

of aid. On the 2d of November, he arrived with his force at Monterey; it consisted of about two hundred men, of whom twenty-five were American hunters, the only part of his force that was effective. Some accounts give a smaller number, and state it at less than half of this. Gutierrez, believing the Presidio impregnable, shut himself up in it with about one hundred and seventy persons, sixty of whom were regular soldiers.

The Presidio was at once invested, the beach taken possession of, and a communication opened with several American vessels then lying in the bay. The energy and activity exhibited by Alvarado's party indicated that their movements were directed by others than Spaniards or Californians.

Gutierrez seems to have proved himself weak and imbecile in allowing these advantages to be obtained without making any endeavours to attack the insurgents. It is said, however, (and his actions certainly give some countenance to the idea,) that the dread in which the American hunters were held by himself and men, prevented his making any effective effort: in fact, their fame for skill in the use of the rifle was known and duly appreciated.

On the 3d, the insurgents were found to be in possession of some cannon, which they established on a neighbouring height, and were amply supplied with ammunition. As it was known that neither arms of this kind nor gunpowder were on shore, there is little doubt that they obtained them from the vessels in the bay; and those who were likely to reap the most advantage from a change in the administration of affairs, were suspected of aiding the insurgents with the means that rendered them, in point of equipment, superior to their adversaries.

On the 4th, Gutierrez received an official letter, demanding the surrender of the Presidio and every thing in it. Previous to this, he had determined to resist until the last; but on inquiry, he found that various means had been used to win over the soldiers, who were already disaffected on account of the arrearages of pay due to them. To capitulate was now the only thing to be done; but it was necessary for him to call a council of his officers and deliberate upon the terms offered, or submit to the place being stormed. It is said that this council wore away the whole night, in propositions how they could avoid a surrender or obtain relief, without coming to any conclusion.

At dawn on the 5th, their hunter adversaries becoming impatient at the delay, fired an eighteen-pound ball, which struck the centre of the roof of the Presidio, directly over the apartment where the council