

visit there, a life was lost by the cuchillo. This weapon is always worn, and is promptly resorted to in all their quarrels.

The female portion of the community are ignorant, degraded, and the slaves of their husbands. They are very fond of dress, and will make any sacrifice, even their own honour, to gratify it. The men have no trades, and depend for every thing upon the Indians at the missions, some of whom are quite ingenious, both as carpenters and blacksmiths. The whites are so indolent, and withal have so much pride, as to make them look upon all manual labour as degrading; in truth, they regard all those who work as beneath them; they, in consequence, can never be induced to labour. An anecdote was related to me of one who had been known to dispense with his dinner, although the food was but a few yards off, because the Indian was not at hand to bring it to him.

The state of morals here is very low, and is every day becoming worse. During the residence of the old Spanish priests, the people were kept under some control; but since the change I have narrated, priest and layman are alike given up to idleness and debauchery. One thing they are said to be remarkable for, which is their extreme hospitality: it is alleged that they will give up all business to entertain a guest. They put no value whatever upon time, and in entering into contracts they have no regard to punctuality, frequently allowing two, three, and four years to pass by before payment. This does not proceed from dishonesty, or any intention to evade their debts, for eventually they pay, if they can, and do not object to the amount of interest. They in fact regard the inconvenience to which they may have put their creditors as of no sort of consequence.

I understood that to offer money for entertainment was considered as an insult; but I did it notwithstanding, and although it was refused from myself, yet, when made through my servant, it was readily accepted. While one is entertained by them, if he should want to hire or purchase any thing, the landlord will league with those about him in schemes of extortion to be practised upon the stranger, and appear vexed with those who are the prominent extortioners. Instances of this will be given hereafter.

The Californians, as a people, must be termed cruel in their treatment to their wives, as well as to the Indians; and in a still greater degree, of course, to their slaves and cattle. They are exceedingly ignorant of every thing but extortion, riding horses, and catching bullocks.

Having thus thrown together the general information I was able to