

depository for all kinds of rubbish, and the accumulation of dust is great. The staircase leading to the upper story is generally handsome, and decorated with fresco paintings, which are, however, far below mediocrity. This style of building is well adapted to the climate.

The Portales or Arcades is one of the most attractive places for the stranger. He is there sure at all hours to see more of life in Lima than at any other place. They are built on two sides of the Plaza. The ground-floor is occupied as shops, where all kinds of dry-goods and fancy articles are sold. Between the columns, next the Plaza, are many lace and fringe-workers, &c. &c.; and without these again are sundry cooks, fresco-sellers, &c., who are frying savoury cakes and fish for their customers, particularly in the morning and late in the evening.

The Arcades are about five hundred feet long, well paved with small stones, interlaid with the knuckle-bones of sheep, which produces a kind of mosaic pavement, and makes known the date of its being laid down as 1799. This place for hours every day is the great resort, and one has a full insight to every store, as they are all doors, and consequently quite exposed, to their remotest corner. The second story is occupied as dwellings.

The Palace of the Viceroy occupies the north side of the Plaza. The lower part of it is a row of small shops, principally tinkers and smallware-dealers. On the east side is the Archbishop's Palace and the Cathedral.

The fountain in the centre of the Plaza is a fine piece of work, and was erected, according to the inscription, in 1600, by Don Garcia Sarmiento Sotomayer, the Viceroy and Captain-General of the kingdom.

"El que bebe de la pila sequenda in Lima," is the usual saying.

"He that drinks of the fountain will not leave Lima."

The Cathedral is a remarkable building, not only from its size, but its ornaments. Most of the decorations are in bad taste, and I should imagine its former riches in the metals and precious stones have contributed chiefly to its celebrity. Certainly those ornaments which are left cannot be much admired.

Its great altar, composed of silver, might as well be of lead, or pewter, for all the show it makes. In a chapel on one side of the building, there is a collection of portraits of the Archbishops. They are good faces, well painted, and all are there but the one who at the breaking out of the revolution, proved faithful to his sovereign and the Spanish cause. They all have had the honour, except him, to be interred in niches, in the crypt, under the great altar. Many of the