

more agreeable. Of them, Captain Beechey has given a delightful account. Martinez has now retired to an estancia, where he is living in what is, in this country, affluence. His wife and himself have grown older, but still retain the character drawn of them by Captain Beechey. Near Pinole, Señor Martinez has a large house, but meagerly furnished, where he is surrounded by his large family of children and grandchildren. His wife is the same managing body, and keeps a strict eye upon her younger daughters, who are all good-looking.

The Californians are always inclined for amusement, and dancing is their favourite pastime, so that where a family is large, they seldom fail to pass off the evening pleasantly for their guests. Quadrilles and Spanish dances are the fashion; and the desire to please is as strongly exhibited in this family as it was during the visit of Captain Beechey. After dancing until a late hour, supper was provided, when the guests were either accommodated for the night, or set out to return to their homes, which, if they be unable to reach, they pass the night in the open air, using their ponchos and saddle-cloths for covering. During the nights there is but little wind, and the atmosphere is generally so dry and clear, that a person may, with impunity, sleep in the open air.

Three of the daughters and two of the sons of Señor Martinez are married; one of the former to Don Vitro Castro, and another to the captain of the port, an Englishman by the name of Richardson, who lives at Sausalito, and who supplies vessels with provisions. He was very attentive and obliging in furnishing the ship with supplies, and affording us the means of baking bread for the daily supply of the ship.

Captain Richardson has an estancia, bordering on Sausalito Bay, prettily situated under the hill, with sufficient fertile land for his gardens, or rather fields, where his vegetables are raised. His house is small, consisting of only two rooms, and within a few rods of it all the cattle are slaughtered, which affords a sight and smell that are not the most agreeable. A collection of leg-bones, hoofs, horns, and hides, lay about in confusion, for which numerous dogs were fighting. It was with great difficulty that these animals could be made to cease their strife; and what with this and the barking kept up by others, both without and within doors, there was such a clamour raised as required all the household, consisting of husband, wife, daughter, and slave, to quiet. Captain Richardson's establishment is a fair representation of the manner of living in California, and articles which are condemned elsewhere are acceptable here. However small the apartment may be, it is but sparingly furnished, and with no view of comfort, in our sense of the word; cleanliness, the great promoter of