

in many respects superior to any other in the Pacific, possessed as it must be by the Anglo-Norman race, and having none to enter into rivalry with it but the indolent inhabitants of warm climates, is evidently destined to fill a large space in the world's future history.

Although I have already spoken of the Indians, yet in order to make the state of the country fully understood, it is necessary to explain their former connexion with the missions, as well as their present condition.

The Indians who were brought into the fold of the missions, were either induced through persuasion, by force, or enticed by presents: the agreement, or rather law, was, that they should be converted to Christianity; and for this benefit conferred upon them, they were to give ten years' faithful service, after which time they were to be at liberty, and to have allotted to them a small piece of land for cultivation, and a few cattle, provided they could get the security of any respectable person for their good behaviour. This seldom happened; but their treatment was much more kind after the expiration of their term of service, and they usually remained in the employ of the missions, having become attached to their masters and occupations. These chiefly consisted in taking care of cattle, the work of the farm, gardening, and household duties. Some became carpenters and blacksmiths; others weavers, shoemakers, and manufacturers of leather; and some were let out to private service to "gente de razon," or people of reason, as the whites are termed. The police of the missions was strict, and punishment was administered when required; but then rewards for good behaviour were also given, as well as for bringing in neophytes. In the latter way, it is said that the missions were usually recruited.

During the troubles of 1836, the Indians of many of the missions were cast off neglected, and in fact deprived of the proceeds of their labour. They had reason to believe, as had been impressed upon them by the Spanish padres, that they were interested in the proceeds and wealth that had been accumulated by their labour; and this belief had naturally tended to attach them to the soil.

The ravages of the small-pox, two years prior to our visit, completed the destruction of these establishments; for it swept off one-half of the Indians, and served to dispirit the rest. Many of them have joined the wild Indians, and are now committing acts of violence on the whites; they are becoming daily more daring, and have rendered a residence in single farm-houses or estancias not without danger. In looking at the state in which these poor Indians have been left, it cannot be denied but that they have cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment they have received.

Every mission was regarded as a separate family of Indians, and