

It may seem strange that I should take the Lake of Geneva as a special example, when the lakes of Llanberis, Llyn-llydaw, and Bala in Wales, Windermere in the Cumbrian region, Loch Doon in Ayrshire, Loch Katrine, or Loch Lomond, and many other lakes in the Highlands, would on a smaller scale do as well. But though it was in Wales that the first idea of the theory struck me, while mapping its moraines and ice-grooves in 1854, yet it was only after a critical examination of many of the lakes in and around the Alps, that in 1861 I ventured to assert that nearly all their basins were scooped out by the great glaciers of the icy period. I then first clearly saw its bearing as a veritable discovery in physical geography, affecting not Switzerland and Britain alone, but a large part of the habitable world.

If we examine the maps of the northern hemisphere generally, beginning at the equator, and going north, it is remarkable that, excepting lagoons, crater-lakes, and a few formed by subsidence in volcanic areas, we find very few important lakes in its southern regions, and these chiefly in Central Africa, where no traveller has yet tried to account for them. As we proceed northwards in America, in latitudes 38° and 40° , the lakes on the eastern half of the continent begin to increase, and soon become tolerably numerous. North of New York, towards the St. Lawrence, they become so numerous, that they appear on large maps to be scattered over the country in every direction, and beyond this to the west and north of Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence, the whole country is, so to speak, sown

Lakes,' &c. 'Jour. Geol. Soc.' 1862, vol. xviii. For the germ of the whole subject see also 'The Old Glaciers of Switzerland and North Wales,' 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' republished as a separate book 1860.