

The *Lake of Geneva*—called by the Romans *Lacus Lemanus*—has nearly the shape of “Dian’s crescent bow,” its horns having a southward inclination. Along its northern shore it measures 55 miles, and along its southern, 40; its maximum breadth is 6 miles; its greatest depth, 900 feet. Its surface is about 1142 feet above the sea-level.

“Lake Lemman woos me with its crystal face,
The mirror where the stars and mountains view
The stillness of their aspect in each trace
Its clear depth yields of their far height and hue.”

In Northern Italy occur three lakes of great though tranquil beauty; smiling lakes, embowered among groves of olive, orange, and pomegranate, and not surrounded, like the waters of Switzerland, with rugged and gloomy precipices: the Lakes of *Como*, *Lugano*, and *Maggiore*.

Lago di Como is about 40 miles in length from north to south. It is fed by the Adda, and as it has no outlet, the Adda must also carry off its superfluous waters. The finest and most accurate description of it with which we are acquainted is given by Henry Taylor, the author of “Philip Van Artevelde” :—

“Sublime, but neither bleak nor bare,
Nor misty are the mountains there,
Softly sublime—profusely fair,
Up to their summits clothed in green,
And fruitful as the vales between,
They lightly rise,
And scale the skies,
And groves and gardens still abound;
For where no shoot
Could else take root,
The peaks are shelved, and terraced round.
Earthward appear in mingled growth
The mulberry and maize; above
The trellised vine extends to both
The leafy shade they love.
Looks out the white-walled cottage here,
The lowly chapel rises near;
Far down the foot must roam to reach
The lovely lake and bending beach;
While chestnut green and olive gray
Chequer the steep and winding way.”

Lago di Lugano (also called *Ceresio*) is of a very irregular outline; its shores making numerous sudden curves and abrupt bends, which enclose the most delightful recesses and shadowy coves. Its scenery is very varied; being at one point bare, bleak, rugged, and mountainous; at another, a series of vineyards, fig-groves, and walnut-copses, interspersed with white villas and blooming gardens. Its extreme length is 20 miles.

Lago Maggiore, or the Greater Lake—the *Lacus Verbanus* of the Romans—is