

red military hat, and carries a marshal's bâton in his right hand. He wears very long dark luxuriant hair with moustache and an imperial. In the background a mounted soldier is seen galloping in the distance where the signs of war are indicated. The strong effect of the chiaroscuro together with the determined expression produce a highly dramatic effect. Notwithstanding the deep shadows which prevail, the whole work is luminous and the flesh painting contains the vital characteristics peculiar to Velasquez as well as the wonderful masterly breadth and impasto. The work is inscribed on upper left-hand corner: THEO CARD. PRINC. S. TRIVLTIVS ARAGONL. PRO REX. CAPITANEVS GENERALIS, &c. 1643, which inscription is absolutely original and painted at the same time as the picture, thus showing it to have been executed in his 47th year—the year of his appointment as Viceroy of Aragon. The celebrated Spanish painter, Velasquez (Don Diego de Silva), the painter of the above described portrait, was born at Seville in 1599. He was educated for a learned profession, but his love of art prevailed and he was placed with Francisco Herrera, the elder, to study painting. He became court painter to Philip IV., who presented him with a studio in the royal palace. He painted many important portraits of the great dignitaries of his period. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the very great value of this picture owned by Laval University. Genuine Velasquez are to-day priceless.