

tress and prison: forth from it rode Isabella to be crowned Queen of Castile; Charles I. of England was lodged and entertained there; Charles V. and Philip



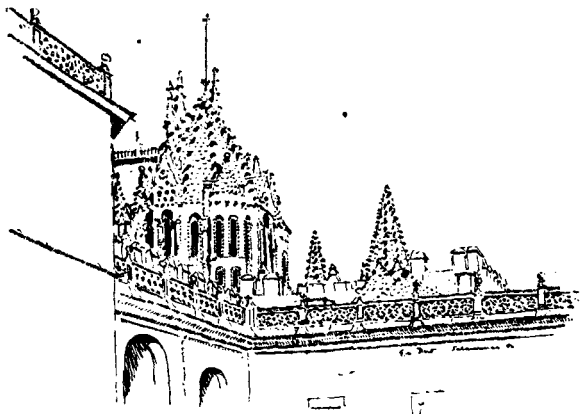
STREET IN SALAMANCA.

II. occupied it from time to time, and according to Le Sage, Gil Blas was imprisoned in its dungeons. But the old walls and gates of the city are, after the aqueduct, probably the most picturesque feature of Segovia; some parts are entirely in ruins, and other portions are continued by houses which have been built up in the walls, thus making a mass of irregular buildings, delightful in form and color. There is no trouble about sketching in any of these Spanish towns; sometimes a few boys gather, but even that is unusual, and you are never molested, although your appearance may excite some curiosity; this usually takes the form of a burning desire to discover your nationality; it exposed us on one occasion to a string of questions from a very good-natured looking young drover who passed while a sketch was in progress: were we French? Italian? Russian? Prussian? At this point we could repress our merri-

ment no longer, it was too Gilbertesque; and "in spite of all temptations" we proclaimed our nationality. But though enlightened on one point, the principal one, he was in the dark on another: our laughter evidently seemed greater than the occasion demanded, and he went on his way much puzzled.

The interior of the cathedral is perhaps less impressive than that of others, but the windows are very fine, and they alone give a sense of fulness and richness not felt in some of the larger and more imposing churches. One beautiful window, glowing with the richest yellows, is itself worth a visit, it is more a mass of glorious color than any especial composition; indeed, the windows which I find most satisfying are those which do not even suggest a "subject," but which, like clusters of jewels, turn the crude daylight into a soft shimmer of violet and gold, crimson and emerald.

Another interesting feature about Segovia is the number of beautiful old doorways which remain; they are to be met in every street, and are sometimes the purest Gothic, though usually later in style, and surmounted by curious escutcheons. But everything is fast going to ruin; walls and churches are crumbling, and a sort of desolation has spread over the whole place. Rapid decay is the most noticeable thing about Salamanca also, whither we went from Segovia. The sun shines very brightly, but there is drowsiness in the air; sounds come to you faintly from far away;



THE OLD CATHEDRAL, SALAMANCA.