

has left the whole community destitute of any moral guide whatever, and without any sort of religious observance, except by a few individuals past the middle age. Alvarado and General Vallejo have the reputation of being foremost in producing this state of things.

After a short time, it was found that the customs did not produce the required revenue; and the new government, fearing to tax the people and missions too openly, resorted to a renewal of the double duties, before more than two vessels had touched on the coast. Every day produced some restrictions upon the foreigners, who had now become estranged from the existing government that they had assisted to establish. Alvarado, finding his acts disapproved of by them, grew suspicious and jealous of their presence; for he well knew, from the manner of his own elevation, what an effective body they were.

This state of things continued until the month of April, 1840, when Alvarado, anticipating an insurrectionary movement, and knowing the confidence that the aid of the foreigners would give the malcontent Californians, determined to rid the territory of them. For the purpose of obtaining some colour for the violence he intended, an Englishman, by the name of Gardner, was found, who deposed that all the foreigners, from San Francisco to San Diego, or from one extreme of California to the other, a distance of six or seven hundred miles, had conspired to murder the governor and take possession of the country: that an American, by the name of Graham, a trapper from the state of Kentucky, was their leader; and that they were to rendezvous, for the purpose, at Nativetes, the residence of Graham. Colonel Castro was accordingly sent thither, with the prefect, two inferior officers, and fifteen armed soldiers. They proceeded to Nativetes, which is about twenty miles from Monterey; but, as they well knew that Graham was a resolute, strong, and brave man, it was necessary to take great precautions. They therefore chose midnight for their attack, at which hour they reached his farm. On their arrival they forced open the door, and at once fired a volley into the bed where he lay asleep, and so close to it that they set fire to his blankets. Graham was wounded in several places, and badly burnt.

On being thus awakened, he attempted to defend himself, but was overpowered by numbers, inhumanly beaten, and then tied hand and foot. A working-man, who attended the cattle with him, by the name of Shard, also an American, was held down by two men while a third deliberately cut the tendons of his legs with a butcher's knife, and left him to die. Graham was then tied upon a horse, and carried to Monterey, where he was loaded with irons, and placed in a filthy cell;—torn from the property he had accumulated, amounting to four