

last of which is most difficult ; for even supposing it proportional to the surfaces, it must be more considerable in a hot than in a cold climate ; besides, water mixed with salt and bitumen, evaporates more slowly than fresh water ; a troubled sea more quickly than one that is tranquil ; and the difference of depth has also some effect : in short, so many circumstances enter into this theory of evaporation that it is scarcely possible to calculate any exact estimations on it.

The water of the Black Sea appears to be less clear and less saline than that of the ocean. There are no islands in it, and its tempests are more violent and more dangerous than in the ocean, because the whole body of its waters being contained in a bason, which has but a small outlet, when they are agitated, they have a kind of whirling motion which strikes the vessels on every side with an insupportable violence.

Next to the Black Sea the greatest lake in the universe is the Caspian Sea, whose extent in length from north to south is about 300 leagues, and scarcely more than fifty broad. This lake receives the Wolga and some other considerable rivers, as the Kur, the Faie, and the