

sea, and the others proceed from springs of fresh water.

The lakes any ways remarkable are the Dead Sea, the waters of which contain much more bitumen than salt : it is called the Bitumen of Judea, but is no other than the Asphalt, which has caused some authors to call it the Asphaltic Lake. The lands which border this lake contain a great quantity of this bitumen ; and many have supposed, as the poets feign of lake Avernus, that no fish could live therein, and birds which attempted to fly over it were suffocated ; but neither of these lakes produce such mortal events ; fish live in both, birds pass over them, and men bathe therein without the least danger.

At Boleslaw, in Bohemia, there is said to be a lake, wherein are holes, whose depth is unfathomable, from which impetuous winds issue, which are carried over all Bohemia, and in winter raise pieces of ice of an 100 weight in the air.

A petrified lake in Iceland is also mentioned ; and lake Neagh, in Ireland, has also the same property ; but these petrifications are no other than incrustations, like those made by the water of Arcueil.