

sheet of water of irregular outline, with low marshy shores, ranging in depth from 13 to 30 feet. It extends about 50 miles in an east-and-west direction, and towards the eastern end breaks up into several long arms which receive the waters of other lakes lying on the plain west of Mount Elgon. Two of these, Lake Salisbury and Lake Gedge, form one sheet in rainy weather. The River Mpologomia, which flows into Lake Choga, and is one mass of papyrus at its entrance to the lake, has been described as a backwash of the Nile, and has been mapped as a swamp; but Purvis¹ says that after careful observation he has been able to map it as one of the chief rivers carrying off the waters from Mount Elgon to the lake, and thence to the Nile.

Edward and Albert Nyanzas.—The Albert Edward² and Albert Nyanzas, and the Semliki River which connects them, lie in the western arm of the great depression of East Africa and drain to the Nile; while Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika, farther south, send their surplus waters to the Congo. The dividing line between the north and south watersheds is now a range of volcanic cones which have blocked the valley between Lakes Kivu and Edward. It is believed that these are of comparatively recent origin, and that formerly Lake Kivu drained to the north—a view supported by the similarity observed between the living shells in Lake Kivu and the dead shells in the cuttings of the Ruchuru River flowing into Edward Nyanza, and also by the fact that the fauna of Lake Tanganyika is entirely distinct from that of Lake Kivu. Moreover, Lake Kivu is very deep, and the upper part of the gorge through which its outlet, the Rusisi, flows in leaving the lake is stated to be but little worn, so that the river is not of very great antiquity. When the volcanic dam north of Lake Kivu was first formed, its effects would be felt to the north much sooner than to the south, for it would mean that the whole drainage area of Kivu was cut off from the Nile. There is evidence in history that on the Upper Nile there existed huge lakes which have now disappeared, and it is quite probable that the shrinkage of the upper waters of the great river of Egypt which appears to have taken place is directly connected with the formation of the Kivu dam. After this dam was formed, not only must the Nile supply have shrunk by the loss of the very large amount of water collected from the Kivu drainage area, but the water to the south of the volcanic dam must have slowly risen year after year, and probably century after century, until it

¹ *Through Uganda to Mount Elgon*, p. 242, London, 1909.

² Albert Edward Nyanza is now to be called Edward Nyanza (or Lake Edward), so as to avoid confusion with Albert Nyanza (or Lake Albert). See *Geogr. Journ.*, vol. xxxiv. p. 129, 1909.