side of the glen containing the railway and, after crossing the county boundary at a height of 1,033 feet, reaches the Oban road at Clifton, half a mile west from Tyndrum.

From Bridge of Orchy a rough road runs south-eastward down Glen Orchy to Dalmally (see earlier). It is unsuitable for motors, but makes a good walking route. For **Tyndrum** and the road thence to Oban see earlier.

A mile or so south of Bridge of Orchy the railway makes a wide sweep to skirt a side valley; the track up this valley leads between **Ben Dorain** (3,524 feet) and Beinn a Chaisteil and Beinn Fhuaran, and climbs north-eastward for about 3 miles, and then swings to the east and crosses to the head of **Glen Lyon** (see later): a very fine route - for strong walkers, as there is no accommodation between Bridge of Orchy and Fortingall, 35 - 40 miles, though vehicles can come up Glen Lyon to Loch Lyon, and shelter may possibly be found at Bridge of Balgie, 15 miles beyond the loch.