

During four centuries, from the end of the twelfth to that of the sixteenth, the alluvial formations of the Po gained considerably upon the sea. The northern mouth, which had usurped the situation of the *Mazzorno* canal, becoming the *Rama di Trimontana*, had advanced in 1600 to the distance of 20,000 *metres* * from the meridian of Adria; and the southern mouth, which had taken possession of the canal of *Toi*, was then 17,000 *metres* † advanced beyond the same point. Thus the shore had become extended nine or ten thousand *metres* ‡ to the north, and six or seven thousand to the south §. Between these two mouths there was formerly a bay, or a part of the coast less advanced than the rest, called *Sacca di Goro*. During the same period of four hundred years previous to the commencement of the seventeenth century, the great and extensive embankments of the Po were constructed; and also, during the same period, the southern slopes of the Alps began to be cleared and cultivated.

The great canal, denominated *Taglio di Porto Viro*, or *Podelle Fornaci*, ascertains the advance of the alluvial depositions in the vast promontory now formed by the mouths or delta of the Po. In proportion as their entrances into the sea extend from the original land, the yearly quantity of alluvial depositions increases in an alarming degree, owing to the diminished slope of the

* Or 21,872 yards.—*Transl.*

† Or 18,591 yards.—*Transl.*

‡ Equal to 9,842 or 10,936 yards.—*Transl.*

§ Equal to 6,564 or 7,655 yards.—*Transl.*