



MARKET-PLACE, VALLADOLID.



cut: peasants in many costumes; here the *chano* from round about Salamanca, in his low, broad-brimmed hat, with jacket open at the elbows, and wide leathern belt around his waist; there the *maragato*, the sedate and scrupulously honest muleteer, the universal carrier, who clings to his distinctive but scarcely picturesque dress.

Another ancient city close at hand, which has long since declined and fallen from its high estate, but which, unlike Valladolid, shows no symptoms of recovery, is Salamanca, once the principal seat of learning in Spain. Writing of it ages back, an old Castilian apostrophizes this city as "home of the sovereign Muses, universal mother of all the sciences, famed academy of the world."

Salamanca had good claims once to its title of *Roma la chica* ("Little Rome"). Time was when it owned, besides its sumptuous cathedral, with its splendid chapter, twenty-five parish churches, twenty-five colleges, twenty monasteries, eleven nunneries and many hospitals, hermitages, and chapels besides. Napoleon made short work with quite half of these, and now desolation and ruin are settling fast on what remains. The cathedral, however, built of an enduring creamy-yellow stone, still looks fresh and new. It is a splendid specimen of florid Gothic; its external decoration profusely rich, magnificent its interior. Below it, but not separated from it, is the old cathedral, an interesting specimen of twelfth-century architecture, built by Fray Geronimo, the confessor of the Cid, a massive pile, strong as a castle, hence its name, "*Fortis sala mantina*," contrasting curiously with the epithets of other neighboring cathedrals, "Toledo the rich," "Holy Oviedo," and "Beautiful Leon." Numerous enough are the remains of grand old college-buildings, of convents, schools, and private mansions, in this half-forgotten, fast-decaying city. One of the most noteworthy houses is that known as the Casa de las Conchas, not from its owners, but from the shells, *conchas*, of carved stone which profusely but symmetrically decorate its façade—these, the heraldic device of its former owner, the Conde de Val de Caranzo, according to Ponz, are not cut out of the blocks of stone, but must, from their regularity, have been applied after the building of the wall. "It is a nearly perfect house," Mr. Wyatt says, "answering in art, and nearly in point of time, to the florid Burgundian style of the Low Countries, with which there was much intercourse at the probable date of its construction, the close of the fifteenth century." It has a beautiful *patio*, or central court, and a number of picturesque windows, rich with heraldic designs.

The Tormes is spanned at Salamanca by a splendid bridge, a Roman remain, still in excellent preservation, with Roman arches, twenty-seven in number. This bridge was built by one of the emperors Spain gave the empire, Trajan, whose birthplace was Seville, and who never forgot his native land. Higher up the river, and above the town, is a second magnificent bridge, that at Alba de Tormes itself, a palace fortress once of great repute, and in our day noted in connection with the battle of Salamanca, one of England's greatest victories in the Peninsular War. The Spaniards,