

him and the supreme judge of the district, upon the question as to which of them the chief authority belonged. Parties became very violent, and Chico determined to put down all opposition by military force. This course gave great dissatisfaction, and coupled with his arbitrary conduct towards the inhabitants and the missions, created a determination to resist him if he did not resign. A letter was written to him to that effect, upon which he felt himself compelled to deliver over the reins of government into the hands of a successor, to avoid the difficulties and dangers to which he would otherwise have been liable.

The next in command was Don Nicolas Gutierrez, a lieutenant-colonel: under this officer tranquillity was apparently restored for a time.

During the preceding years, many foreigners had settled in California, who had taken a part in its affairs. These included natives of all countries; and among them were to be found Americans, who had led the lives of hunters and trappers, some of whom had been living in the Rocky Mountains, and on the Columbia river, whilst others had come from Mexico. These persons were naturally of a restless disposition, and disposed to engage in any thing that would produce excitement; bold and reckless in their disposition, they could not remain quiet under the turn things were taking in California, and they now joined and instigated the party opposed to the governor. They argued that California ought to form itself into a free state, by declaring its independence of Mexico, which had not the power to govern it. At that time any plausible arguments had weight with so ignorant a people as the Californians, and this idea was rendered acceptable by the ill-will they bore the Mexicans, and the obvious want of legitimate power. The project of overturning the government was also entertained by those who had previously held office, and particularly by the administrator of the customs, Ramierez, and Cosme Penné, a drunken lawyer, who was the assessor. They were both Mexicans by birth, and belonged to the ultra liberals. With them was joined the inspector, Alvarado, who was extremely popular with the foreigners. The two former, knowing the ignorance that prevailed among the Californians, constituted themselves leaders, and expected, in the event of any change, to be benefited by it; but at the same time they looked with some degree of mistrust and jealousy upon the foreigners resident there.

Under such circumstances, the least difficulty was sufficient to bring about a revolution, and it was not long before one occurred that caused an outbreak, and ended in the overthrow of the authorities. About the beginning of November 1836, a dispute arose between the governor