

and Alvarado, the inspector of the customs, who was threatened with arrest. The popularity of Alvarado with the foreigners caused them at once to take a warm interest in his behalf; and, without inquiring into the right or wrong of the business, they espoused his cause. Alvarado fled to the country, and raised the standard of revolt in the pueblo of San Juan, some leagues from Monterey. The people of California being naturally lazy, ignorant, and indifferent, required some strong stimulus to arouse them; but this was effected, and in consequence of the dissoluteness of the priesthood, and the loss of clerical influence with the lower orders, which ten years of their bad management of the missions had brought about, they were quite unable to restrain the people. It has even been alleged that they favoured the design, in order to have a change, and avoid the heavy exactions that had been made upon them of late by the governor. Be this so or not, there was either no exertion made by the clergy in favour of the government, or their power was too insignificant to be effective.

The people were easily persuaded that a shameful misappropriation of public funds had taken place, and that the robbery of the missions was still going on. The discovery that Chico, who, as has been stated, was forced to resign in favour of the then governor, had defrauded the troops of their pay, and the missions of twenty thousand dollars, satisfied every one that such embezzlement was going on, and furnished a powerful incentive to many to join the standard of Alvarado. He was now acting under the advice and by the directions of the foreigners, who declared their intentions to be—1st. To hoist a new flag, and declare California independent of Mexico. 2d. To banish all Mexicans. 3d. That California should be declared an independent state; and 4th. That all foreigners then under arms, or who took part in the revolution, should be declared citizens. These declarations, although they had the desired effect, were evidently made rather to satisfy the foreigners than to please the natives, and are supposed to have emanated from the administrador Ramierez, and Penné. These men, the most able of the Californians, were desirous to make use of the foreigners to gain their own ends, in which they so far succeeded, that although the foreigners were, in regard to fighting, the prominent actors in the revolution, the result proved that they were but tools employed to gain the ulterior ends of these two designing persons.

Alvarado was now directed to move forward towards Monterey, which from all accounts he was of himself unwilling to do; but the directors of his movements impelled him forward. Who these were, is not well known; but the presumption is, that various citizens of the United States, as well as of England, advised and gave him promises