

frequently occur; and on these occasions they are obliged to go as far south as the Presidio of Loretto before they cross the gulf of California, and then proceed along its eastern shores, northward, to their destination, even though it should be to the city of S^{ta} Fee, the capital of New Mexico.

This city was founded in the beginning of the last century, about the time when the Count of Monterrey was viceroy of New Spain; it is garrisoned with five hundred men only, and it is said to be situated in the finest country that America affords, nearly under the meridian of Loretto and the parallel of port St. Francisco; between which port and S^{ta} Fee, an extent of about 160 leagues, the Spaniards have endeavoured to effect a communication by land, though hitherto unsuccessfully; their labours having been constantly defeated by the obstruction of the lofty range of mountains existing between New Mexico and the sea coast. This project, however, is not intirely abandoned, though little hope was entertained of its accomplishment.

The Spaniards, in doing thus much, have only cleared the way for the ambitious enterprizes of those maritime powers, who, in the avidity of commercial pursuits, may seek to be benefited by the advantages which the fertile soil of New Albion seems calculated to afford. By the formation of such establishments, so wide from each other,