

Very beautiful, too, is the *Lake of Brienz*, near Interlachen—a glassy reservoir of deep, dark blue water, encircled by woody heights, and fed by numerous waterfalls and mountain-torrents. It measures 8 miles in length, exceeds 500 feet in depth, and is 1781 feet above the sea-level.

Lake Thun is another of the glories of the Bernese Oberland. It is 10 miles in length and 1775 feet above the sea. Its northern shore is rendered majestic by the frowning presence of two huge mountains; the sharp peak of the Stockhorn, and the pyramidal mass of the Niesen.

The *Lake of Wallenstadt* is about 12 miles long by 3 miles broad; its banks are embellished with a succession of glorious landscapes—in which glens, and gloomy precipices, and flashing streams, and “shadowy woods,” sloping hills and gaunt bare mountain-heights are marvellously combined.

But “*Leman with its crystal face*” is, perhaps, the most beautiful—certainly the most interesting—of the Swiss lakes. “Its very name,” says Lord Lytton,* “is a poem in itself. It conjures up the living and actual shapes of those who have been greater than their kind. As the thought of Troy brings before us at once the bright Scamander—the heaven-defended towers—the hum of the wide Grecian



FIG. 198.—LAKE OF ESCHI, IN SWITZERLAND.

camp—with the lone tent of Achilles, sullen at his loss—and the last interview of Hector and her to whom he was ‘father, mother, brethren’—so with the very name of Leman rise up the rocks of Meillerie—the white walls of Chillon—we see the boat of Byron, with the storm breaking over the Jura—the ‘covered acacia walk’ in which, at the dead of night, the Historian of Rome gazed upon the waters after he had finished the last page of his deathless work: Voltaire, Rousseau, Calvin—beings who were revolutions in themselves—are summoned before us. Yes; Leman is an epic: poetical in itself, it associates its name with the characters of poetry;—and all that is most beautiful in nature is linked with all that is most eloquent in genius.”

* [Lord Lytton, “The Student.”]