

of his men, were embarked, and ordered to be landed at Cape San Lucas, the southern point of Lower California.

Thus in a few days were the authorities changed, without a single gun being fired but the one above spoken of, and without any bloodshed whatever. At the time of despatching the *Clementine*, Alvarado, with the advice of Cosme and Ramierez, purchased a small schooner, and sent her at once to a port in Mexico to inform the supreme government of every thing that had taken place, adding that they were willing to remain in allegiance, if they were allowed to choose their own officers. In the mean time they sent commissioners to demand that the other presidios should be given up, and that the inhabitants should acknowledge the authority of those who had overturned the government. This the officers and inhabitants refused to do, upon which Alvarado marched against Santa Barbara with his rancheros, for the hunters had, for the most part, left him. He was met by a superior force, commanded by a former deputy, named Castillo; but the schooner returned previous to hostilities being commenced, bringing not only a confirmation of the appointment of Alvarado and the others, but with a supply of arms, ammunition, and clothing for the troops, to the amount of ten thousand dollars. When this became known, Castillo and Alvarado became friends, the former acknowledging the authority of the latter, while Alvarado, it is said, took the oath of allegiance to the central government.

Alvarado now returned to Monterey, where, feeling himself more firmly established in his new office, and having been by this caprice of fortune raised above his deserts, he became arrogant to his countrymen, and alienated the foreigners by whom he had been assisted.

It will scarcely be necessary to say, that by this time the missions had lost all their control over the community. The government had seized upon their lands, and appointed an administrador to take charge of the property (which had been decided under an old Spanish law to belong to the government), as well as to rule over the Indians. From the priests were thus removed all further responsibilities and duties, except those strictly clerical. This act brought about the ruin of the missions. The moral and religious usefulness of the priests had been destroyed before, and now the property that was still left became a prey to the rapacity of the governor, the needy officers, and the administrador, who have well-nigh consumed all. Some of the missions, that had from forty to eighty thousand head of cattle, are now left with less than two thousand, and are literally going to ruin. They are no more what they once were, the pride of the padres, and the seat of the wealth and prosperity of the country. Moreover, this state of things