

Lake Michigan, lying 576 ft. above the sea, is 320 miles long, 85 miles broad, and 700 feet deep; area, 22,000 square miles. This lake lies wholly within the confines of the United States. It presents a large expanse of water, with but few islands, except near its entrance into the Straits of Mackinac, through which it discharges its surplus waters. The strait is 30 or 40 miles in length, and discharges its accumulated waters into Lake Huron, on nearly a level with Lake Michigan. At the north end of the lake, and in the Straits, are several large and romantic islands, affording delightful resorts.

Green Bay, a most beautiful expanse of water, containing several small islands, lies at about the same elevation as Lake Michigan; it is 100 miles long, 20 miles broad, and 60 feet deep; area, 2,000 square miles. This is a remarkably pure body of water, presenting lovely shores, surrounded by a fruitful and healthy section of country.

Lake Huron, lying at a height of 574 feet above the sea, is 250 miles long, 100 miles broad, and 750 feet greatest depth; area, 21,000 square miles. This lake is almost entirely free of islands, presenting a large expanse of pure water. Its most remarkable feature is Saginaw Bay, lying on its western border. The waters of this lake are now whitened by the sails of commerce, it being the great thoroughfare to and from Lakes Michigan and Superior.

Georgian Bay, lying northeast of Lake Huron, and of the same altitude, being separated by islands and headlands, lies wholly within the confines of Canada. It is 140 miles long, 55 miles broad, and 500 feet in depth; area, 5,000 square miles. In the *North Channel*, which communicates with St. Mary's River, and in Georgian Bay, are innumerable islands and islets, forming an interesting and romantic feature to this pure body of water. All the above bodies of water, into which

are discharged a great number of streams, find an outlet by the River *St. Clair*, commencing at the foot of Lake Huron, where it has only a width of 1,000 feet, and a depth of from 20 to 60 feet, flowing with a rapid current downward, 38 miles, into

Lake St. Clair, which is 25 miles long and about as many broad, with a small depth of water; the most difficult navigation being encountered in passing over "*St. Clair Flats*," where only about 12 feet of water is afforded. *Detroit River*, 27 miles in length, is the recipient of all the above waters, flowing southward through a fine section of country into

Lake Erie, the fourth great lake of this immense chain. This latter lake again, at an elevation above the sea of 564 feet, 250 miles long, 60 miles broad, and 204 feet at its greatest depth, but, on an average, considerably less than 100 feet deep, discharges its surplus waters by the Niagara River and Falls, into Lake Ontario, 330 feet below; 51 feet of this descent being in the rapids immediately above the Falls, 160 feet at the Falls themselves, and the rest chiefly in the rapids between the Falls and the mouth of the river, 35 miles below Lake Erie. This is comparatively a shallow body of water; and the relative depths of the great series of lakes may be illustrated by saying, that the surplus waters poured from the vast basins of Superior, Michigan, and Huron, flow across the *plate* of Erie into the deep *bowl* of Ontario. Lake Erie is reputed to be the only one of the series in which any current is perceptible. The fact, if it is one, is usually ascribed to its shallowness; but the vast volume of its outlet—the Niagara River—with its strong current, is a much more favorable cause than the small depth of its water, which may be far more appropriately adduced as the reason why the navigation is obstructed by ice much more than either of the other great lakes.