During the remainder of Alfonso’s lifetime, the two ancient parts of the southern Italian kingdom were united. When in power, Alfonso attempted to strengthen the central authority and benefit the poor, feudal South. He invested in necessary public works, draining marshes and patronizing the construction of buildings in the classical, Vitruvian style, as well as rebuilding the city’s defensive walls. Personally highly cultivated, Alfonso patronized scholars, such as Lorenzo Valla, who while in Naples wrote his revelation of the Donation of Constantine as a forgery, providing support for his king’s struggle with the pope. Alfonso read classical authors, particularly the historians, and campaigned with their manuscripts always in his baggage. He even attempted to support trade and urban life in his territory, which with the exception of the city of Naples had not greatly benefited