

Missouri in that space, it was not sensibly enlarged." When acquainted with such facts, there can be no difficulty in believing that the evaporation from the surface of the Caspian may be the cause why it preserves its level, notwithstanding the large volume of water brought into it by the Volga and other rivers.

The third class comprehends all those lakes which receive no streams, but give birth to some. Many of these lakes occupy very elevated situations, and are the sources of some of the largest rivers. They are, no doubt, supplied by springs, the water of which rises in their reservoirs until its level is sufficiently high to admit a discharge. The lake on Monte Rotondo, in Corsica, is one of this class, and is situated 9000 feet above the level of the sea.

The fourth class includes all those lakes which both receive and discharge water, and these are more numerous than any others. Some receive the waters of many rivers, but commonly they have but one outlet. It is not difficult to explain the origin of these lakes. Should a hollow present itself in the course of any river, it is quite evident that it must be filled to the level of some part of its banks before the river can proceed, and this would produce a lake. But it may happen that there is a general declivity from various parts of a district towards some central valley, and then the waters of a number of rivers may be brought into it, while at the same time the continuation of the valley gives but one course by which the waters can be discharged. Many of these lakes, however, may be supplied by springs as well as by rivers. Lake Baikal, in Asiatic Russia, is a very large lake of this class, but the largest are those of North America, which lie between Canada and the United States.

These lakes, or inland seas, as some of them might be more appropriately called, constitute so important a feature in physical geography, that we cannot pass from the consideration of the subject without a more specific reference to a few examples, and especially to some of those which are found in the northern counties of Great Britain, which, though not large, are well worthy attention.

Lake Baikal, in Asiatic Russia, and in the government of Irkoutsk, is about 1244 miles in circumference. It receives the waters of the Bargousin, the Gelenga, the Upper Angara, and the Tunka, all of them rivers of some importance. It