

better known and more sensible. They are sudden overflows, of brief duration, arising probably from differences of atmospheric pressure on the very extensive surface of the waters. *Seiches* occur in all seasons, but are generally most frequent in spring and autumn.

In Africa and America we meet with lakes which dry up at intervals, like the salt pools of the Sahara Desert, and the Lakes of Xarayes and Parià. Others present a phenomenon analogous to that of intermittent springs. Such is the Lake of Zirknitz, in Illyria. It is surrounded by limestone mountains. Its circumference varies

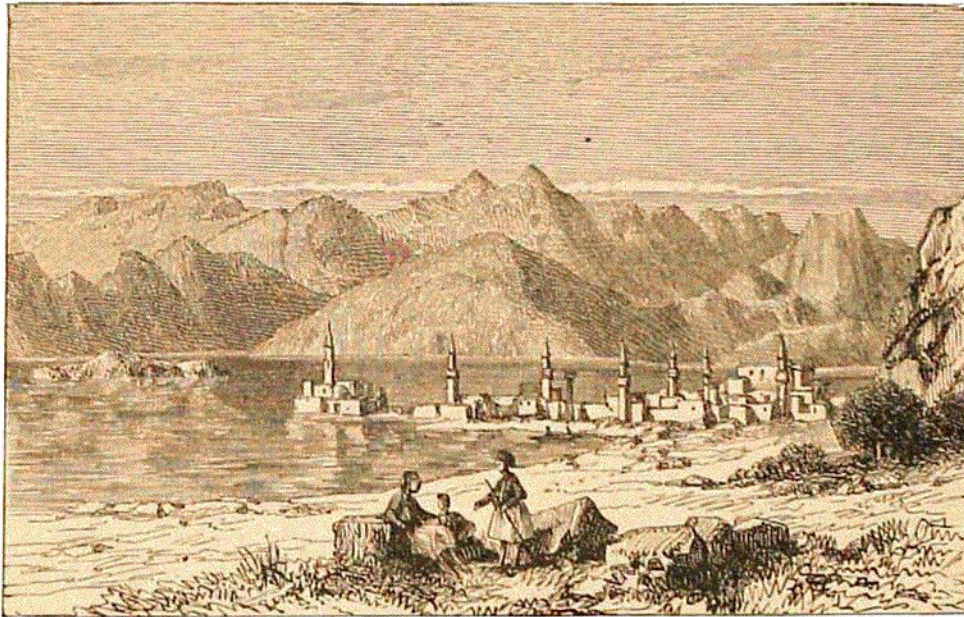


FIG. 196.—LAKE OF JOANNINA, IN GREECE.

from fifteen to thirty miles; it receives eight streams, and its surface is studded with four or five islands, on the largest of which is situated the village of Vorneck. At certain epochs, the waters flow through a great number of subterranean conduits, whose orifice opens in the bed of the lake, so that one may easily catch with the hand the fish which are not carried underground. The lake then remains dry for a considerable time, is overgrown with a rich vegetation, and, perhaps, tilled and planted. But beware of trusting to the calm impostor! The waters suddenly return through the channels by which they disappeared; the lake, with a formidable roar, fills itself anew, and swallows up the crops which covered its ancient bed.