

Some propose to put the road under roof in all such places ; but this is easier talked about than done. Moreover, the advocates of that expedient appear to forget that *fire* is an adversary still more formidable and uncontrollable than snow. It may suit the temper of some high-spirited and energetic gentlemen to expunge the word *impossible* from their vocabulary, and, having a mighty government at their back, to imagine themselves to be omnipotent ; but prudent men, such as those who manage the Eastern Division, hesitate to rush blindly into difficulties with which neither they nor any other men are able to grapple.

They have, however, that which their energetic rivals of the Platte line have not—an admirable alternative. They can drop to a more southern latitude, where there are no snows to obstruct them, and no stupendous heights to scale. This southern deflection of the line begins at or near Pond Creek.

#### THE ROUTE TO NEW MEXICO.

The following information of the country between Pond Creek and Santa Fé I have from W. S. Stone, Esq., agent of the Santa Fé Stage Company :

	Miles.
From Pond Creek to Fort Lyon on the Arkansas river, about 500 miles west of the State of Arkansas—a good buffalo grass region, rolling prairies, estimated, . . . . .	65
Thence up the valley of the Purgatoire to Trinidad, the base of the mountains—an excellent agricultural valley; the uplands rolling prairies, fertile, and covered with buffalo grass, . . . . .	126
Thence to summit of Raton Pass, . . . . .	15
Thence to Red river, . . . . .	14
Thence to Santa Fé, through numerous valleys and several Mexican towns, some of considerable size, . . . . .	182
	402

This is the stage road. It is very probable that the railroad line will run a few miles east and south of Santa Fé to Albuquerque, via Fort Union, on the Rio Grande, at the eastern base of the Raton Mountain, and thus avoid some mountains, and keep in a better country. Fort Union is the largest distributing post for military stores in the West. The country all the way from Pond Creek to Albuquerque is probably the finest grazing region in the United States ; but it is a region utterly valueless until opened and made accessible by railroad communication. But when it shall be so developed, it will become a