

some of the lakes there is a diurnal ebbing and flowing of their waters; in others, they rise for a number of years till they reach a certain height, and, in the same space of time, again retire to their former limits\*. In many of the smaller lakes they are observed to swell only at particular periods, from the immense torrents which are poured down by the dissolving snows of the desert. No satisfactory account has yet been given of those causes which regulate the rising and recession of these great bodies of water. Some of the lakes, indeed, receive a much greater quantity of water than appears to be discharged by their visible outlets. The exuberant portion of fluid has been supposed by some to be transmitted through the air by evaporation; by others, to be carried off by subterraneous currents. Much yet remains to be known with regard to this interesting country. The ranges of its mountains

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\* The northern shores of Lake Michigan, and the Straits of Michillimachinac, bear testimony of this phenomenon.