

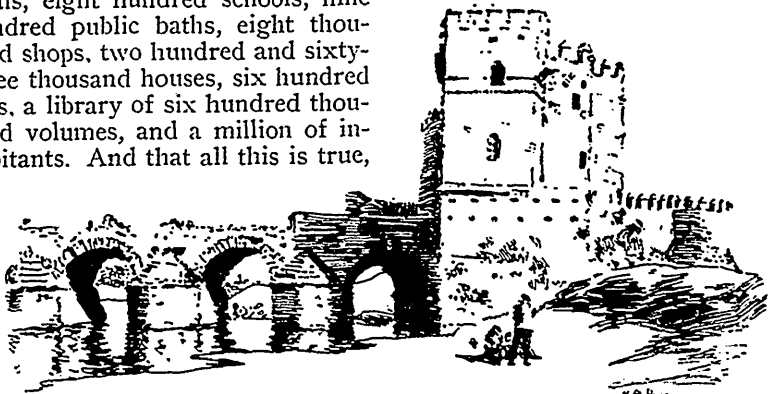
RUINS OF CASTLE, TOLEDO.

banks of the railway; and the groves of oranges and lemons, and the tall and feathery palms, all tell the same story, that we are in the sunny south.

Cordova is now a decayed and poverty-stricken city of about forty thousand inhabitants. Without trade, without manufactures, without anything to give it life or prosperity, there is an air of dejection and desertion about it beyond almost every other city of Spain. And yet we are told that this city, now so sad and forsaken, once had six hundred mosques, fifty hospitals, eight hundred schools, nine hundred public baths, eight thousand shops, two hundred and sixty-three thousand houses, six hundred inns, a library of six hundred thousand volumes, and a million of inhabitants. And that all this is true,

we are prepared to believe by the magnificence of its incomparable cathedral, the most imposing relic of its departed glory.

This superb building, which was erected shortly after the founding of the Western Caliphate, was intended by its founder to be the finest mosque in the world, and no cost or pains were spared to make it what it was designed to be. It was originally supported by fourteen hundred columns, one thousand of which are still standing; and in order to secure the marbles



MOORISH BRIDGE AND CASTLE, CORDOVA.