

or Canal Bianco, near the sea; the latter was increased at Ariano by a branch of the Po, called the river Goro.

“The coast of the sea was possibly inclined from south to north, at a distance of ten or twelve thousand metres (between six and eight English miles) from the meridian of Adria; it then passed the western angle of Mesola; and Lorea, north of Mesola, was only distant about two thousand metres (more than a mile.)

“About the middle of the twelfth century, the great waters of the Po passed across the dykes which restrained them on the left side of the coast, near the small city of Ficarolo, situated 19,000 metres (nearly twelve miles) north-west of Ferrara, and spreading themselves over the northern territory of Ferrara, and the Polesine of Rovigo, flowed into the two above-mentioned canals of Mazzorno and Toi. It is well known that the labour of man has had much to do in effecting this diversion of the waters of the Po; and historians who have mentioned this remarkable fact, only differ in the detail. The tendency of the river to follow the new tracks made for it, becoming daily more and more powerful, the two branches of the Volano and the Primaro rapidly decreased, and were in less than a century reduced nearly to the state in which they now are, and the main channel of the river was formed between the mouth of the Adige, and the place now called Porto di Goro. The two canals becoming inadequate, new ones were dug; and at the beginning of the seventeenth century, its principal mouth, called Bocco Tramontana, having approached too nearly to the mouth of the Adige, it greatly alarmed the Venetians, who in 1604, dug the new bed called Taglio de Porto Viro, or Po delle Fornaci, by means of