

CONVERSATION VI.

Conversational Trip over Land and Water.

[We shall now try to explain many things in Geography which little boys and girls often see, but do not understand.]

1. We should remember that were it not that books of Geography have been written, containing descriptions of the Earth and what is on its surface, people would have to travel over it in order to see the great cities, oceans, rivers, and mountains which cover its vast surface. Now, as many little boys and girls do not travel very far from home, they should be glad to learn from Geographies all about the wonderful World on which they live.

2. We shall now suppose our little learner to be taking a short trip with us away from home. We shall go with him and help to explain the names of many things which we shall see on our way.

3. But before setting out, we shall ask if our little travelling companion has not often thought that all the rest of the Earth was very small compared with the size of that part of it about his own home; and also if he does not think that only the place where he lives is over-arched by the beautiful blue sky. This Geography is designed to show him his mistakes in these and in other matters.

4. Any little boy who lives in the country has no doubt often seen a river, a lake, an island, or a mountain: but does he not often wonder where the great cities are, with their noise and bustle; and the wide ocean, with its storms and waves, its ships and steamers? On the other hand, any little boy who lives in a city must often wonder where the country is, with its trees and fields and meadows, for the sky seems to shut them all out.

5. After leaving home, the first thing we may see is a stream of water running across the road, having a bridge over it. When such a stream is large, it is called a "River," and the banks on either side are often high. If they are low and the stream is small, the stream is called a "Riv-ü-let," or, in America, "Creek." In other parts of the World, "Creek" means an inlet of the sea. When the stream descends

over broken rocks, it is called a "Torrent"; and when over low rough rocks or large stones, it is called a "Rapid"; but if it suddenly falls from a great height, as in the Niagara River, it is called a "Fall" or "Cat-ä-ract."

6. If we follow this stream, we may soon see it flow into a large open space of water. If this open space of water is wide, and has land on every side, it is called a "Lake"; and

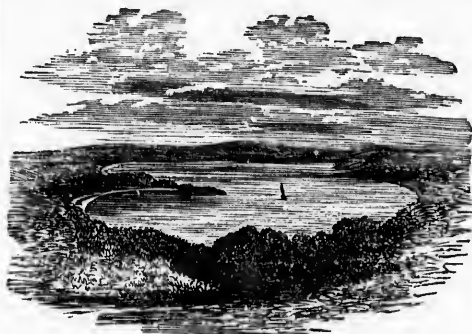


Fig. 8.—A LAKE.

the land at the edge of the lake is called the "Shore." When one river flows into another, the first river is called a "Trib-u-tä-ry." The outlet of a river is called its "Mouth." Sometimes the river flows directly into the sea or ocean, and then its mouth, if wide and the tide flows into it, is called an "Es-tu-ä-ry."

7. Going farther along the road, we begin to ascend a high piece of ground. This is called a "Hill." If this piece of ground is very

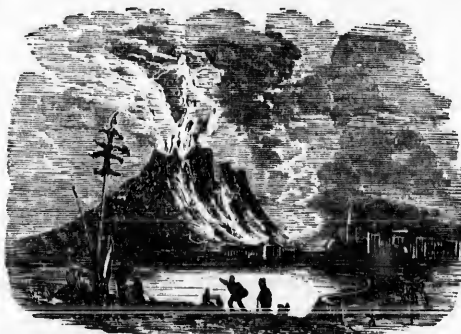


Fig. 9.—A VOLCANO.