

which the Bocco Maestra was diverted from the Adige towards the south.

During the four hundred years which elapsed from the end of the twelfth to the end of the sixteenth century, the alluvial deposits of the Po gained considerably on the sea. The northern mouth which flowed in past the situation of the canal of Mazzorno, and formed the Ramo Tramontana, was, in 1600, twenty thousand metres (twelve miles) from the meridian of Adria; and the southern mouth, which had taken the place of the canal of Toi, was at the same period seventeen thousand metres (ten miles) from that meridian; thus the coast had become enlarged nine or ten thousand metres (five or six miles) to the north, and six or seven thousand metres (between three and four miles) to the south. Between the two mouths of which I have spoken, was part of the coast which receded a little, called Sacca di Goro.

“It was during the same interval, between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries, that the great works of the embankments of the Po were made, and a considerable portion of the western declivities of the Alps were cleared away and cultivated.

“The canal called Taglio di Porto Viro, determines the progress of the alluvial deposits in the great promontory formed by the mouth of the Po. In proportion as their entrances into the sea are distant the annual quantity of deposits increase in an alarming degree, as well from the diminution of the inclination of the waters (the necessary consequence of the extent of the bed of the river) as from the confinement of these waters within dykes, and by the facilities which the recently cultivated sloping lands afforded of carrying the soil of the mountains into the plains. Thus the bay of Sacca di Goro was choked up, and the two promontories formed by the