

In the reports of the Balatonsee Commission, mirages of a similar nature are discussed. Von Chohnoky explains how they arise through the formation of a lower stratum of warmer air, heated from the lake. In shallow lakes like Lake Balaton, the mirage is essentially a summer phenomenon. The lake remains warm during the night when the air cools.

In Loch Ness the converse is the case. The great body of water maintains a moderate temperature throughout the year. In summer the lake rarely attains to 60°·0 Fahr., and so the air may frequently remain as warm as the lake, though mirages may occur after any cold night. In winter the lake maintains a high temperature, rarely falling below 42°·0 or 43°·0 Fahr., and thus the air will fall to a much lower temperature almost every night, and a well-marked layer of warmer air be formed by morning over the surface of the lake, giving rise to the mirage.

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“ STORM-WEATHER ” AT FORT AUGUSTUS.

Notes communicated by Dom CYRIL VON DIECKHOFF.

The general features of well-developed “ storm-weather ” are low barometer, dry haze, wind usually south-east, blowing in isolated gusts (“ isolated ” with regard to space and time), low strata of cloud forming along lines parallel to the Great Glen, small cumuli forming rapidly in the air and drifting towards the north-west, where they mass and form large strata, often of very dark and threatening appearance. Little or no rain falls during the perfect type, but rain often comes when it breaks up. These small cumuli are well known as indications of gales from the south-east, and are called by the local sailors “ Pack-merchants ” (*i.e.* pedlars). There are various sub-species of this kind of weather, especially one where the wind is constantly shifting in every direction, the clouds all the while coming from the south-east.

In another type there is a north-east wind (warmer than the ordinary north-east wind), while the clouds come from the south-east. On these occasions the height of the lowest cloud is never much above 3000 feet. There are often several layers at different heights, all in a north-east to south-west direction—even alto-stratus pieces lie occasionally in this direction; their motion is usually very slow; cirrus comes slowly from the south-west.

“ Storm-weather ” may occur at any time of the year. The strongest gales, or at least the fiercest gusts, which we get on the loch, come from the south-east. On very rare occasions there has been noticed a kind of reverse to the “ storm-sky ” during a north-west wind.