

Crags, knolls, and mounds, confusedly hurled,
 The fragments of an earlier world ;
 A wildering forest feathered o'er
 His ruined sides and summit hoar,
 While on the north, through middle air,
 Ben-an heaved high his forehead bare."

We have thus glanced at the best-known of the Scottish lakes. There are half a hundred others, of different sizes and character, which are scarcely less beautiful, romantic, or sublime. Those in the Northern Highlands, however, have a strong "family likeness," and are deep, still sheets of water, closely encircled by bare, lofty, and precipitous mountains, whose brown shaggy sides are scored by many a flashing and noisy burn.]

ASIA.

The Hindus have their sacred lakes ; as those of *Mano-Sarowar* and *Ravana-Bruda*, which are situated in the centre of the table-land that lies north of the Himalayas. In the immediate vicinity of these lakes are found the head-waters of the Indus, the Ganges, the Brahmapootra, and the Djuma. When speaking of the Himalaya, in an earlier chapter, we referred to the lakes that at great elevations sleep among the recesses of the giant mountains. We give here a representation of *Lake Kiouk-Kiol*, from the valuable and important work of the brothers Schlagintweit.

The great lakes of *Van* and *Urumiyah* are excessively salt. They lie within the mountainous region of Armenia. They receive numerous tributaries ; but though they possess no apparent outlet, their volume diminishes rather than increases.

[Lake Van is 80 miles long and 50 broad (at its maximum). Its area is 1200 square miles. *Lake Urumiyah* or *Urmeyah*, Urumijah or Urmea—called also the Lake of Marugha and Lake of Tabriz—lies about thirty-five miles west from Tabriz, at an elevation of 4320 feet above the sea-level. Its length from north to south is about 80 miles ; its average width, 25 miles ; and it contains upwards of 1900 English square miles. Its water is remarkable for its specific gravity, and contains twenty-five per cent. of salt. They are rapidly disappearing, and their banks now present an immense tract of thick saline incrustation.

The *Dead Sea*, which receives the sacred waters of the Jordan, occupies a considerable depression in the soil of Palestine, and is probably of volcanic origin. The level of its waters is no less than 1300 feet *below* that of the Red Sea. They form two widely different basins ; the northern one, very deep (1300 feet), being separated from the southern, which is very shallow (13 feet), by a long sandy peninsula, named El-Mesran.

The striking name which this remarkable reservoir of inland waters has borne for so many generations is justified by the gloomy and desolate aspect of its naked shores, as well as by the lugubrious scenery everywhere surrounding it. Almost the only vegetation is the *Osher* of the Arabs—a plant which bears a fruit with some resemblance to an apple. Attempt to eat it, however, and the mouth is filled with a disagreeable substance. This is the famous "Dead Sea fruit," which has so often been used by the moralist to point a moral, and by the poet to adorn a tale.