



SCENE OF EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN'S EXECUTION, MEXICO.

of the capital. We arrived late at night, and were conveyed through devious streets by a mysterious-looking guide to our hotel. In the morning it was a genuine surprise to note its beautiful patio with fountain and shrubs and flowers. Thousands of people from all parts of the country throng the streets and plazas of this old and beautiful city to attend the great fair or feast of San Marcos. Aguascalientes has especial attractions for lady tourists, because of the beautiful needlework (drawn work), which is brought to all trains by the vendors, for sale at very low rates.

At Guanajuato, a mining town of fifty thousand inhabitants, one of the strange features shown is the Catacombs, like the necropolis of the Capuchine monastery in Rome. In long, underground vaults are placed the skeletons of the poorer class of persons, for whom permanent sepulchres could not be secured. In the dry climate the mummified remains continue unchanged for years.

Guadalajara has a population of about 125,000, and is second only to the city of Mexico in size and importance. It is a beautiful city, with arcaded trees, and some of the finest public buildings, parks, gardens, etc., in Mexico. Among the many interesting buildings are the governor's palace, the sumptuous cathedral, and the hospital, with its twenty-three patios, in each of which are flowers, plants, and fountains. Guadalajara is claimed to be the most beautiful city of the republic. In the sacristy of the cathedral is an "Assumption" by Murillo, which is said to be the original of his masterpiece at Madrid.

Queretaro is another thriving town of fifty thousand inhabitants, but its chief interest is the fact that here the unfortunate Maximilian's dream of a Mexican empire came to an end on June 19th, 1867, when with two of his generals he was captured and shot. Three shapeless stones mark the melancholy spot.