

has only one outlet, called the Lower Angara. This lake is supposed by many persons to have been produced by the volcanic cause, and the supposition is not altogether unsupported by facts. The mountains around bear marks of a sudden and violent eruption; the surrounding districts are decidedly volcanic; earthquakes have been felt in the neighbourhood; and vessels on its surface have sometimes suffered from severe shocks when the sea has been perfectly calm. The navigation of this vast body of water is tedious, if not dangerous, but it is sometimes frozen over; and Cochrane states, that he has passed over it on a sledge, in a place where it is forty miles broad, in two hours and a half, though vessels are frequently thirty days in crossing.

The lakes of North America are very numerous, but the most important are the Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior. Lake Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world, and is about 400 miles in length, and 100 in its greatest breadth. In this lake there are five large islands, one of which, Isle Royale, is said to be at least 100 miles in length. More than forty rivers discharge themselves into this vast body of water; but the Strait of St. Mary, connecting it with Lake Huron, is its only outlet—and this is not navigable, on account of the falls.

Lake Huron is about 250 miles in length, and contains several large islands. An extensive plain separates it from Lake Michigan, which is cut off from Lake Superior by a narrow tongue of land. Lake St. Clair is about 90 miles in circumference, and, although unworthy comparison with those large bodies of water already described, it has an importance from its connexion with Lake Erie, which is about 600 miles in circumference. Lake Ontario is the last of the chain, and is about 170 miles long, and 60 broad.

There are other countries where the lakes are as numerous as in North America, but there is no country in which they present so large a surface of water. Switzerland abounds in lakes, but in magnitude they cannot be compared with those of America. Geneva is the largest of these, but it is not more than fifty miles in length, and twelve in its greatest breadth. It is chiefly remarkable for the romantic scenery by which it is surrounded; and in this respect it is superior to all others, as also in the depth of its "deep blue waters."

The principal English lakes are situated in Cumberland and