

1548.

Nuslo de Chavez, a Spaniard, discovers several provinces west of the La Plata and Paraguay, and founds the first city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. It was afterwards removed more northward, and became the capital of one of the four governments into which Paraguay is divided. The other three are, Tucuman, on the south ; Assumption of Paraguay, on the east ; and Rio de la Plata, south of this last.

1549.

In this year settlements were begun in Tucuman, and the neighboring provinces.

1552.

Juan de Villagas, a Spaniard, governor of the province of Venezuela for the Velsers, discovers all the territory where New Segovia was afterwards built.

1553.

First attempt to find a northern passage to China by Sir Hugh Willoughby, an Englishman. This knight was forced by stress of weather into Arzena, a port in Lapland, where he and all his crew perished with cold. His journals showed, that having ascended to 72° N., he saw a land which on some maps bears his name ; some call it Willop's Land, but useless efforts were made to find it at the point indicated ; it was west of Nova Zembla, then unknown.

1554.

Francis de Ybarra, a Spaniard, discovers the mines of Santa Barbara and San Juan, and several others in New Biscay. He made, subsequently, several settlements in the provinces of Tapia and Cinaloa, which, as well as New Biscay, belong to New Galicia.

1555.

Nicholas Durand de Villegagnon, a Frenchman, knight of Malta, sailed May 14th, this year, from Havre de Grace, to go