

things: thus, a dollar is demanded on every gallon of spirits imported; fifty cents on each beaver or otter skin, and on other articles in the same ratio. Next come the church tithes, which are enormous. I heard of a farmer who was made to pay one hundred and ninety dollars as the tithe on his produce, although he lives far removed from either church or priest. All these things are bringing the government into great disrepute, and the governor is every day becoming more and more unpopular; so much so, that his orders have not been complied with, and have been treated with contempt, particularly when he desires to recruit his forces. A short time before our arrival, he sent a list to a pueblo of the young men to be drafted as soldiers; when it was received, they in a body refused to go, and sent back the disrespectful and defying message, that he might come and take them.

Nothing can be in a worse state than the lower offices, such as the *alcaldes*, &c. They are now held by ignorant men, who have no ideas of justice, which is generally administered according to the *alcalde's* individual notions, as his feelings may be enlisted, or the standing of the parties. To recover a debt by legal means, is considered as beyond a possibility, and creditors must wait until the debtor is disposed to pay. Fortunately, and to the honour of the country, a just claim is rarely or never denied; and, until lately, the word of a Californian was sufficient to insure the payment of claims on him; but, such has been the moral degradation to which the people have fallen since the missions have been robbed by the authorities, and the old priests driven out, that no reliance can be placed now upon their promises, and all those who have of late trusted them, complain that engagements are not regarded, and that it is next to impossible to obtain any returns for goods that have been delivered. The state of the country is, however, some excuse, as it has been impossible for any one to make calculations under the existing anarchy and confusion.

It was at first believed that the revolution which took place in November 1836, would result in much immediate good to those who effected it; but such has not been the case. Foreigners unquestionably performed a large part in planning and carrying the change out; yet none have suffered so much by it as they have.

Much of this derangement of business has grown out of the state of the country for the last twenty years; and, although its history is of little importance, a succinct sketch of it may not be wholly devoid of interest. The facts are derived both from Californian and Mexican authorities, as well as from Americans; and, although the accounts frequently differ in some particulars, yet as to the main points they agree.