

of Padre Mercador, who received us with much courtesy. He is of the Franciscan order, good-looking, portly, and possesses a cheerful and intelligent countenance. Having Don Miguel to interpret in Spanish, and the padre speaking a little French, we made out to converse very well. His study is small, but contains many works of the old fathers, with several French authors, and comprises some six or seven hundred volumes. He showed us the different returns from the missions prior to 1828, but no attention had been paid since that date to the preservation of statistics. In Appendix VII., I have inserted one, in which the state of all the missions throughout Upper California is given, and which embraces not only their population but also the quantity of produce raised. This table will give an idea also of the management of the directors of the missions before the revolution. Since 1828, as already stated, the missions have been on the decline, and no returns have been given in, as was formerly required.

The padre spoke with resignation in relation to the manner in which the missions had been despoiled, and did not express any surprise that such things should have happened under their present rulers.

Padre Mercador served us with wine and fruit; of the latter, the pears were delicious. Don Miguel having notified me that it was expected our party should ask to see the church, I made the request; and the padre having supplied himself with a large bunch of keys, ushered us through several narrow passages, to the door of the vestry-room in the rear, into which we entered. Several pairs of massive candlesticks of silver were standing about on tables, and around the room were large trunks, which he opened, and showed us the rich altar-pieces, costly robes, and fine laces, which they contained. Many of the former were most magnificently embroidered in gold and silver, and composed of substantial silks and satins of divers colours. The splendour of the wardrobe was out of character with the smallness of the church; and on my remarking it, he said these things were for processions, to have effect upon "los gentiles." One or two small pictures that hung in this room were worthy of notice. Don Miguel asserted that he thought if I desired them, there would be no great difficulty in procuring any article that could be spared. I had no disposition to authorize him to make the attempt; but this suggestion tends to show in how little regard the obliging padre was held by the community. We next passed into the church, the whole length of which was thrown into one, without any columns. At one end is the altar, and at the other the choir, which the padre informed me con-