

in goods. The extent of his stock amounts to about one thousand horses, two thousand five hundred cattle, and about one thousand sheep, many of which are now to be seen around his premises, giving them an appearance of civilization.

Captain Suter has commenced extensive operations in farming; but in the year of our visit the drought had affected him, as well as others, and ruined all his crops. About forty Indians were at work for him, whom he had taught to make adobes. The agreement for their services is usually made with their chiefs, and in this way, as many as are wanted are readily obtained. These chiefs have far more authority over their tribes than those we had seen to the north; and in the opinion of an intelligent American, they have more power over and are more respected by their tribes than those of any other North American Indians. Connected with the establishment, Captain Suter has erected a distillery, in which he makes a kind of pisco from the wild grape of the country.

The duties I have already named might be thought enough for the supervision of one person; but to these must be added the direction of a large party of trappers and hunters, mostly American, who enter here into competition with those of the Hudson Bay Company; and attention to the property of the Russian establishment at Ross and Bodega, which had just been transferred to him for the consideration of thirty thousand dollars. In the purchase were included all the stock, houses, arms, utensils, and cattle, belonging to the establishment. It was understood that this post was abandoned, by orders of the Russian government, the Russian Company no longer having any necessity to hold it to procure supplies, as they are now to be furnished under a contract with the Hudson Bay Company; and by giving it up, they avoid many heavy expenses.

Bodega was first established by the Russians in 1812, under a permission of the then governor of Monterey, to erect a few small huts for salting their beef. A small number of men were left to superintend this business, which in a few years increased, until the place became of such importance in the eyes of the Spanish authorities, that on the Russians attempting to establish themselves at San Francisco,* they were ordered to leave the country. This they refused to do, and having become too strong to be removed by the Spanish force, they had been suffered to remain undisturbed until the time of our visit.

The port of Bodega is situated about ninety miles to the north of that of San Francisco, and being both inconvenient and small, cannot be

* On the island of Yerba Buena, and to employ their men in trapping during the season.