

The Po forms at its embouchure a *delta* analagous to that of the Nile, but much more variable than the latter in configuration and extent. On the two sides of this embouchure lie the lagoons of Venice and Comacchio.

[The delta begins at about fifty miles from the Adriatic, and is formed by a northern and a southern branch—the *Po della Maestra* and the *Po di Primaro*. The *Valli di Comacchio*, a low and unhealthy tract of marsh and pool and canal, lies immediately to the north of the Primaro branch. The *Po della Maestra* is about 800 feet in breadth.]

The delta of the Rhone in France is very well known. It consists of a wide area of flat dull plains, intersected with swamps, here rendered fertile by the abundant muddy deposits of the river—there submerged by dreary, dank, and stagnant waters, and only adapted, as in the neighbourhood of Aigues-Mortes, for the growth of reeds and rushes.

[Near Beaucaire it bifurcates into two main streams, the Greater and the Lesser Rhone, which enclose the delta known as the Ile de la Camargue, and finally pour their turbid waters into those of the Mediterranean. Along the eastern branch extends the arid and stony plain of Crau ; the western district is less accursed, and produces excellent crops of corn and rice, besides affording pasture for large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. There are numerous salt lakes communicating with the sea by natural or artificial ducts. The two arms of the Rhone are so obstructed with sand-banks, that navigation is principally confined to the canals, which open up a passage between the river at Ardos and the sea at Port-du-Bouc.]

In Asia, the Euphrates and the Tigris have created an extensive alluvial area. The Hoang-Ho, or Yellow River, conveys into the Yellow or Chinese Sea a quantity of mud which, in 24,000 years, would convert that sea into dry ground.

The Ganges and the Brahmapootra unite their deltas in such a manner as to assume the form of a  $\mathcal{M}$ , whose points look inland. The surface of this double delta is threaded by a veritable labyrinth of canals and creeks of salt water. Despite their terrible unwholesomeness, these regions are inhabited by man, but a great portion of their extent, known as the *Sunderbunds*, is simply a desert abandoned to the alligator and the tiger. It is the very hot-bed of pestilence. From these fatal marshes issued forth, some fifty years ago, the awful