

some of these included twelve hundred individuals. During the management of the Spanish priests, every thing was judiciously conducted: the Indians were well dressed, well fed, and happy; out of their earnings the priests were able to buy annually ten thousand dollars' worth of articles for their wants and gratification, from the vessels trading upon the coast. Each mission formed a body politic of itself, having its own alcalde, inferior officers, &c., and every thing went on prosperously. The Indians, though at first disinclined to work, soon became industrious, when they found the benefits and advantages that accrued to themselves, and became converts to Christianity, so far as forms went, in order to entitle them to its presents. It is not surprising that a rapid increase of wealth took place, considering the number of labourers in the field, added to a rich soil and fine climate.

As has been before stated, in 1835, orders from the supreme government were issued, administrators were appointed to each mission, and the priests were deprived of their sway, leaving them only their clerical duties to attend to, with a small stipend. So far as they were personally concerned, this was deserved; for, with but one or two exceptions, their lives were entirely opposite to what they ought to have been; they were openly and publicly dissolute. The administrators have made themselves and those by whom they were appointed, rich upon the spoils of these missions; and so great have been the drafts upon some of these missions, that they have not been able to support their neophytes. The mission of San Jose, for instance, during the year of our visit, was obliged to order off five hundred of its proselytes, to procure their subsistence as they best could. These acts seem to be committed without any kind of consideration, or idea that there is any injustice practised: the property acquired by the missions is looked upon as belonging to the state; the claims of the Indians are entirely overlooked, and in the event of their taking the cattle that in truth belong to them, they are severely punished. This naturally irritates them, for not only can they perceive the injustice of others appropriating the fruits of their labour, but are exasperated by seeing them living upon the common stock, while they are obliged to seek a precarious subsistence in the forest.

In consequence of this state of things, depredations are continually committed by the Indians; and, a month previous to the arrival of the squadron, they had driven off three hundred horses. Retaliatory measures on the part of the Californians were adopted; a party was collected and despatched to punish them, which proceeded towards the interior, came to a village, and without any inquiry whether its dwellers had been the aggressors, it was set on fire, and reduced to