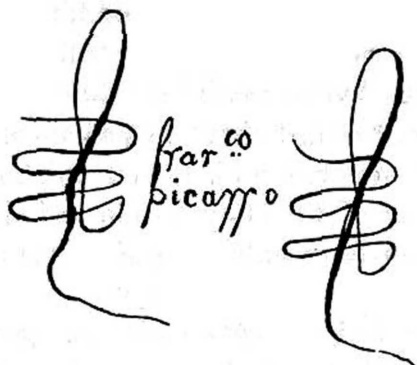


documents, being considered full as binding as if the name was written.



Parco
picasso

The book in which the signatures were written, was entitled:—

LIBRO 1º DE LOS CABILDOS
DE ESTA CIUDAD DE LOS REYES,
QUE CORMIENZA,
EL AÑO DE
1534.

This would make it appear that the city was founded a year before the date given in Herrera, Garcilaso, Calancha, Montalvo, and others, who dispute about the day of the month, without having regard to the year. This book bears evidence that the municipality was organized a year prior to that given by them as the year in which the city was founded. Very little doubt can exist that the city must have been founded before the municipality existed.

The theatre is a handsome building, although much out of repair. It was brilliantly lighted the night we visited it, and was crowded with numerous officers in full uniform. Among them were many Chilians of rank. The ladies in the boxes were in full costume, and made a great display of jewels. In the parterre there were many "tapadas." The horrors of the Inquisition formed a prominent part of the subject of the play. For the performance I cannot say much.

Near the Alameda, on the north side of the city, is a large oblong enclosure of nearly eight acres, with thick stone walls, and a large gateway at each end. It was intended for a naval school, and theatre to exhibit sea-fights. It contains large reservoirs, which were intended to be filled with water from the Rimac, to float a tiny fleet, some of which it is said were actually constructed. This was a favourite project with one of the last Viceroy's, and a more absurd one could scarcely have been conceived. The water is now used for a much better purpose, namely, to turn the machinery of some adjacent mills.

There are three classes of inhabitants, viz.: whites, Indians, and