



Aquarell by Hermann de Seligintweit Sakiiminski, August 1856. Nr. 584 and 585.

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The Salt Lake Tsomognalari, in Pangkong, Western Tibet.

Lat. North: 33° 39' 8"

Long. East of Green: 78° 38' 5"

Height: 14,010 Engl. feet.

This lake, which is about 70 miles in length, and the largest in Tibet, is divided by a river delta (now dry) into two parts, like the lakes of Brienz and Thun in Switzerland. The parts are nearly equal in size, but they differ in the specific gravity of the water and also in height, the latter difference amounting to some 40 feet. The water of the upper part, not visible from here, is nearly drinkable; the part before us is at present 250 feet below its former level, and the deepest point of the water I found, by soundings taken from a raft of inflated skins fastened to sticks, was but 170 feet. The flat ground a little above the lake, to the right, is the valley of Chuisul, the house before us, nearly in ruins, was then a Tibetan summer abode. For topographical details see Panoramic Profile N° 13, Plate VI. The immediate environs of the lake are a desert of sand and rocks, the clouds remain but for a time, they are not, however, altogether unusual at this season.