

is sometimes called *Urbs Septem Marium*, or the city of the seven seas or lakes.

“Pursuing the line of coast more north from *Hatria*, we reach the principal embouchure of the mouth of the *Athesis*, called also *Fossa Philistina*, and *Æstuarium Altini*, an inland sea, separated from the ocean by a chain of islets, in the midst of which is a small archipelago of other islands, called *Rialtum*, on which cluster *Venice* now stands. The *Æstuarium Altini* is the lagoon of *Venice*, which only communicates with the sea by five passages; the small islands which have been united to form a continuous dyke.

“Eastward of the lagoons, and northward of the city of *Este*, are the *Euganian* mountains, forming in the midst of a vast alluvial plain, a singular and isolated group of conical hills, near which the ancients fixed the spot of the celebrated fall of *Phæton*. Some writers assert that this fable originated from the vast masses of inflamed materials, cast by the volcanic eruptions into the mouths of the *Po*. It is certain that a great quantity of volcanic productions are found in the vicinity of *Padua* and *Verona*.

“The earliest information which I have attained respecting the situation of coast of the *Adriatic*, at the mouths of the *Po*, has, from the twelfth century some exactness. At this period all the waters of the *Po* flowed southward of *Ferraro*, in the *Po di Volano*, and the *Po di Primaro*, ramifications which then flowed over what is now occupied by the lagoon of *Commachio*. The two mouths with which the *Po* afterwards made an irruption northward of *Ferraro*, were called respectively, the river of *Corbola*, *Longola*, or *Mazorno*; and the river of *Toi*. The former, which was most northward, the *Tartaro*