

By this time the supreme government became convinced that although they had apparently adopted the best mode of palliating the injury the missions had received, yet it had served rather to increase the difficulty. The new Mexican priests were in every way inferior to the old Spaniards, neither possessing their intelligence, their skill in governing, their correct principles, nor their dignity of deportment; in short, they were totally unfit for their situation.

In 1825, the supreme government appointed Don Jose Echandia, a Mexican, to succeed Arguello as governor; and he gave universal satisfaction, till 1829, when a revolt took place among the Californians and Indians in the garrison of Monterey, in consequence of their not receiving the arrears of pay that were due them. The governor, with becoming energy, put down this disturbance, and restored order.

In 1831, Echandia was succeeded by Don Manuel Victoria, who changed the whole policy of his predecessor. He became at once, from his tyrannical conduct, extremely unpopular, and in the first year of his administration was so severely wounded in a skirmish at Los Angeles, as to be incapable of continuing in the command. The insurrection, of which this skirmish was an incident, was the most serious that had occurred. It owed its formidable character, as was believed, to the aid which the foreigners gave the Californians: this was the first time the former had interfered with the affairs of the country.

After this event, General Figueroa, who was sent to rule over Upper California, by his mild yet firm deportment, reconciled opinions, and put down all opposition. His administration is still spoken of as having been conducted with great ability and moderation. By his recommendation, the supreme government had sent out a colony of two hundred labourers and agriculturists, of which the country was much in want, to Monterey; but instead of their being what Figueroa had asked for, or such as was reported to have been sent, they turned out to be mere idlers, who had been living at the public expense. The arrival of this colony produced the most unhappy effects, and with them arose an enmity between the Californians and Mexicans, that has acquired additional acrimony from the favour shown the latter by the succeeding governors. Figueroa died in 1835, greatly regretted by all: his death proved a great loss to the country, for, had he lived, things would probably have turned out favourably.

Colonel Chico, the next in command, succeeded Figueroa, but was ill-suited for the situation, and the contrast between him and his predecessor was too perceptible for him to give satisfaction; his conduct towards the inhabitants tended to increase the unfavourable impressions he had first made. It was not long before a dispute arose between