

The capital of Aragon deserves a passing notice. Its name itself is something of a curiosity. To most ears, probably, there is but little similarity of sound between *Cæsarea Augusta* and *Saragossa*, and yet the latter is only a corruption of the former. In pre-Roman times its name was *Sadoba*. The Emperor *Augustus* bestowed on it the imperial title, which has since been degraded into the name by which it is called to-day. The debasement of this name, unfortunately, is typical of the change which,



PEASANT OF ARAGON.

in the lapse of time and the progress of events, has taken place in almost everything else, not only in *Saragossa*, but in every other part of Spain. Nothing here is what it once was. The change, too, in almost every instance has been for the worse. This gloomy and poverty-stricken town is not an exception to this rule.

*Saragossa* is not without indication that it has seen better days. The fine stone bridge which spans the *Ebro* at

this point is a noble relic of the past. It was built in 1487, and is still apparently in good condition. *Saragossa* boasts, too, of the possession of two fine cathedrals, though at present its population is said to be not more than sixty thousand. *La Seo*, the older of the two, is of the Gothic order of architecture, vast, severe, and gloomy, but much defaced by modern alterations which have not been, improvements. The present race of Spaniards do not appear to have inherited anything of the exquisite taste and love of the