

effect on the lake, the dry silt acting as a sponge. The conditions are extremely favourable for great evaporation. The wind may drive a layer of water several miles from the actual lowest spot, and before it can flow back the sun's heat has reclaimed it for the atmosphere.

Lake Bathurst, lying about 12 miles east of Lake George, has an area of 5 square miles when full, but like the latter it sometimes dries up entirely. Taylor¹ is of the opinion that in earlier geological periods the Mulwaree Creek, which drains a fairly large basin and flows past Lake Bathurst about half a mile to the west, received two tributaries, one from the north-east and the other from the south-east, both of which crossed the bed of the present lake. In periods of drought these lateral streams probably ceased flowing, with the result that their entrance to the main stream became blocked by material washed down by the Mulwaree, and a lake was formed. In 1844 the lake was dry; in 1873 it overflowed into the Mulwaree; in 1890 it was within a few feet of overflowing; in February 1907 only a quarter of its bed was covered, and the maximum depth was not more than 1 foot. Taylor found the ground at the east end of the lake littered with the bodies of tortoises which had been driven from the lake by the increasing salinity, and as there is no permanent water on the eastern shore, they perished. He suggests that in some such way many of the huge deposits of fossil vertebrates found in various parts of the world took their origin.

SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

The inland drainage area of Southern Africa has been estimated by Murray to exceed 110,000 square miles (see fig. 68).

Kalahari
Desert.

The Kalahari extends north from the Orange River as far as Lake Ngami, and is situated in the two divisions of South Bechuanaland, now incorporated with Cape Colony, and North Bechuanaland, a British protectorate. It is regarded by many as a very old accumulation of wind-blown sand; Livingstone,² on the other hand, spoke of the decrease of precipitation over the Kalahari in historic times, and considered that the Central and Northern Kalahari was formerly a lake. He went still further, stating that the manner in which the Zambesi River breaks through the hilly land at the Victoria Falls led him to think that the river probably cut down the barrier of the former lake, and thus drained it. Passarge³ recounts the following evidence given by Livingstone as to the drying up of the Kalahari region:—The River Kolobeng, once rich in fish, dried up in Livingstone's time, and has had no water since. Lopepa, in Western Bamangwátoland, was at the time of his first visit a large pool of

¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 344.

² See *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*, p. 527, London, 1857.

³ See *Die Kalahari*, pp. 98–103, Berlin, 1904.