

churches, such as that of San Francisco, dating from the sixteenth century, the Carmen, with its two-hundred-year-old carvings, and the Guadalupe, with its sacred associations, are almost within view of the handsome but essentially modern railway depots of the Central and National companies. The imposing French-built government palace and the Mexican cathedral, flanking the old Spanish plaza, with its American tram-lines and electric lights, the old fortified mint, telling of revolutionary times, the college hospital, the library, and the splendid new theatre, seating three thousand, with other new and elegant buildings, speak for the prosperity and advancement of the present day.

It has always been a very busy and flourishing place, holding the same relation to Eastern Mexico that Guadalajara holds to Western Mexico. The surrounding country is a very fertile district, and San Luis furnishes a ready market for its produce. The rapid growth and the display of enterprise in San Luis have given it the right to be called the "Chicago of Mexico."

There are many fine buildings in San Luis Potosí. The government palace is attractive in appearance; the cathedral shows some fine stone-work on its towers. There are characteristic paintings of high quality in the church of El Carmen. Much may be seen in a given time in San Luis by taking a street-car or carriage to the church of Guadalupe, as the visitor thus enjoys the Paseo, the fountains, and the market on the way, and reaches something worth going to see at the end of his ride. The old church has a clock which was given by the King of Spain in return for the largest piece of silver ore ever taken from a mine. On the entrance to this beautiful sanctuary are these comforting and inspiring words:

Aquí el que pide recibe,
El que busca halla,
Al que toca se le abre.

("Here he who asks receives, he who seeks finds, to him who knocks it is opened.")

The two tall towers of this church form the most striking feature of the city to the traveller approaching from the south.

A new theatre in San Luis Potosí, one of the handsomest in Mexico, is a monument to the progressive spirit of Governor Gutierrez. The building is of stone, massive and large. Immense columns of stone and iron adorn the front. The entrance is very much like that of the Grand Opera in Paris. It is elegant yet massive in design, and would be a credit to any republic. There is a grand and beautiful lobby, which is approached by wide marble steps and covered by a dome of heavy stained glass. Seen from below, this last has a magnificent appearance, with a huge balcony winding around in the interior, with heavy iron railing. This is entered above by beautiful glass doors, opening from an immense hall, large enough for a ball-room, with marble-tiled floors. The theatre is on a magnificent scale, and beautifully upholstered boxes with brass railings and handsome effects add greatly to the grandeur of the parquet below. The stage has all the latest improvements, and the whole theatre is a noble example of what taste can do when backed up by immense wealth. It is one of the finest in the republic, and was built under the supervision of General Gutierrez. The governor's private box, facing the stage, is magnificently fitted up, with the coat of arms of the state in silver and bronze, while the brass railings around the boxes above and below add to the beauty of this massive theatre.

San Luis Potosí is a capital place to visit, as there are fine hotels there, with a great deal to interest a sight-seer. Not only are the streets wonderfully clean, but the law requires that

the houses shall be kept freshly painted, so that the city is fresh and bright in every quarter. The markets are particularly interesting, with picturesque water-carriers, many fountains, and many novel types. A fine statue of Hidalgo formerly occupied the Plaza de Armas, but has been removed to a more important place and a costly and elegant kiosk erected in its place. When the evenings are warm and serene, as most nights are in San Luis Potosí, this plaza presents a most attractive appearance, with whole families promenading to the gay music under the silvery light of the moon or the more brilliant radiance of the electric light.

There are several other handsome buildings, including the governor's palace in the Plaza Hidalgo, built in 1767, and the ex-municipal palace of two stories and with magnificent arcades. An account of this historic city may well end with the record of the fact that here was made



THE GRAND THEATRE "LA PAZ," SAN LUIS POTOSÍ.

the first discovery of silver in Mexico, a discovery which went so far to found the country's future greatness. The pretty tradition is that early in the sixteenth century an Indian goatherd was climbing the San Luis hills, his foot slipped, and to save himself he clutched at a neighboring bush, which, giving way beneath his weight, was uprooted and exposed to view the native silver beneath.

In the capital there are two prisons, one for men and the other for women. The first, connected with the penitentiary system, is in a beautiful building of modern construction, as may be easily seen from its ornamentation. It can accommodate about four hundred and fifty criminals, all of whom are fed there, and in the same building there is an efficient hospital department. The institution has already cost three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and fifty thousand more will be spent on its gardens. The women's prison is a building of ancient con-

struction, with a chapel for Roman Catholic worship, and is large enough for its usual number of offenders, about sixty. It was given by a former resident of the city in the early years of this century, on condition that it should be used only for the purpose designated. Each principal town in the state has a prison for men and one for women.

North of San Luis is the very pretty village of Bocas, a typical town of Mexican beauty. Fine haciendas with walled gardens, blossoming flowers and fruits, towered chapel and ancient court-yards, may be seen, with plenty of green foliage to soften the landscape on every side. In the northern portion of the state, at La Maroma, the line separating the Temperate from the Torrid Zone is marked by a pyramid erected by the Mexican National Railroad.

Up to the present time we have described only the inanimate features of this wonderful state. But there are other treasures, more precious than mines of silver and of gold: her men of action and of soul; her patriots and warriors; her defenders in time of war, her leading citizens in days of peace.

Of these, the "noblest Roman of them all" is he who has long stood at the helm of government in the state of San Luis Potosí, and whose career is at once the record of the progress of this state and one of the principal features of its advance. General Carlos Díez Gutiérrez was born in the city of Maiz, in this state, in 1845. As governor and military commander of San Luis he has given a vigorous impulse to all public duties, reformed the postal service and the gendarmerie, and completely reorganized the government and its departments. As governor of his state he has brought to the front rank the penitentiaries, industrial schools, asylums, hospitals, telegraphy, railways, and other public institutions and improvements.



CHAPTER XXVII

ZACATECAS

ZACATECAS is another inland state, south of Durango, and surrounded by Coahuila, San Luis Potosí, Aguas Calientes, and Jalisco. It has an area of twenty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-eight square miles, and is a flourishing state in many ways. It is one of the most mountainous, being traversed by the Sierra Madre with numerous spurs and branches. The hilly country of the middle and west is

interspersed with fertile and wide valleys and deep gorges and ravines, furnishing a variety of wild and beautiful scenery. The state is rather poorly watered, there being no large streams. The climate is very generally salubrious, warm in the valleys, and rather cold in the elevated portions. Silver is very abundant in this state, which long ranked first in importance among the great mining regions of Mexico. Guanajuato, however, has taken precedence of it in this respect. Mining is the chief industry, although agriculture is extensively and profitably carried on.

Zacatecas is divided into twelve *partidos* or districts,—Zacatecas, Fresnillo, Sombrerete, Nieves, Mazapil, Ciudad García, Pinos, Villanueva, Sánchez Roman, Juchipila, Nochistlan, and Ojo Caliente.

The capital is Zacatecas, a city of about eighty-five thousand population, lying in a deep gorge of the mountains about three hundred miles northwest of Mexico City, on the Mexican Central Railway. It has many churches, a hospital, a mint, good schools, and a literary institute founded in 1868. The city is justly celebrated for its enormous output of silver. Its first mine was discovered in September, 1546, and on July 1, 1818, it was estimated that the total output of the mines since their discovery aggregated the sum of six hundred and sixty-seven million three hundred and forty-three thousand two hundred and nineteen dollars. These



SEÑOR GENERAL JESÚS ARECHIGA,
GOVERNOR OF ZACATECAS.