

We continued our northern course across the mountain, and soon commenced to descend, and in our route stopped at Mr. Campbell's gold mine. Here the ore is composed of a very porous and vesicular rock, that crumbles with a slight blow, and one can easily break off pieces with the hand from the roof and sides of the mine. The vein is nearly horizontal, and its bearing a little north of west, (N. 50° W.,) and runs through compact limestone. The sides of the mine are full of pockets and rounded projections. Mr. Campbell says that ore found near the surface of the earth proves the richest, and that he finds the gold does not defray his expenses when he penetrates to a great depth. Here, too, we find carbonate of lime; it occurs in rhombohedral crystals. These mines are much more extensively worked than those of Real Viejo, and, notwithstanding the scarcity of water, I have been told by several persons that not less than 2,000 people congregate here in the winter season, when they can get water from the snows. These workers spend the greater part of their time under ground, living on "atolé," a dilute kind of corn mush; sometimes coming forth to the light of day, when they wish to sell the product of their labor.

The value of these mines cannot very well be estimated now, as there have been many improvements in the methods of working gold, which, when adopted at these mines, may produce a great increase in their annual yield. At present, none of the owners of these gold mines have ever become wealthy by their mining operations, and I have met several who have sunk all they had in searching for gold.

Mr. Campbell tells me that he got from his wells one piece worth \$700, and, at another time, a piece worth \$900; these were at first carried off by the workmen, but were of such value that the whole truth, with reference to the theft, was exposed, and our host recovered his property.

The raising of sheep would be much more profitable if it were not for the depredations of the Navajoes. Even now great numbers are raised, whose flesh is as fine as any I have ever tasted. Some of the "Ricos" on the Rio del Norte are said to own 40,000 sheep. Wool is not considered very valuable, and can be bought for 4 cents a fleece, or a proprietor will permit any one to shear his sheep for \$1 the hundred.

The houses throughout the country are furnished with mattresses, doubled up and arranged close to the walls, so as to answer for seats; these are covered with beautiful Navajoe blankets, worth from 50 to 100 dollars. The walls, midway up, are covered with calico, to prevent the whitewash rubbing off; and the whole interior of the houses of the wealthy is covered with mirrors. All the hidalgos pride themselves on allowing nothing but silver to approach their tables; even the plates are of silver. But, with all this air of wealth, true comfort is wanting; and very few of our blessed land would consent to live like the wealthiest Rico in New Mexico.

While we were at Tuerto the following notice was received,

which, as it gives a view of the civil officers appointed for this territory, may be of interest:

## "Aviso."

"Hallandome debidamente autorizado por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos de America, por la presente, hago los siguientes nombramientos, para la gobernacion de Nueva Mejico, Territorio de los Estados Unidos.

"Los empleados así nombrados seran obedecidos y respetadas segun corresponde."

CARLOS BENT,	sera Gobernador.
DONACIANO VIGIL,	" Secretario del Territorio.
RICARDO DALLUM,	" Esherif Mayor (Alquacil.)
FRANCISCO P. BLAIR,	" Promoter fiscal (Mayor.)
CARLOS BLUMMER,	" Tesorero.
EUGENIO LERTENS DORFER,	" Yntendente de cuentas públicas.

Joab Houghton, Antonio José Otero, y Carlos Bavbien, seran jueces de la suprema corte de justicia, y cada uno en su distrito, sera juez de circuito.

"Dado en Santa Fé, capital del Territorio de Nueva Mejico, esta dia a 22 de Septiembre, 1846, y el 71° de la independencia de los Estados Unidos."

S. W. KEARNY,

General de Brigada del Ejercito de los Estados Unidos."

October 2.—This day we left our kind friends, and Señora Campbell bade us adieu with the greatest reluctance, assuring us that her house, and all it contained, were ever at our disposal; and although poor, yet we would never find that her hospitality was limited by the narrowness of her circumstances. In vain we pressed them to allow us to compensate them for their trouble; they would not receive any remuneration.

We now travelled rapidly, in order to reach Santa Fé before dark; our mules, well laden with specimens, trotted along quite briskly; we soon reached Rio de Galisteo; on one of its tributaries we found evidences of coal, and the bed of the main creek was white with saline efflorescences. Crossing the creek we entered a little vale, traversed in various directions by walls of trap; at one place we saw a wall that looked, at a little distance, as if made by human art; it was pierced as if for windows and doors. A stranger whom we met insisted that this dike was one of the vestiges of the "Indios," who lived here long long ago. But the Cyclops alone could have worked with such vast materials as these. The planes of the joints and cleavage have formed the mass in fragments, consisting of rhomboidal prisms, whose axes are perpendicular to the cooling surfaces.

As we neared Santa Fé, we overtook a carreta loaded with little crates filled with grapes; we bargained with the Pueblo Indians, who were driving, and for a "media" procured as many bunches as we wished; these, with some Spanish bread, formed our noon

repast, which we washed down with delicious water from the little arroyo that flows by the village of Ciénega.

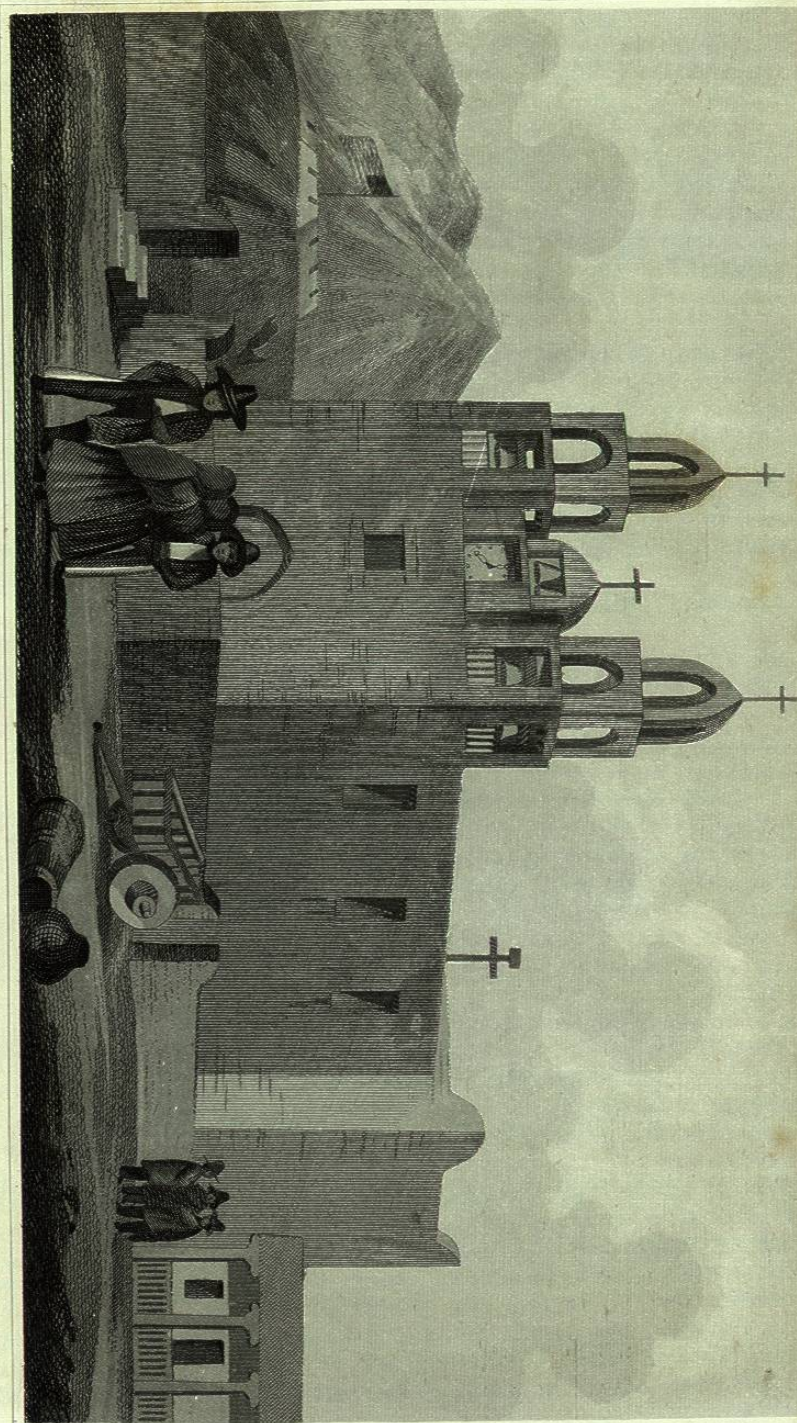
In a little while we reached Agua Fria, and soon came in sight of the city of Santa Fé. By the roadside we saw many cortijos, some half shaded with cotton-wood trees and surrounded by corn fields. Soon Fort Marcy came in view, and our glorious flag, with its graceful stripes, playing in the wind, and before the sun went down we found ourselves once more in the capital of New Mexico.

October 3.—We employed the day in packing up our collection of minerals, bird skins, and the like, in order to send them on to the department as soon as possible.

I called on Colonel Doniphan, and spoke to him with regard to the procuring of an escort through the country of the Navajoes; he most willingly offered me every facility, and proposed giving me a letter to Colonel Jackson, who was now near Cibolleta, and he would furnish the escort.

In the evening we visited Fort Marcy. It is situated on a prominent point of the bluffs commanding the city. The distance of the centre of this work, from the flag staff in the plaza, is but 664 yards. The whole of the interior is defiled from all the surrounding heights within range; 10 guns may be brought to bear upon the city. The slopes are revetted with adobes. The block-house and magazine are constructed of pine logs one foot square. The only approachable point is guarded by the block-house, which also assists to protect the entrance of the fort.

October 4.—We were early awakened with the ringing of the campanetas, summoning the good citizens of Santa Fé to morning mass at the parroquia, or parish church. I had a great desire to see the interior of this church, which, with the "Capilla de los Soldados," are said to be the two oldest churches in the place, and were doubtless those alluded to by Pike, when he says, "there are two churches, the magnificence of whose steeples form a striking contrast to the miserable appearance of the houses." During the noon service I attended the church. The women, veiled in their rebozas, sat, after the Turkish fashion, on the bare ground to the right hand side of the aisle. The men stood up, except when the ceremony of the church required them to kneel. They kept on the left hand side of the church. The body of the building is long and narrow; the roof lofty; the ground plan of the form of a cross. Near the altar were two wax figures the size of life, representing hooded friars, with shaved heads, except a crown of short hair that encircled the head like a wreath. One was dressed in blue and the other in white; their garments long and flowing, with knotted girdles around the waist. The wall back of the altar was covered with innumerable mirrors, oil paintings, and brightly colored tapestry. From a high window a flood of crimson light, tinged by the curtain it passed through, poured down upon the altar. The incense smoke curled about in the rays, and, in graceful curves ascending, lent much beauty to the group around the priests, who were all habited in rich garments. There were many wax tapers burning, and wild music, from unseen musicians, led



FORT MARCY AND THE PARROQUIA—SANTA FE.

pleasantly upon the ear, and was frequently mingled with the sound of the tinkling bell.

October 5.—The plaza was now our place of daily promenade, as one sees more of character displayed in the market place than at any other public assembly. No one can visit this country without being struck with the inveterate habit of the people for gambling. The word "monte" is one of the first a stranger learns. In the market place, by the road side, nay, almost everywhere, you will see the "villanos" seated around, in little groups, deeply absorbed in their games. But, although they carry this vice to great excess, they are extremely temperate in their meats and drink. The term *borrachon* (drunkard) is considered one of the most opprobrious epithets in their language.

The Spanish women make excellent bread, and great quantities are exposed for sale in the plaza. I understand that the flour is sifted by hand, and, instead of yeast, they use the dough from a previous day's mixing. One kind of flour is quite coarse and dark; this sells in Taos for \$2 50 the fanega, (144 pounds.)

In the evening I made a sketch of the parroquia, although mud walls are not generally remarkable; still, the great size of the building, compared with those around, produces an imposing effect.

Fort Marcy is seen lying close on the top of a high bluff, and behind it rises the tops of magnificent mountains.

The house of Padre Ortiz, on the right hand side of the church, has a fine portail in front, being one of the best dwelling houses in the city.

October 6.—This morning I visited the "Capella de los Soldados," or military chapel. I was told that this chapel was in use some fourteen years ago, and was the richest church in New Mexico. It was dedicated to "Nuestra Señora de la luz," (our lady of light;) in the façade, above the door, there is a large rectangular slab of freestone elaborately carved. It represents "our lady of light" in the act of rescuing a human being from the jaws of Satan, whilst angels are crowning her; the whole is executed in basso relievo. One here finds human bones and skulls scattered about the church; these belonged to wealthy individuals who could afford to purchase the privilege of being deposited beneath the floor of a building in which so many orisons would be offered to Heaven, hoping that these prayers would procure absolution for their sins. But a few years ago the roof of the church fell in; no more prayers have since then been offered there, and the wealthy have not even found a quiet resting place.

To-day I gained much information with reference to the ruins of Pecos, but it does not differ from the accounts given in that excellent work called "Commerce of the Prairies," by Gregg. I asked how it happened that the old church should have been built in the form of a cross, and was told that it was erected under the direction of the Jesuits, who founded schools there, and who labored much to reclaim the Pecos Indians from their superstitions. Strange what influence these superstitions have on enlightened

men. The person with whom I was conversing, assured me that, some ten or fourteen years ago, a wealthy individual of Santa Fé, who had been admitted to the estufas, or vaults at Pecos, and who had profaned the "eternal fire," had been ever since perfectly deranged.

October 7.—Again I visited the ruins of the military chapel, in the plaza, in order to make a sketch of a large tablet that stands back of the altar. This is a beautiful piece of art, and represents the principal Mexican saints. Above all is Santa Maria, then St. Jago, riding over the turbaned heads of his enemies; on the right is St. Juan de Pomasan, the back ground ornamented with a representation of an *aqueeduct*; under him is St. Francis Xavier, baptizing the Indians; and in the back ground conical huts, such as are built by the rudest tribes. On the left is St. José, and below him St. Francisco de Santa Fé, standing on two globes. At the bottom of the tablet are two elliptical spaces, containing the following inscriptions:

+  
A DEVOCIONDE  
SEÑOR DN. FRANCO. ANT.  
MARIN DLVALLEGOVE  
NADORI CAPIN GENDES  
TE REINO.

IDES VESPOSA  
LA MARIA IGNACIA  
MARTINEZ DE  
VGARTE AÑO  
E 1761.

Which we deciphered as follows: A devocion de Señor Dn. Fco. Ant. Maria del Valle, governador Y capetan general deste reino. Y de Su. esposa Da. Maria Ignacio de Ugarte Año Christiano 1761. The church was doubtless erected many years previous.

Scattered about through New Mexico, one frequently meets with fine specimens of art, particularly oil paintings. These were sent over from old Spain; and, at one time, the Spaniards used to send over fine workmen and artists to construct and adorn the churches. My Spanish landlady has a fine picture of a female saint, that I have endeavored to purchase from her; but she conceives that it represents the "virgin santissima." It has a dagger sticking in the heart; this I called her attention to, but she could not be induced to part with it.

Before proceeding further, I deem it proper to introduce, at this place, the notes furnished by Lieutenant Peck, with reference to that portion of New Mexico situated to the north of Santa Fé, and which had been examined by Lieutenant Warner and Lieutenant Peck before I arrived.

These notes form an important portion of this report, which would be incomplete without them. They properly belong to the body of the work, and should, therefore, be placed in it, rather than in an appendix.

"The name Taos, originally given to the region of country embracing the head waters of a river of the same name, has long since, by universal custom, been applied to the particular settlement of San Fernandez. This town is situated at the junction of the two

principal forks of the "Rio de Taos," and 4 or 5 miles from the western base of the Rocky mountain range. Like most of the New Mexican towns it consists of a collection of mud houses, built around a miserable square or plaza. It contains a mixed population of 700 or 800 souls, and, besides being the capital of the northeastern department, possesses little to interest the traveller.

Three miles to the southeast is another town, of about equal pretensions, called the "Rancho de Taos;" whilst at about the same distance to the northeast is the celebrated "Pueblo de Taos." This village, interesting in itself as a curious relic of the Aztec age, is rendered still more so by the recent tragic scenes that have been enacted within its walls. One of the northern forks of the Taos river, on issuing from the mountains, forms a delightful nook, which the Indians early selected as a permanent residence. By gradual improvement, from year to year, it has finally become one of the most formidable of the artificial strongholds of New Mexico. On each side of the little mountain stream is one of those immense "adobe" structures, which rises by successive steps until an irregular pyramidal building, seven stories high, presents an almost impregnable tower. These, with the church and some few scattering houses, make up the village. The whole is surrounded by an adobe wall, strengthened in some places by rough palisades, the different parts so arranged, for mutual defence, as to have elicited much admiration for the skill of the untaught engineers.

It was to this hitherto impregnable position that the insurgents of January 7, 1847, retreated after the skirmishes of Cañada and Embuda; and here made a final stand against the American forces. The history of the bloody siege, lengthened resistance, and final capture of the place, furnishes sufficient evidence of its strength. For weeks in succession they had, in former days, resisted the attack of overwhelming numbers of their wild prairie enemies, and never had the place been reduced by their Spanish conquerors. Built of "adobes," a material almost impenetrable by shot, having no external entrance except through the roof, which must be reached by moveable ladders, each story smaller than the one below, irregular in its plan, and the whole judiciously pierced with loop-holes for defence, the combination presents a system of fortification peculiarly "sui generis."

These three towns constitute the principal settlements in the valley, though there are some scattering houses along the water courses. The valley may be eight or nine miles in length from east to west, and some seven or eight miles in width from north to south, embracing about sixty square miles. Only a small portion of this is under cultivation, or indeed ever can be, as no rain falls here except during the wet season. It is necessary to irrigate all the cultivated land, and the small supply of water fixes a limit, and that a very narrow one, to all the tillable land. In point of soil, the valley of Taos compares favorably with other portions of New Mexico; and though snow is to be seen in every month of the year, on the neighboring mountains, wheat and corn ripen very well on the plains. These last are the staple productions of the country;

though beans, pumpkins, melons, and red pepper, are raised to some extent. The hills are covered with very good grass, which furnishes subsistence to herds of cattle and horses, as well as to fine flocks of sheep and goats. In them lie the principal wealth of the inhabitants.

Taos is, by nature, almost isolated from the remainder of New Mexico. On the east rise the high peaks of the main Rocky mountain chain, whilst a spur of the same range puts out on the south quite to the banks of the Rio del Norte. On the north and west are the high bluffs which mark the beginning of the extensive "llanos," or table lands. A wagon road of some difficulty has been opened through the southern spur, which leads to Santa Fé, though the communication is usually kept up by the shorter mule road, over the highest point of the spur.

Setting out from San Fernandez at 10 o'clock, we travelled fifteen miles in a southwesterly direction, nearly parallel with the course of "El Rio de Taos," and over an undulating country, the gravelly rolls of which were everywhere variegated with clumps of cedar and scattering piñons. But, from this point to Santa Fé, there is no grass. Crossing a small stream of clear water that flows from a fine spring, we entered a narrow defile and commenced the ascent of the mountain. For  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles the bridle-path is extremely tortuous and rugged, and rendered difficult by numerous fragments of rock. The mountain rises 2,000 or 2,500 feet above the river at its base, and is composed of a hard slaty rock, which breaks down into angular fragments, with sharp cutting edges. The dip of the slaty formations is to the southwest, and nearly vertical. When the broken fragments are removed, the rock presents numerous angular points, which stand out like spikes, and make the travelling very difficult for animals. The road leads along the summit for some distance, and from it we had a fine view of the cañon of the Rio del Norte, and the extensive table land through which it passes. Far as the eye could reach, the brown and burnt table land stretched northward and westward, unbroken save by the deep channels worn by the running waters.

Turning southward, the bridle-path again descends for two or three miles, leading through a succession of mountain glens, until it emerges into the beautiful valley of El Rio de San Luisio. This is a stream of pure water that flows from the mountains, affording water to irrigate a few fields.

I noticed a few houses in the valley above the crossing, but the village of Embudo is about a mile below. There we found some 300 or 400 of the meanest kind of rancheros, who seem to derive a subsistence from the narrow fields and some few flocks of goats and sheep. There being but little pasturage, they are unable to raise many horned cattle or horses, though their goats manage very well to pick a subsistence from amongst the rocks. We stopped for the night at the house of Señora Valdes, and, after a ride of 29 miles, found goats milk and "tortillas" palatable.

It being the season for making molasses, they were all busy in laying in a winter's supply.

They cut the stalks of the maize, or Indian corn, and, after stripping it of the leaves, pound it with heavy wooden mallets until it is reduced to a pulp; after steaming it sufficiently, they express the juice by means of a rude press, and then evaporate it to the proper consistence in earthen jars. Leaving Embuda in the morning, a half hour's ride brought us to the field on which the gallant Captain Burgwin, U. S. dragoons, so signally defeated the united Mexican and Indian forces, in January, 1847. The road here is so narrow, that two horses cannot walk abreast, and it is flanked on each side by high precipices.

The rocks rise in abrupt masses on either side; on the west terminating in a level table, capped with a sheet of lava. Amidst these confused masses of broken sandstone and lava, numerous cedars and "piñons" have caught root; and here it was that the combined forces lay in ambush to surprise Captain Burgwin's little detachment. After passing the battle-field, the road continues to follow up the dry bed of a mountain stream, until it reaches the summit, 3 miles from Embudo, where it again descends through a similar ravine, to the town of "La Joya." This is the most northern settlement on the Rio del Norte. Just here the stream breaks from the rocky cañon, and the hitherto pent up channel spreads out into a valley near half a mile in width. This marks the beginning of the river settlements, which may be regarded as continuous for 150 miles. On the plain we saw corn and wheat, and, for the first time, found orchards of peach and apricot trees. Melons, too, were abundant, but of inferior quality, whilst hanging in festoons, the bright colored pepper, or "Chili Colorado," adorned every house.

Our road now lay along the east bank of the Rio del Norte; sometimes passing through the bottom itself, and sometimes ascending the gravelly bluff. On our left hand the country rolls away to the base of the Rocky mountains, presenting little else than a succession of gravelly hills, whose sides were covered with dwarf cedars. On the right hand, or west bank of the river, the high bluff of the table land reaches quite to the water's edge, some 3 or 400 feet in height. The broken section shows a formation of horizontal sandstone, capped with the dark colored vesicular lava.

This lava sheet appears to have extended over a vast expanse of country. It forms the capping or upper formation of all the table lands in Upper New Mexico, on both sides of the mountains; and its broken fragments are every where strewed along the beds of the streams, giving an air of loneliness and desolation to the scenery. The next settlement, or village, is "Los Luceros," a town of little importance.

Fifteen miles below "La Joya," is a town, or pueblo, named San Juan. The houses here are built of mud and palisades. They appear to have a dry trench, in which a row of palisades, from 6 to 8 inches in thickness, is planted; the interstices of which are daubed with the clayey earth from which they make the "adobes" that are used in building their walls.

They enter into their houses through the top, by means of move-

able ladders; a mode, I think, peculiar to Pueblo Indians. The idea may have originated from the necessity of defending themselves against their wild enemies, and is now quite extensively practised amongst the different bands of Pueblos.

These Indians have very fine fields of corn, and I noticed particularly their orchards of peach and plum trees. The Indians cultivate almost all the fruit that is grown in the country. One may usually distinguish an Indian settlement, on approaching it, by the clump of trees; whilst the indolent Spanish settlers seldom take the trouble to plant them.

Just opposite "San Juan," is the mouth of the "Rio Chama," one of the western affluents of the "Rio del Norte." It flows from the northwest, through a beautiful valley, and, like the other streams of the country, has a narrow bottom, along which the people have settled. It is through this valley that the famous mule trail from Santa Fé to the "Pueblo de los Angeles," in California, finds its way to the Cordilleras. Towards the head waters of the river, fine grass is found, and the country is well adapted to the raising of stock; but all attempts at settlement above the "Abiquiu" have failed from the depredations of the Utah and Navajo Indians.

Between Abiquiu and Chama, a small branch enters the main stream, flowing from a group of springs, at which a village is built, called "Ojo Caliente." The largest of these springs is 16 or 18 feet in diameter, and the water in the basin presents the appearance of boiling, in consequence of the continued escape of sulphurated hydrogen gas. Other small springs exist, and from all a highly ferruginous deposit is formed. These waters have been recommended by Doctor Nagle, of Santa Fé, in many chronic diseases, and always with success.

Five miles from "San Juan," is the town of "Cañada," a village of 300 or 400 inhabitants, built on a slight roll of land, one mile from the river. At this point, the Santa Fé road leaves the river again, and, after crossing an elevated tongue of land, enters the valley of the "Rio Tezuque." Several settlements of Spaniards and Indians are to be seen along the stream, the principal of which are "Cuyamanque," and "Tezuque," both Pueblos. From the village of Tezuque, it is but five miles, over a cedar hill, to the town of Santa Fé.

Having, with the aid of these notes, laid before you all that was thought deserving of notice in the northern portion of the department of New Mexico, I shall again resume the daily journal of occurrences, starting from Santa Fé, and visiting the numerous towns, which will be found laid down on the accompanying map.

October 8.—We now (i. e. *Abert and Peck*) prepared for the regular tour through this *departemento*. At 1 o'clock my men arrived from the grazing grounds with the wagon and mules. I procured the necessary provisions, although some of the commissary's supplies were exhausted, but those I purchased. Colonel Doniphan was preparing to march into the country of the Navajoes, and the battalion of Mormons was daily expected. All the money in Santa