

P R E F A C E.

on the contrary, as docile, courteous, and hospitable, by others. As applied to different places, and under different circumstances, there is little of falshood in any of these accounts, but taken generally there is as little in them of truth.

But the principal point that has been always had in view, with respect to this country, is its boundary towards the north, which has never yet been ascertained. There has been mention made of a country, and of a strait of Anian, which is supposed to separate it from Asia. Others have affirmed, that California continually stretching to the north west, approached very near to the north east of Tartary, and that the straits of Anian were to be sought on that side. Some again have affirmed, these straits are altogether imaginary, and have talked of proofs, founded on facts, that Indians, converted to the christian faith by the Spaniards, have passed by land into China, the truth of which however, has been deservedly questioned. Many think there is an open sea between the north east of Asia, and the north west of America, while others are persuaded, that this is only true in part, and that
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