M. Noreña.

MIGUEL NOREÑA

Sculptor. — *Sculpteur.*

His family owned some property, so that when he was left an orphan from father and mother when six years of age, he was able to acquire a good education by the side of his older brother Joaquin Noreña, and the instruction he acquired did not prevent him from following his natural inclination, so that he devoted some of his leisure hours to study sculpture in the studio of the artist Manuel Bilar, who, fortunately was one of the best friends of his family. The rapid progress made there by young Miguel Noreña, determined his brother to grant him permission to enter the Academy, so that he might decidedly devote himself to the study of sculpture. He had scarcely taken the first lessons in that art, as it were, that he felt the ambition to model the statue of the proud figure of Guerrero, to which heroe he professed great esteem, owing to his bravery and noble heart. The experts thought so much of his work, that it was ordered to be cast in bronze at the government's expense, and it was thereafter placed in the center of the garden that bears the name of that heroe of independence.

In 1869 while he was yet a student of the Academy, owing to the death of the professor of the class of sculpture, the Director of the institution, with the consent of the professors, designated him to fill the place of that elevated office; but Noreña though he was proud of that distinction, considering himself without the requisite knowledge to perform his duties in a proper manner, or because he thought it strange that he should have as pupils those who had been his fellow students, did not care to