

THE RUINS OF MEXICO

CONSTANTINE GEORGE RICKARDS



VOLUME I



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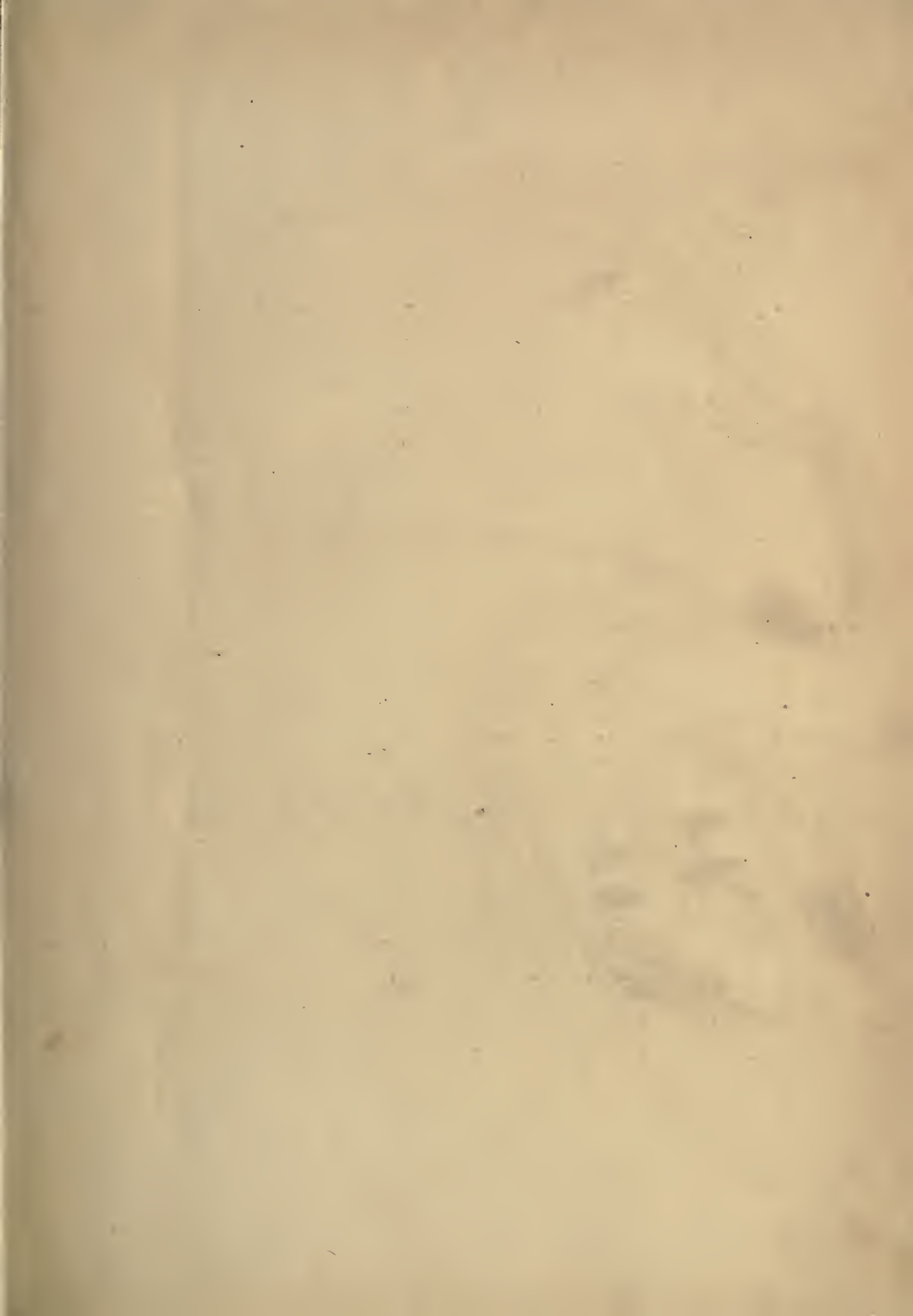






Photo by G. S. Richard

Engraved by H. S. Thomson

*The Foloc or Church
(House of the Nuns)
Ruins of Chichen Itza, State of Yucatán.*

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RUINS OF MEXICO.

CONSTANTINE GEORGE
RICKARDS.

Volume I.

LONDON, W.
H. E. SHRIMPTON,
105, REGENT STREET.
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BOLETA DE LA REVOLUCION

1910

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THE RUINS OF MEXICO.

Volume I.

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"THE RUINS OF MEXICO."

VOLUME II. of this work, containing a similar number of plates as Vol. I., will be published early in 1911, and can be obtained from—

PHILIP SANDOVAL, Apartado, 21, Oaxaca, Mexico,
and
H. E. SHRIMPTON, 105, Regent Street, London, W.

INTRODUCTION.

THE RUINS OF MEXICO.

MANY volumes have been written about the ruins of Mexico and the treasures that have been taken out of them, and extensive writings exist with the theories of archæologists on the ancient people who built these wonderful structures.

The author's object in presenting this little book is to induce those who take a real interest in archæology to dive into and study the many good works that have been written on Mexican Antiquities, and to give to others, who only take an ordinary interest in these things, an idea of the wonderful ruins that exist all over Mexico. Those who want to make a study of them should consult the works of Lord Kingsborough, Maudslay, Dr. Seler, Charney, Muhlenpfordt, Baron Von Humboldt, Prescott, Holms, Stephens, Clavigero, Batres, Chavero, Norman, Ober, Landa, Dr. Le Plongeon, Maler, Thompson, Waldeck, Dr. Antonio Peñafiel, Dupaix, Orozco y Berra, Nebel, Bárcena, Bancroft, Diven, Francisco Pimentel, Emeterio Pineda, Vicente Pineda, Thomas, Starr, Saville, Luis Garcia Pimentel, Payne, Sandelier Medaillac, etc., and amongst the older Spanish writers, Cogolludo, Fray Diego de Landa, Padre Sahagun, Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, Padre Francisco Hernandez, Fray Toribio de Benavente, Fray Diego Durán, Fray Martin de Valencia, Fray Francisco de Burgos, and many others, ancient and modern, who have contributed many excellent works on the History of the Mexican Antiquities.

There is hardly a town or village that has not got what they call their "Pueblo Viejo," or old village near by, generally situated on a hill or some high point, which shows that Mexico in ancient times was thickly populated, and though some of these ruins of old forts and villages have little interest, as they are mostly covered up, still they show that great races must have inhabited these regions, and if excavations were made, many relics would most likely be found.

Amongst these ruins are always seen tombs and burying places under artificial mounds, and thousands of these mounds exist that have not been opened up. From Chihuahua, which is the most northern state of Mexico, down to Chiapas, the most southern one, these ruins are found, and in many of them still exist the primitive walls with hieroglyphics and the basements of temples, terraces, forts and other buildings. Some are known to belong to certain races which

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inhabited these regions, but most of them belong to races unknown to-day, and when the Spaniards came to conquer Mexico they found them in a similar condition as they are in to-day.

Much has yet to be written and discovered, and though most of the glories of the past life of these people will never be known, still some things will be brought to light by the study that is now being given to these monuments of ancient times, and by what is every day being dug up by the people who are devoting their lives and time to discover all that is possible of these races.

In the year 1900, when the drainage works were being carried on in Mexico City, thousands of wonderful things were found showing the civilization of the people of the Ancient City of Tenochtitlán. The foundations of the greatest temples were then discovered, also the wonderful altar with engraved sides, and the steps leading to their temples, or Teocalli. These excavations were made in Escalerillas Street and many other places. According to Humboldt, the Aztec Empire had about thirty million inhabitants. Their great city of Tenochtitlán (from *tetl* stone, *tlan* on, and *nochtli* cactus) was built in the shape of a parallelogram, the founder of this city having been named Tenoch. The Aztecs had several Gods, and though they are supposed to have believed in one supreme creator whom they named Taotl, their favourite Gods were Huitzilopochtli, the God of war (from *huitzilin*, humming bird, and *opochtli* left, on account of this God having humming bird's feathers in its left foot, it is now in the National Museum in the City of Mexico), and who had its great Teocalli, or temple, where the Cathedral now stands in the centre of that City; and Quetzalcoatl, the God of the winds. This last-named God is the most commonly represented, as it is continually seen in the hieroglyphics, engravings and images found all over the country.

Many volumes could be written about the ruins of the temples and other buildings erected by the Spaniards during the time that Mexico formed part of the Crown of Spain, but the author will only treat of those ruins of the time before the Spanish conquest.

All the photographs in this work were taken in the years 1909 and 1910 by the Author, except some of the smaller ruins of Yucatán, which are supplied by Mr. Guerra of Merida, Yucatán.

Besides the photographs in the present work, there are many other ruins which could be depicted, but these two volumes will only show those ruins which on account of their magnitude, are considered of principal and general interest.

In a few years' time many of these ruins will have disappeared, as on the one hand the buildings are crumbling down, and on the other many of the interesting sculptured stones are being taken to the Museum in

The Ruins of Mexico.

the City of Mexico. The Mexican Government has, however, now placed a custodian in charge of the principal ruins at each place and something is being done to preserve them.

There is nothing scientific, literary or new in this little work ; it is only a collection of photographs got together in my wanderings amongst the Ruins of Mexico. But with them the ordinary reader will be able to see the true illustrations of most of these structures, without having to buy the excellent, but very expensive works that have already been published on Mexican Antiquities.

The Ruins most to be admired are those of the Maya Quiché culture, and after studying them all, and contrary to the theories of most archæologists, one cannot but think that the Mayas were aborigines of Yucatán ; that is, American Indians, and originated on the American Continent, notwithstanding that a slight similarity is now and then found in some detail common to other cultures of the Old World ; but these, when studied, seem to be nothing more than the outcome of the ordinary sense, given to primitive man, and by means of which he was able to dominate his fellow creatures.

CONSTANTINE GEORGE RICKARDS.

OAXACA,

September, 1910.



THE RUINS OF MEXICO.



STATE OF CHIAPAS.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

Ruins of Palenque.

In the unexplored State of Chiapas, surrounded by forests of gigantic trees and in the midst of dense tropical vegetation of brush and underwood which covers everything, are found the ruins of Palenque.

It is no wonder that Hernán Cortes, the Conqueror of Mexico, passed close to the spot where they are situated without discovering them, as on account of the thickness of the woods they are almost hidden.

These ruins were not discovered until the year 1750, and in 1787 they were first explored by Captain Antonio del Rio, whose description was not published until 1822 in London. Since then many other famous archæologists and explorers have visited and described them.

They are known as the Ruins of Palenque, or Palemke, a word of Spanish origin which means a *stockade*, they being situated on a spot only eight miles from a village so called, the real name, however, of this ancient city never having been known. The Indians used to call them Las Casas de Piedras, which means "The Stone Houses," and they are also known as the Ruins of the Ancient City of Nachán, on account of the native tradition told by Brasseur of Bourbourg, that long before the Christian Era, Votan with chiefs and troops, landed upon the shores of the Laguna de Terminos, and going up the Usumacinta River founded near to this spot a large city called Nachán, or the City of Serpents.

These ruins are the most extensive in America, and have been traced for over forty miles, so that a city far bigger than any of our modern ones must have existed here at one time.

At the place now known as the Ruins of Palenque there are palaces, temples, pyramids and buildings, but for many miles round them one can see the remains of houses which continue right into Guatemala. Now and then an almost perfect house is seen, but very few are still standing, most of them having tumbled down, and generally only the basements are left to show that they once existed.

The ruins are situated just where the mountains begin to rise, and from the pyramids a most beautiful and extensive view of forests can be obtained of the lowlands which, no doubt, must have been under water not so very long ago. Everything seems to suggest that Palenque was the most ancient capital of this country, and many

The Ruins of Mexico.

archæologists even think that the inhabitants were the first in the Republic of Mexico. There is certainly a great similarity between the hieroglyphics found here and those at Yucatán and even in other parts of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Copán and Quirigua, and the impression one gets on looking at these hieroglyphics is at once that they are Maya. The Maya tongue is spoken by the present inhabitants, though there are many dialects, and not far distant there lives the tribe of the Lacandones who are supposed to speak a very pure Maya. Very few of the Lacandones are now left and they remain in a savage state, and are about the wildest tribe now living in Mexico.

Nothing is really known as to the founders of this city, its history or the race which inhabited it, and many theories have been propounded as to their origin. Notwithstanding that many tablets exist with hieroglyphics and writings, none of these have ever been deciphered.

The principal buildings in the group of ruins are: The Palace, which is about 238 feet long by about 180 feet deep. This structure, as all the others, stands on an artificial mound about 40 feet high, 310 feet at the front and about 260 feet at each end. On the front are seen five separate figures on the columns, and the whole building is full of bas-reliefs, hieroglyphics, idols, and figures in stucco. The edifice is of stone, and the fronts are covered with painted stucco. The Palace has two courts and in the second one there is a tower. On one side exist several subterranean chambers and passages leading to one of the fronts. Rooms are built round the courts, and steps with beautiful carvings, mostly of skulls, lead up to the chambers from the floors of the courts. On the sides of the first court, are groups of immense figures all looking in one direction; these consist of three or five figures.

Steps must have existed at some time leading up to the outside of the Palace, but they have all been destroyed and covered up with debris. On the sides are corridors with arches and spacious rooms. The courts of this Palace form one of the most beautiful structures of Mexican ruins.

Situated on the south and south-east are other pyramids crowned with temples, the highest being the Temple of the Laws, so-called on account of its having at the far end several huge slabs of stone cut into hieroglyphics; these are still in a good state of preservation and probably explain the history of the dead nation, or expound the laws of the people.

Some of the steps leading up to this temple can still be seen near the top; the rest are missing.

Quite adjacent is the Temple of the Sun, which has in its interior a huge slab of stone on which is carved a large sun with human figures

The Ruins of Mexico.

fully armed on either side, as if they were guarding it, many weapons of war and hieroglyphics are also inscribed.

More to the east stands a high pyramid, having on the summit the Temple of the Cross of Palenque. This cross has long been the cause of much controversy amongst the most famous archæologists. All eminent travellers who have visited these famous ruins, have described it. The tablet forming the Cross has been removed to the Museum in Mexico City. On this splendid tablet is seen a perfect cross, with many embellishments, and standing on the top is a big bird covered over with strange ornaments, at each side stand two human figures, both looking towards the cross, and no doubt they represent their priests and kings, one is making an offering of something that looks like the body of a child, all around them are numerous hieroglyphics which would most likely explain the tablet, and though some of these glyphs are similar to the Maya characters, still they are different, and no one has ever yet been able to decipher them. Close to this temple, thrown on the ground, is lying a big statue called by the natives La Muerta, or the Dead Woman. This figure is supposed to have fallen from the top of the temple. The temple itself is very dilapidated and the top will not be standing much longer. As the tablets have been removed, all the principal interest of this wonderful ruin has been spoilt.

Another pyramid close by, contains the Temple of the Foliated Cross, in which is seen a cross guarded by figures with branches, on account of which the name has been given to it. The tablets here are not so clear as the ones of the Cross of Palenque, still, many hieroglyphics and ornamentations are yet discernible, and the stucco figures and richly decorated parts in these ruins are also to be much admired.

Quite a number of other pyramids are found close to these, but there are no temples upon them, and the rest of the ruins are mostly in a state of great decay.

Another item of great interest amongst these ruins is an ancient bridge, still in a good state of preservation, a stream flowing under it forms, a little further up, a series of pools which are known as the baths; there is also a subterranean passage leading into the ruins, which is all artificial. This spot is so lovely, that it has justly been thought to have been the bathing place of the princesses of that ancient noble race that have left us so many wonders to dwell upon.

Of all the ruins of Mexico, I think these are the most beautiful, the tablets are so perfectly preserved that many strange figures can be seen, and they make one wonder what stories they relate of the inhabitants.

These ruins have been thought by many scientists to have been the cradle of American civilization, and this makes them additionally attractive.

The Ruins of Mexico.

Unfortunately, nothing has been spent on their upkeep and many parts have crumbled to pieces. Every day they are disappearing on account of the damp hot climate and the dense tropical vegetation growing on them. Trees, out of whose roots large tables have been made, have been cut down from the ruined roofs and walls of these palaces, and they have caused much destruction.

The church of the village of Palenque which is built on an immense mound, or *cuyo*, as they are called here, has two beautiful stones on which are carved human figures, these are placed on each side of the church door, one figure represents a man with a strange ornament projecting from his mouth, and covering his head, is the skin of a jaguar; the other figure has also many strange devices, and is armed, both are beautifully sculptured and well preserved, these stones were brought from the Temple of the Sun.

It must be said that the physiognomies of the figures represented on these slabs do not differ very much from the Indians inhabiting these regions to this day. Amongst these ruins have been found the same kind of implements for grinding corn as are still used all over Mexico. These are called *metates* (*metatl*) and consist of a stone slab with three feet, only the feet of the ancient *metates* are very much shorter than the ones in use at the present time.

Very little has been found in these ruins, as few explorations have been carried out. Many tombs still exist that have never been touched, and which no doubt will give, when opened, much of interest that may help the study of the history of this race that has been the wonder of the world.

These ruins truly deserve a scientific exploration, and even to the ordinary traveller they have a wonderful fascination which is hard to overcome, and makes him feel that he is treading upon sacred ground.

In many other places in the State of Chiapas ruins of ancient cities exist, but very little is known about them. On account of the difficulties of travelling, owing to the wild Indians and the dense vegetation, few have explored these regions. Chiapas one day will prove to be one of the most interesting states of Mexico, and much will be found of archæological interest in its forests and ruins.

On the border between Mexico and Guatemala on the Usumacinta River, are situated the Ruins of Yaschilán or the Ruins of the Upper Usumacinta, so ably described by Maudslay and Maler. These ruins can be classified amongst those of Central America.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Corridor in Front of Palace.

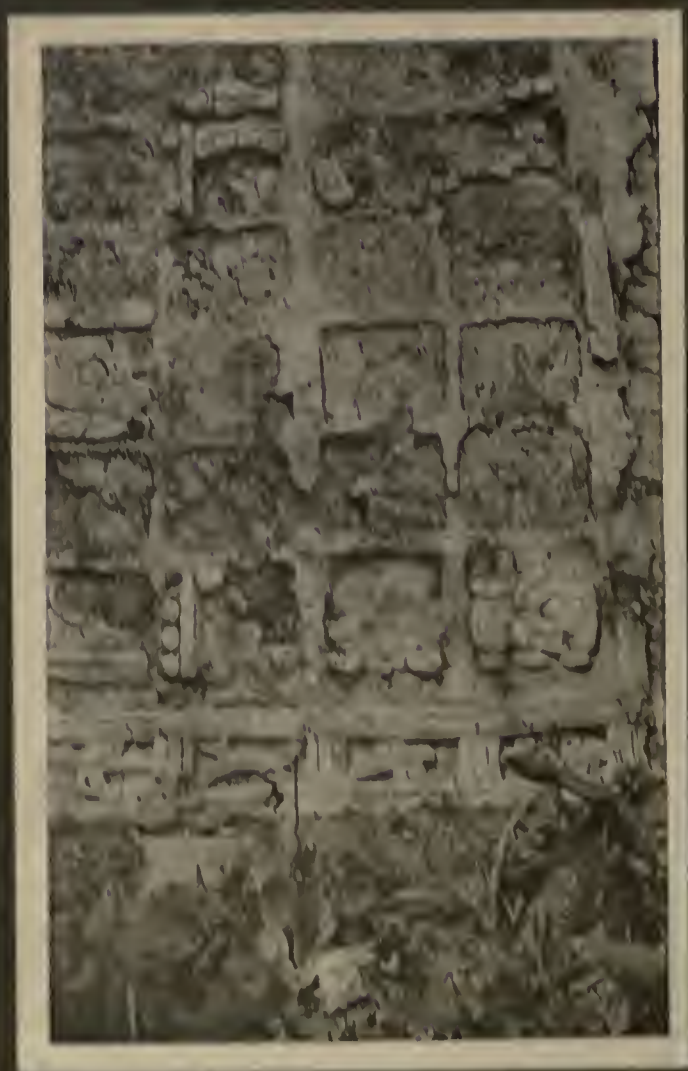
THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Column of Palace Front.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Column of Palace Front.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Column of Palace Front.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Column of Palace Front.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Column of Palace Front.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. First Court.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. Group in First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. First Court.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. Staircase in First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Palace. First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Corridors of the Palace.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Trees growing on the top of the roofs of the Palace.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Tower in Second Court of the Palace.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

First Court of the Palace.

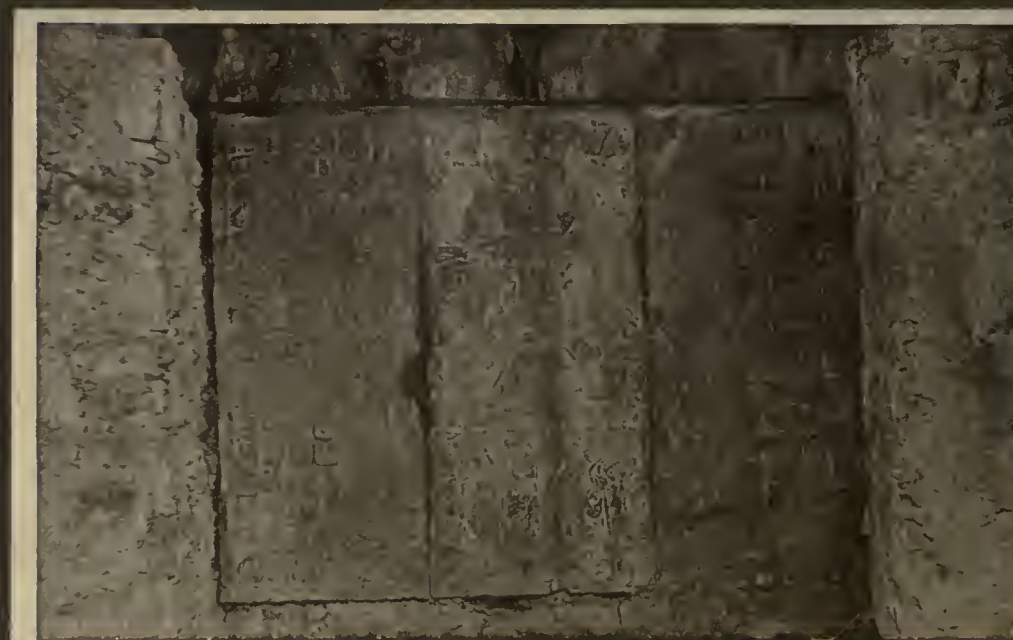
The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
Stucco Figures in Palace.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Palace. First Court.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Palace. Second Court.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Temple of the Laws.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Temple of the Sun.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
Temple of the Sun. The Tablets.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Temple of the Cross.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Temple of the Cross.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Temple of the Cross.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Temple of the Cross. Statue of the Dead Woman.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

Temple of the Foliated Cross.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.

The Foliated Cross.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF CHIAPAS.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Bridge of Nachán.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
The Baths.

THE RUINS OF PALENQUE.
General View of the Ruins.



THE RUINS OF MEXICO.



STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Uxmal.

Of all the ruins found in Mexico, the most wonderful are, without doubt, those of the State of Yucatán. Of these there are a great many, but the most perfect and important are those of Uxmal and Chichen Itzá.

The ruins of Uxmal (pronounced Ushmaal) are conspicuous on account of the richness of their sculptured façades and beauty of general design. The ruins are all close together and the different buildings are named as follows:—Casa del Adivino, or the “House of the Prophet”; Casa de las Monjas, or the “House of the Nuns”; Casa del Gobernador, or the “House of the Governor”; Casa de las Tortugas, or the “House of the Turtles”; Casa de la Vieja, or the “Old Woman’s House”; Casa de las Palomas, or the “House of the Pigeons”; and El Cementerio, or “The Cemetery.” Many other ruins are found all round these, like the Juego de Pelota, or “Gymnasium,” etc., etc., but very little now remains to be seen as they have all fallen into decay and are covered up more or less with earth and vegetation. The ruins of Uxmal lie about fifty miles from Mérida, the capital of the State of Yucatán, and about fifteen miles from the town of Muna. This place must have been one of the most important cities of the Peninsula judging from the fine buildings which are wonderfully preserved, and the elaborate carvings upon them. All the ruins in Yucatán belong to the Maya civilization, as the country was inhabited by the Maya Indians, who, though they belonged to several tribes, all spoke the Maya tongue, and the country to-day is still mostly populated by the Maya Indians.

From the little that can be gathered, it seems that before the Spanish conquest there existed in Yucatán a great and powerful nation whose origin is so remote that it is entirely unknown, but which was highly cultured and knew several arts, and had laws and religion. The ruins of Yucatán have a great similarity to those found in British Honduras and Guatemala. The first structure one sees on arriving at the ruins is the House of the Prophet, or Magician as some call it. This building is a pyramid temple 240 feet long by 160 feet wide, and nearly 80 feet high, with about 200 steps leading up to the temple. On the summit is a ruined temple containing rooms having the well-known Maya arch without the keystone, and from the top of this huge mound

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Pyramid of the House of the Prophet.
East side.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Pyramid of the House of the Prophet.
West side.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

General View from the Pyramid of the House of the Prophet.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Prophet. North side.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Prophet.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Prophet. West side.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Prophet. Interior.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Idol from the House of the Prophet.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
General View of the Pyramid, of the House of the Prophet, and
the House of the Nuns.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Corner of House of the Nuns and the Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Eastern Façade. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Corner. House of the Nuns.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Nuns.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Northern Façade. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Elephant Trunks. House of the Nuns.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Serpent Façade, West side. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Western Façade. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Nuns.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Eastern Façade. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Southern Façade. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Turtles.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

Façade of the House of the Governor.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

House of the Turtles.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

House of the Governor.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Governor.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Interior of House of the Governor.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
House of the Governor.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Façade of the House of the Governor.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Idol representing Two-headed Tiger. Hacienda de Uxmal.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Idol representing Two-headed Tiger. Hacienda de Uxmal.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

House of the Pigeons.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

House of the Pigeons.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.

House of the Pigeons.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
The Cemetery. Temple.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Stones in the Cemetery.

THE RUINS OF UXMAL.
Kneeling Idol. Cemetery.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Chichen Itzá.

The Ruins of Chichen Itzá are situated in the Department of Valladolid, about eighty-eight miles from the capital of Yucatán and twenty miles from Dzitás, which is the nearest railway station and town.

The principal buildings are scattered over an area of about one and a-half square miles, but many other smaller ruins and remains are found all round them for a considerable way out into the dense forests with which the famous ruins are surrounded. The word Chichen is compounded of two words, "chi," which means "mouth," and "chen," which means "well," thus signifying the mouth of the well, as there are two natural pools or springs at this spot. The name Itzá was the name of the Itzá tribe of Indians who formed part of the great Maya race. The principal buildings which still exist are the Casa de las Escrituras, or Akat-Tzib "House of Writings," Casa de las Monjas "House of the Nuns," Torre del Caracol or "The Round Tower," Casa Colorada or Chichanchob "The Red House," The Castillo or "The Castle," Juego de Pelota or "The Gymnasium," "The Temple of the Tigers and Shields," and the "Temple of the Tables." These buildings are erected upon solid artificial structures, the façades forming series of steps.

The House of Writings, or Akat-Tzib, is composed of many rooms with the well-known Maya arch, and on the interior walls are impressions of a red hand, the outer ones being well ornamented. Close to this ruin is the House of the Nuns, which is one of the largest buildings of the group; it is rectangular and more than 228 feet long, with an L-shaped wing on the eastern side, sixty feet long, and is one of the most remarkable structures of the Maya architecture. In front of this temple is a grand staircase about fifty-six feet wide, which reaches to the first storey; another rises from this one, and again a third storey is to be seen. The L-shaped wing is attached to the building, though it has a different structure. The ground floor consists of nine chambers; on one side is the temple called The Foloc, or Church, which on account of its carvings is one of the finest existing; at the corners it is ornamented with the so-called elephant trunks (the same as those seen at Uxmal), and the façades are highly decorated with carved stones. This structure forms part of the House of the Nuns, though it stands by itself, being separated from the main building

The Ruins of Mexico.

by a few steps. Not far from the House of the Nuns is the Round Tower, or Torre del Caracol; this is a most peculiar edifice, and the only one found in these ruins: it has three shells and a winding stairway up the centre, and is built on an artificial mound like the other buildings but unfortunately it is very decayed. Close to this tower is the Red House, or Chichanchob, the name having been given no doubt on account of it having been painted with red cement. Here there is a great temple, and the upper parts of the inner walls are covered with Mayan hieroglyphics which are carved in the stones, and are full of interest, though no one has been able to decipher them. The lintels are of the Zapote tree wood, carved with Mayan characters, and are in a very good state of preservation. From this temple to the Pyramid of the Castle one passes several smaller pyramids, with huge serpents carved out of stone, placed in such a manner with their bodies going up to the top of the mounds. The castle is built upon a pyramid about 200 feet high, having 103 steps up to the summit; on the top there is a temple ornamented with carved stones, and full of interest. Close to this pyramid is the Gymnasium, which is an important portion of the ruins; its remains consist of two parallel walls of about 274 feet long, 30 feet high and 120 feet apart. On both sides and projecting about twenty feet from the ground are two huge stone rings, four feet in diameter, one on each side of the walls, which represent two serpents entwined; no doubt one of their games consisted of throwing a ball through these rings. At the end of this long structure there is a temple with columns still standing, and on one of the sides is another, very beautifully decorated with immense serpents on the outside; and on the door are carved many human figures representing warriors in full costume with lances; the inside of this same temple is beautifully decorated with many most exquisite and wonderful hieroglyphics, mural paintings of the Mayan warriors, priests, and many other subjects. These paintings are done in vivid colours of red, yellow, blue and brown, and they still remain in a fairly good state of preservation; female figures are also seen in these drawings, and I suppose their whole history, religious festivals, customs, etc., are described in these wonderful paintings. It is also curious to notice in some cases the resemblance of the figures to the Oriental features and customs. The outside of this temple has on the cornice a carved procession of tigers, between which is placed a shield, hence the name given to it of the Temple of the Tigers and Shields. Below this there is a series of sculptured slabs of stone and pillars; on these are cut whole human figures representing warriors, and probably also their Kings, and as they are wonderfully well preserved they are of great interest, their features, dress and implements of war being easily discernible; these slabs are the best

The Ruins of Mexico.

preserved carvings of the ruins. Quite close to this is the place where Dr. Le Plongeon, the eminent archæologist, found the grave and statue of the ancient King of the Itzaes, Chaacmol, the Tiger King; the statue is now in the National Museum in Mexico City and many other slabs and stones carved with skulls and other subjects still mark this place.

Not far from here is the Temple of the Tables, where some beautiful columns full of hieroglyphics are to be seen, and some big slabs supported at the four corners by idols. There are two of these table slabs still standing, and one can see pieces of others all around; they are supposed to have been the places where the victims were laid when they were sacrificed. The mound on which this temple stands is exceptionally high. Hundreds of other ruins exist all around this prehistoric city of Chichen Itzá, whose civilization had existed unknown many centuries before the Spanish conquest. There now remains to be seen the two famous Cenotes, which are big holes sunk very deep down in the ground, and which hold water fed by subterranean streams. The largest one is oblong in shape, and about 350 feet in length and 150 feet in width; the sides are about 70 feet high; it is called the Cenote of the Sacrifices, and is supposed that all victims sacrificed to the Gods were thrown in here, amongst whom were many maidens. They also used to throw into this place their treasures, and through the energies of Mr. Thompson, the present owner of the ranch called Chichen, where the ruins are situated, the Cenote has been partly cleaned, and many gold and jade idols, beads and other articles have been found, but much still remains to be discovered. The other Cenote is smaller, and probably this was the place where the ancient dwellers got their water from for drinking; both are very deep, there are fish in them, and the water, which is very clear, stands about at the same level all the year round, and the sides are very perpendicular.

Chichen Itzá was the old capital of the Itzaes after they left Itzamal, and notwithstanding that much has been done to try to decipher their paintings and sculptures, little has been attained. The Mayas had a calendar, and were very advanced in many arts; their beautiful mural paintings are the most wonderful and unique found in America. The carved slabs below the Temple of the Tigers and the Shields should not miss one's attention, as they are unique; stone lintels of one slab are also found here, besides the wooden ones like those at Uxmal, many of which are carved. The walls of the temples are very thick and the doorways very low. Thousands of broken pieces of carved stones and serpents' heads are seen all over the ground wherever one goes, which shows how much has fallen away, and how extensive must have been the buildings of this city. It is a most curious fact that in

The Ruins of Mexico.

the Maya tongue there are many words similar in sound and a few in meaning to the English language, although it seems that three distinct immigrations came to Yucatán, namely the Itzaes, the Mayas and the Caribs; they all spoke the Maya tongue when the Spaniards came to the Peninsula; of these the Itzaes were the ones who settled at Chichen Itzá.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
The House of Writings or Akat-Tzib.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
The Foloc. House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
House of the Nuns.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

House of the Nuns. The Foloc.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Upper Storey. House of the Nuns.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
House of the Nuns.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
General View from the House of the Nuns.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Round Tower.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Round Tower.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Red House or the Chichanchob.

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STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
The Red House or the Chichanchob.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
Serpents ornamenting the Pyramids.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Pyramid of the Castle.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple on Top of the Pyramid of
the Castle.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Pyramid of the Castle.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple of the Tigers and Shields.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Grave of Chaacmol, the Tiger King.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Grave of Chaacmol, the Tiger King.

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STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
Serpents at the Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
The Gymnasium.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple of the Tigers and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Temple at the Gymnasium.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Stone Ring in the Gymnasium.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Carved Doorway. Temple of Tigers.
and Shields.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Ornamented corner.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
Temple of the Tables.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
Temple of the Tables.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.
Temple of the Tables.

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STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The Cenote of Sacrifices.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

The small Cenote.

THE RUINS OF CHICHEN ITZÁ.

Entrance to the Ranch of Chichen.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Labnáh.

Other well-known ruins in Yucatán are those of Labnáh, which lie about ninety miles from Mérida and about eighteen miles from the railway station of Ticul, the nearest large town. The walls of these temples are well decorated though very much decayed. The sculpture is somewhat more grotesque than at Uxmal, and the principal feature of this group is the fine Arch of Labnáh. This building is enriched with an archway in the middle; the entrance is about ten feet in width and beyond it lies a great court. The arch is made in the peculiar Maya style without a keystone, the same as others of that region, but in this case the middle stones are wider than in other places. Another notable feature of these ruins are the columns found on the different façades. There is also a fine temple on a pyramid, but of this only part of the walls remain. Little more can be seen of these ruins, as they are all crumbled away and covered up with the dense tropical vegetation.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF LABNÁH.
The Big Temple.

THE RUINS OF LABNÁH.
The Labnáh Arch.

THE RUINS OF LABNÁH.
Façade.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF LABNÁH.

Temple on Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF LABNÁH.

Façade.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF KEWICH.

Façade.

THE RUINS OF KEWICH.

Doorway.

THE RUINS OF KEWICH.

Temple.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Chacmultun.

The Ruins of Chacmultun are most unique. Several temples existed here and the place must have been of much importance. One of the temples has a series of doors made with immense stones cut in slabs, one slab serving as lintel to each door. This structure is very much like the temples at the Ruins of Mitla, in the State of Oaxaca, and therefore makes it an interesting study. Columns seem to have an important place in the architecture of these temples and several doorways are seen with short ones ornamenting and supporting the façades; the embellishments are simple as a general rule, and the walls very thick. There is an interesting two-storey building, and the ruins taken as a whole show a great similarity to the Ruins of Uxmal, but are not so fine or ornamental.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.

Façade.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.

Temple.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.

Temple.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.
Doorway.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.
Temple.

THE RUINS OF CHACMULTUN.
Temple.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF XKICHMOH.
Temple.

THE RUINS OF XKICHMOH.
Façade.

THE RUINS OF XKICHMOH.
Façade.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Itzamal.

Itzamal is an ancient town which lies about forty-one miles from Mérida. There are many points to draw attention in the ruins of this place. The great pyramid is one of the largest found in the country, being about sixty feet high and more than six hundred feet long.

Another fine relic is the gigantic stucco face which is seven feet wide and about eight feet high. From its chin protrudes a stone about six inches long; probably this great head represents Zamna, whom they worshipped here. Many other stucco figures can be seen, but all are greatly decayed. This is one of the places where they used stucco, beside sculptured stones and wood carvings.

The city of Itzamal was founded by the Itzaes and was the first town to be built by them on the Peninsula. Itzamna was their leader and Zamna their deity, to whom they offered flowers and fruit.

Many other mounds exist near the town, some of them of great height, and most of them contain interior chambers, but few have been explored to find out what they contain.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF ITZAMAL.
The Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF ITZAMAL.
Building.

THE RUINS OF ITZAMAL.
The Pyramid.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Ruins of Acanceh.

Only about sixteen miles from the City of Mérida are situated the ruins of Acanceh.

Many mounds which have yet been unexplored are seen around and numerous relics have been extracted from those that have been opened.

The most prominent feature of the ruins is a wall with many carved figures and hieroglyphics; some of these figures represent the Bat-God of the Mayas, and some similarity is noticed between these carvings and those found at Palenque in the State of Chiapas.

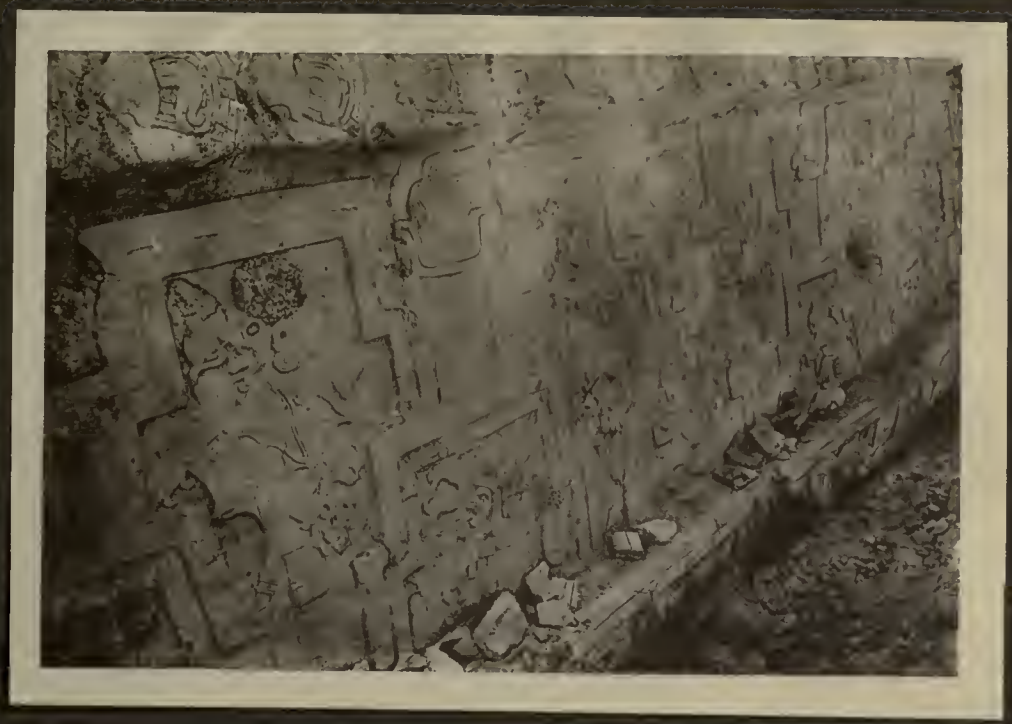
Much has yet to be discovered in these ruins, which seem to be of great archæological interest.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF ACANCEH.
Carvings on wall.

THE RUINS OF ACANCEH.
Carvings on wall.

THE RUINS OF ACANCEH.
Vase.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF YUCATÁN.

The Smaller Ruins of the State of Yucatán.

Amongst the other ruins found in the Peninsula of Yucatán, but which have now almost completely crumbled away and are overgrown with the tropical vegetation, can be mentioned Mayapán, the capital of the fallen kingdom of Maya. These ruins cover a great area, but hardly anything can now be seen except many heaps of cut stones and the remains of many mounds and buildings. History tells us that the place was once a very populous city, and the great King and owner of the land ruled here, but it seems that all the chiefs near by rebelled against him and destroyed the city of Mayapán about the year 1420.

Very near the village of Ticul is found another of the ancient cities of the Mayas, many relics have been dug up here, and close to it, at San Francisco, are the remains of another city, with mounds and sculptured stones.

The Ruins of Nohcacab, which means in the Maya tongue, "the great place of good land," are extensive, though very little can now be seen; there is also a high mound with some buildings at Nohput; both places are situated close to Uxmal.

A fine building, called the Casa Grande, is situated at Zayi, or Salli; this is one of the most imposing structures in Yucatán, it is also called the Palace of Zayi, and consists of three stories, in the centre there is a grand staircase; little now remains of the other buildings near by.

At Sabachshé are two buildings, almost destroyed, but which are still important on account of their size.

Ruined edifices exist at Sacbey, which means, in the Maya tongue, "a paved way of pure white stone." A roadway of stone, about eight feet wide is here, and it is supposed that this went from Kabah to Uxmal.

Not far from Sacbey are the ruins of Xampon, now consisting of very dilapidated buildings, but which must have been very grand in their past days.

Still further on are standing the ruins of Chunhuhu; they are composed of several palaces with many ornamented façades, but in a great state of decay.

Schoolhoke and Chunjuju also possess ruined buildings; and another ruined city is Ytsimpte, with its long buildings and sculptures, and at Labphak there is a fine ruin, with bas-reliefs on stone.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF YUCATÁN.

THE RUINS OF YUCATÁN.
The Palace of Layil.

Antiquities from the Ruins of Yucatán.

Site of the walls of the ancient Maya city of T'ho, now Mérida,
the capital of Yucatán.



THE RUINS OF MEXICO.



STATE OF TABASCO.

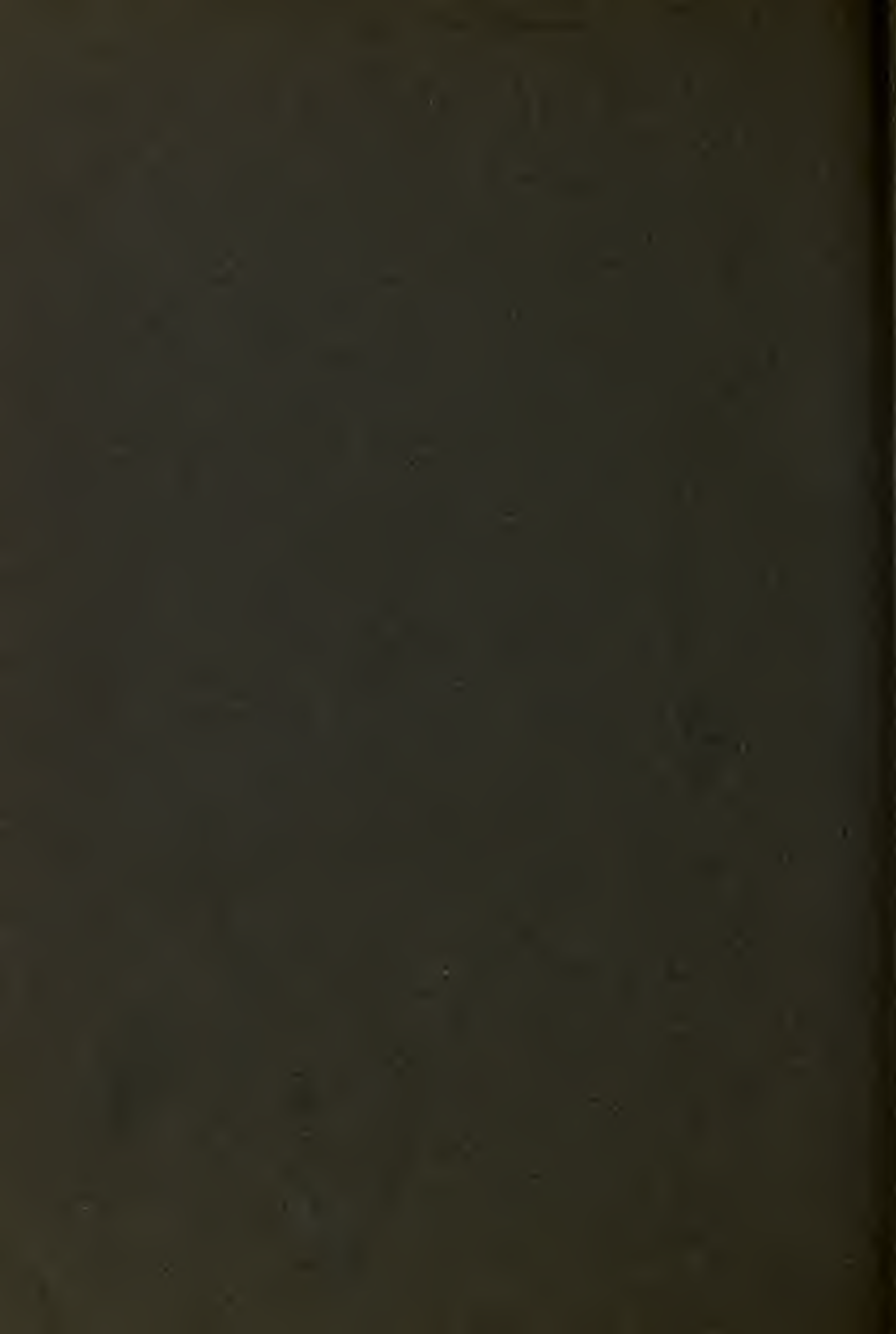
The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF TABASCO.

THE RUINS OF TABASCO.
Mound at Jonuta.

THE RUINS OF TABASCO.
Mounds at Chablé.

THE RUINS OF TABASCO.
Whistles and Pottery from the Mounds.
(Author's Collection.)





THE RUINS OF MEXICO.



STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF GUIENGÚLA.

Ruins of Chambers.

THE RUINS OF GUIENGÚLA.

The Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF GUIENGÚLA.

Walls of Chambers.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of San Carlos Yautepec.

Situated on the highway between the City of Oaxaca and the City of Tehuantepec is the principal town of the district of Yautepec, known as San Carlos Yautepec.

Close to this town are found some fine ruins, which when excavations are made, will be found to be of great archæological interest.

Ruins exist at two places. The principal group is situated on the top of the high mountain called Las Tijeras, the other group lies at Agua Fria, those of Las Tijeras are the most important, where at one time there must have existed quite a large community. A series of chambers can be seen and the most prominent building is one which is formed at each end in the shape of a cross. Unfortunately, little is now left standing, except part of a stone wall, but the foundations are still well defined. All around these buildings there are the remains of numerous small houses, which can be traced for some distance.

At Agua Fria, several parts of chambers and terraces are remaining, also a number of niches cut out of the stone.

Both places are very picturesque, as they are very high up the mountains, and the trees near them are all covered with grey Spanish moss and orchids.

A complete mystery hangs over the ruins of Yautepec, and nothing is known as to their origin or their ancient inhabitants. The nearest Indian tribe now living close to these ruins is the Mixe Tribe, which is one of the wildest found in the State of Oaxaca; in fact, not far from here, are still some Mixes who are absolute savages, they have very little intercourse with the Mexicans, living as they do in a state of barbarism in their mountain heights.

Many relics have been dug up in these ruins, amongst them idols, masks, beads and pottery. A big stone idol used to stand at Las Tijeras on some stones, but it has lately been broken up and destroyed by the people living near by. The walls of these ruins are very primitive, without any carvings or hieroglyphics, and most of them are built with stones.

On other mountain heights near these places, there are several smaller ruins, most of them however, being only small mounds which enclose ancient tombs; small buildings of which only parts of the walls are left standing; and foundations which are difficult to make out.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Las Tijeras.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Agua Fria.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Agua Fria.

THE RUINS OF SAN CÁRLOS YAUTEPEC.

Ruins at Agua Fria.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of Mitla.

The ruins of Mitla, or Mictlán as they were called by the Nahoas, are perhaps the best known ruins in Mexico. They are situated about twenty-six miles to the S.E. of the City of Oaxaca, in the District of Tlacolula, State of Oaxaca, and every year hundreds of people from all parts of the globe visit them. The ruins are no doubt palaces of a great and mighty race, but nothing is known about the people who built and lived in them. Notwithstanding this, many volumes have been written about the ruins of Mitla, and amongst the most interesting and complete of these works must be mentioned the one by that eminent German archæologist, Dr. Edward Seler, but no key has ever been found giving an account of their past history. They are the most elaborately ornamented ruins in Mexico, and on the walls are found about fifteen different designs made with mosaics known as grecques. The figures are all geometrical, and are found mostly in panels on both sides of the walls of the rooms or chambers, and on the inside of the tombs. Many theories exist as to who the people were who built these wonderful palaces, and while some think that the Zapotecs were the great men who made them, some archæologists say that modern research has proved that the Nahoas, or the Mayas, built them. The Indians who at present live in the village near by are all Zapotecs. The original name of this place seems to have been Lyo-báa, which means "the centre of rest," so named by the Zapotecs; the Nahoas called it Mictlán, Miquitlan, or Mitla, which means "the place of the dead." Part of the present village is built amongst the ruins, but now the government is making these villagers leave, in order to preserve the ruins. The grecques, or arabesques, which are found in the oblong panels, are formed of mosaics made of pieces of stone, each one about seven inches in length, one inch in depth, and two inches in breadth, no plaster or cement of any kind is used to keep them together, they all fitting one into the other. Beneath the middle building is an underground chamber in the form of a cross, each arm measuring about twelve feet long, five and a-half feet wide and six and a-half feet high; in the centre is an immense monolith supporting the roof, this monolith is called "The Pillar of Death." On the east side of the middle palace is also another underground chamber with many designs on the walls. This is the biggest underground chamber existing here, and its walls have also

The Ruins of Mexico.

panels just like the outside walls of the palaces. In these chambers many treasures are supposed to have been found. The passages leading from one room to another are very low and the rooms are narrow. Red cement has been found on some of the pavements and sides of the palaces. The "Hall of the Monoliths" is one of the most interesting chambers, it is free from any designs on the inside, six huge monoliths are in this room, each one being about twelve feet high and seven feet in circumference, they are quite plain and have no carvings on them. All the underground chambers here are cruciform in shape. Close by the three big palaces, and where the modern church has been built, is another palace where on one of the sides are still to be seen wonderful paintings or engravings on red cement, most of it has unfortunately disappeared, owing to the carelessness with which these matters were looked upon in past days, but still some of it can be seen, and in Dr. Seler's book, which was written some years ago, these paintings are all shown in colours, they are supposed to be very similar to the Toltec ones. The most perfect room of the palaces is the "Hall of Mosaics," the four sides of this room are covered with beautiful mosaic. Some of the temples are approached by steps, and under most of them are to be found tombs, there are no arches here, and all the doors and passages are straight. The grecques, or arabesques, found at Mitla give it a distinctive character and in no other part of the Republic are there any ruins found like them. There are four principal palaces, each having a patio in the middle and the first three have rooms on all sides except the West; each room has three doors opening towards the patio, and on the side walls of several of the rooms there is a niche or square hole. Close to the ruins is a pyramidal mound about seventy-five feet high, with steps going up to the top, where a modern chapel has been built. Two miles from Mitla is a fortified hill about 600 feet high, which is called "El Fuerte de Mitla." Some ancient ruins exist on the top, and no doubt this was their great fortress, as there are to be seen the remains of great battlements, trenches and double walls.

An air of mystery surrounds Mitla, which grows upon one as you gaze on these wonderful ruins and try to think about the ancient dwellers, their habits and history. On a moonlight night, when the atmosphere is clear (and it seldom rains here) it is a most beautiful sight to see the ruins, which seem to be enchanted.

The first sketches that appear to have been made of Mitla are those of Don Luis Martin and Colonel de la Laguna in 1802.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.

East side of Palace.

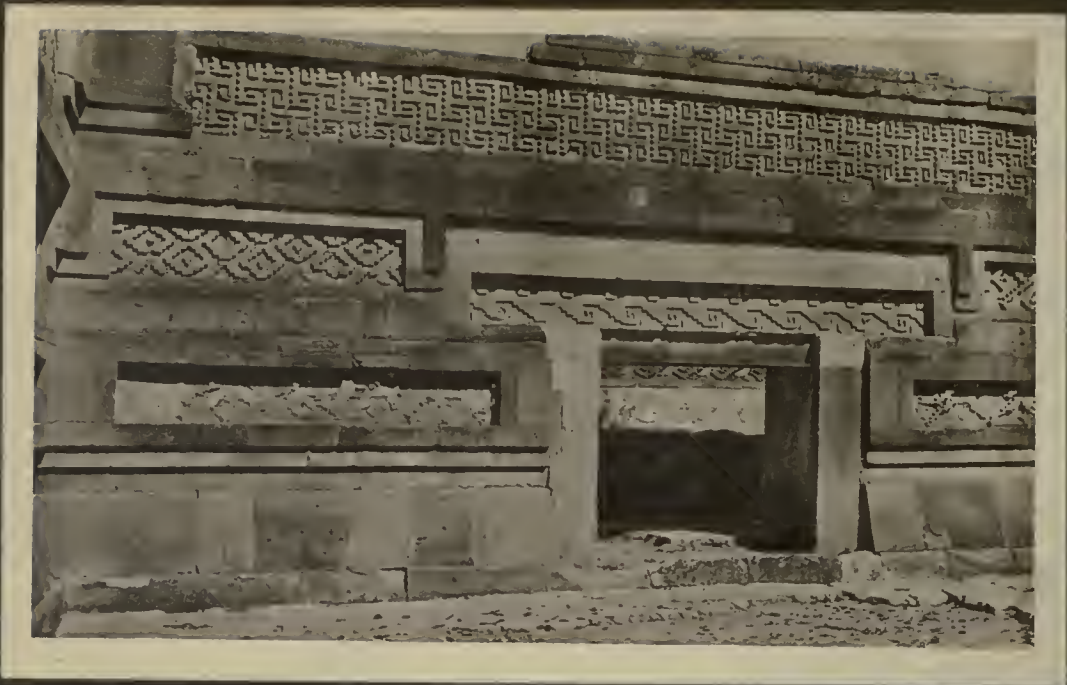
THE RUINS OF MITLA.

Hall of Monoliths.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.

Subterranean Palace. The Pillar of Death.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Outside wall of the Hall of Mosaics.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Red cement Engravings.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Outside wall of Palace.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Hall of Mosaics.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Palaces. Huge stones.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Palaces.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.

Exterior of Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.

Doorway of Chamber.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.

View of the Palaces.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Entrance to Palaces.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Corner of Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA. ◊
Huge stones.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Exterior of the North Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Pyramid.

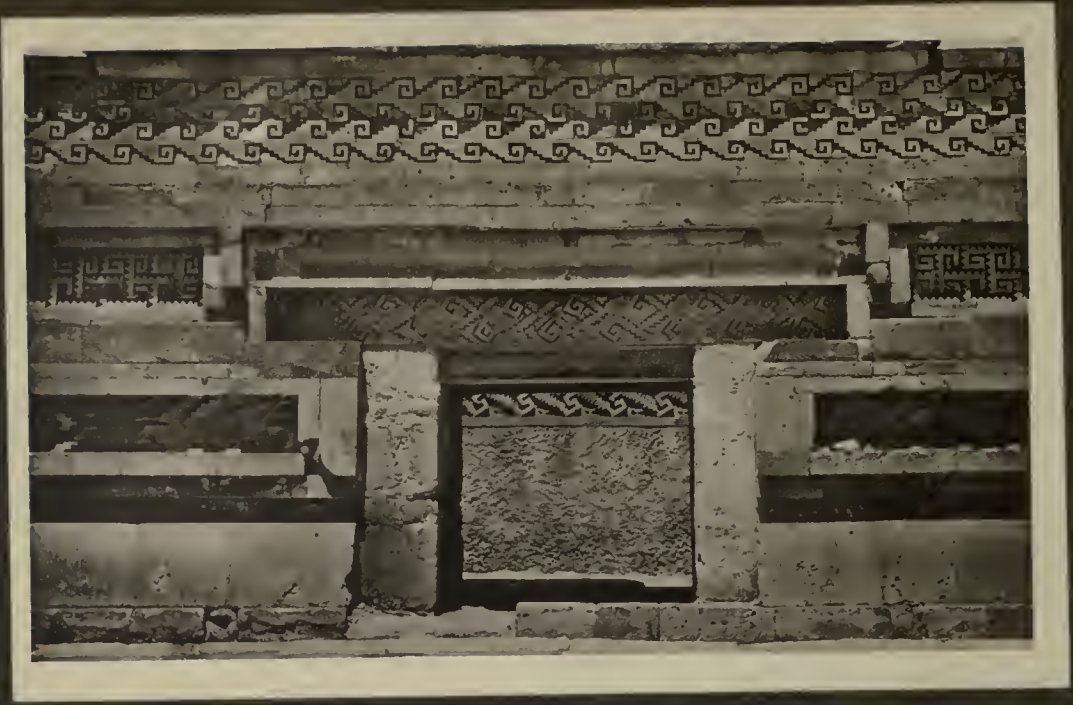
The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Court of Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Front View of Palaces.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Front of Palace.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Front of inside room of Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Detail of front. Only Idol existing.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Monoliths outside doorway of Palace.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Entrance to subterranean Palace.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
Entrance to Tomb.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Fort.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Fort.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Fort.

THE RUINS OF MITLA.
The Fort.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of Xáaga.

About five miles from the ruins of Mitla are the ruins of Xáaga, so called because they lie on the grounds of the Hacienda de Xáaga, a small farm. Under the house of the Hacienda is a subterranean cruciform tomb; no doubt this was a grave of their chiefs; it is in the shape of a cross and each arm is about thirty feet long; some skeletons were found here when the tomb was uncovered. On the sides are great blocks of stone about five feet in height, and the same designs are found here as at Mitla, but these are cut out of the solid stones instead of having mosaics as at Mitla. Many smaller tombs have been found round this ranch and all have more or less the same designs on the inner walls as the ones described above.

Up on a hill called Guirún, is another big tomb in the shape of a cross; this is the most perfect one found here, and is above ground; the designs are similar to those seen at Mitla and beautifully executed. The walls of this tomb measure about eight feet in height and the arms are about thirty-two feet long. The designs are carved on the stone and there are no mosaics. The view from this place is lovely, as you can see many miles of valley in front, with the village of Mitla and the river running through it; at the back are high mountains with winding roads crossing them. It is a curious fact that all these cruciformed tombs are always five degrees east and north in the way they are constructed. Near this tomb is another one in a similar shape, which has not been finished.

Close to these ruins are the remains of an old fortress with walls and trenches still standing. The Indians call these "Los Paredones." Foundations of chambers are still to be seen and the whole place seems to have been well fortified; these ruins are only a few feet away from the tombs.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
The Fort.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
The Fort.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
Cruciform Tomb.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
Cruciform Tomb.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
Inside the Cruciform Tomb.

THE RUINS OF XÁAGA.
Cruciform Tomb.

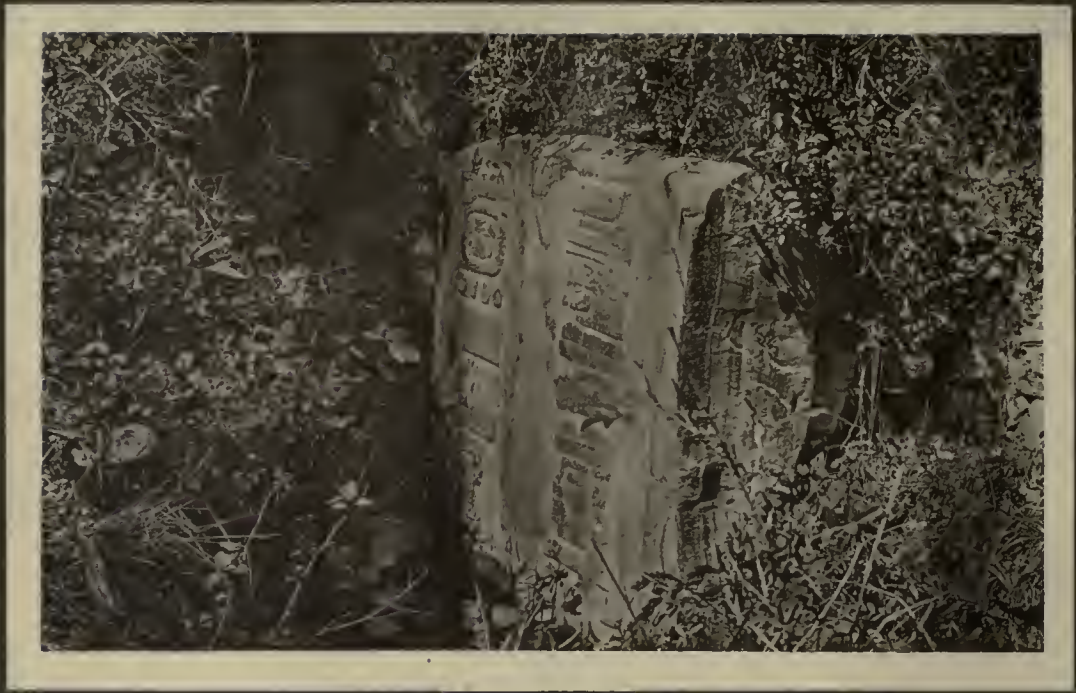
The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
View of the Mounds.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
View of the Temple.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
The Passage of the Aztecs.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.

Carved stones.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.

Grave.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.

Tomb.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
Temple.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
Stone with hieroglyphics.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
The Stone of the big Aztec.

THE RUINS OF MONTE ALBAN.
General View of the Temples.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of Xoxocotlan.

The ruins of Xoxo lie about four miles to the South of the City of Oaxaca; they consist chiefly of a number of mounds, on some of which excavations have been made and others remain intact. From the ones that have been opened up many idols have been extracted, and they probably were the graves of their great chieftains, or priests. One of the highest mounds, which was opened up by Dr. Fernando Sologuren, of Oaxaca City, contains a cave with a subterranean passage which can still be seen; this they call the Mound of the Toad's Cave, as at the entrance you can see the head and arms of a big toad; most of the head has been broken, but the arms still remain, and on each side on the flat stones which form the door of the tomb are two faces. A number of mounds are still seen intact, and no doubt contain many interesting objects; on one of these some huge slabs of stone are seen lying on the top. The mounds, as will be seen by the photographs, look like small hills, and they are all covered over with vegetation, mostly cacti. These ruins are close to the Zapotec village of Xoxo, or, as it is officially called, Xoxocotlan. Archæologists differ as to the origin of these ruins, which are really only burying places, some thinking that they belong to the Zapotecs and others that they are Mixtec. It will be noticed how these ruins differ from the ones at Mitla, though they are not very far off; in those at Mitla there are no animals in their engravings, all being geometrical figures, while here, wherever there are carvings, they represent animal figures.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF XOXO.
The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF XOXO.
The Toad's Cave.

THE RUINS OF XOXO.
The Mounds.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF XOXO.
The Toad's Cave.

THE RUINS OF XOXO.
Entrance to the Toad's Cave.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins near the City of Oaxaca.

In the village of Zaachila, as it is now called, its real name being Zaachillattoo, or Teotzapotlán, as it was named by the Mexicans, in the District of Zimatlán, are found numerous mounds, most of which are still intact. Zaachila was the capital of the Kingdom of the Zapotecs, who still inhabit several of the districts of the State of Oaxaca. The Zapotecs were a brave and great people, and they dominated and beat the Mixes. The conquered country reached down to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Cosijopi, Emperor of Tehuantepec, being from Zaachila. Burnt bricks have been found in the mounds, and pipes with engravings on them. The pipes were used to supply water, which shows the advanced stage of civilization these people had attained. In many places skulls have been found placed in the same way as those discovered at Teotihuacan. In the graves many idols, bones, and a great deal of pottery have been discovered. Zaachila is only about eight miles from the City of Oaxaca. Many mounds and pyramids are also found at Jálpam and Cuilapam, both villages being quite close to Zaachila.

To the West of the same city of Oaxaca lies Etna, which is the capital of the District of Etna. Many mounds and pyramids are seen, especially at a picturesque place called Cerro de las Peñas. A modern church has been built here, and thousands of pilgrims visit it every year from all parts of the State. Many jade idols, beads and pottery, have been found in the mounds that have been dug up. This must have been the burying place of the chiefs of the Zapotecs, or the Mixtecs, both languages being spoken close by. Many other ruins are found in this District, most of them being sepulchres, which still remain in their original state.

About sixteen miles from the city of Oaxaca, at the village of Teotitlán del Valle in the District of Tlacolula are two huge carved stones. This village is built on the site of a prehistoric city, and is full of mounds and ruins of terraces. The stones are about seven feet in height. Many painted vases and other kinds of pottery and idols have been dug out of the graves here, also hundreds of jade beads.

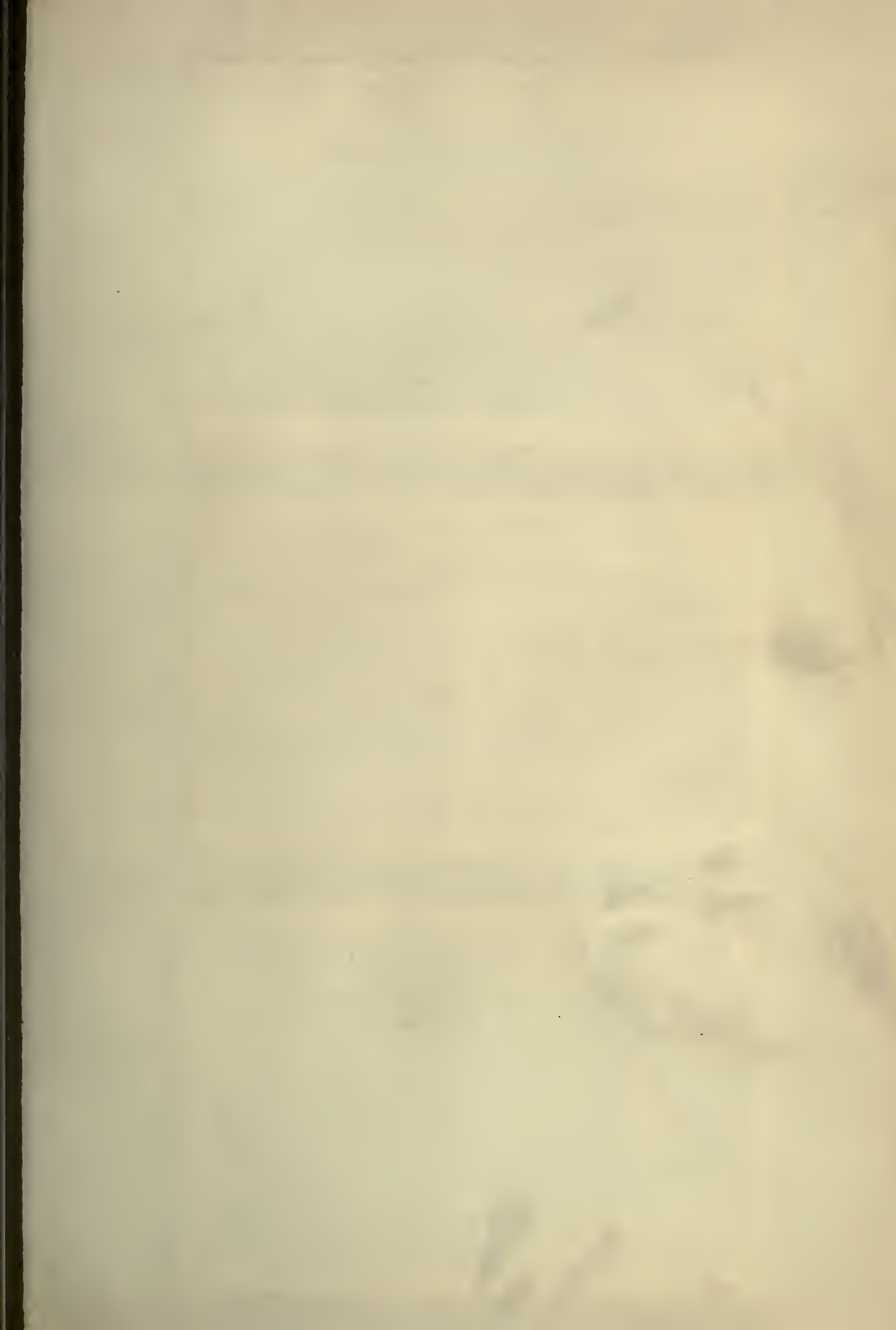
Another interesting place near the city of Oaxaca is Santa Inés Yatzeche in the District of Zimatlán. Many mounds and old ruins

The Ruins of Mexico.

are to be seen at this village, but the most prominent feature is the pyramid. It is all overgrown with plants, and on the top there is a temple which, judged by what remains, must have been a fine building. Many large idols and pieces of pottery have been dug out from here, but much remains to be explored. On one side of the pyramid, or big mound, there are steps leading up to the church. Part of the mound and temple have been washed away by the river in an inundation, and many hundreds of idols were unearthed, most of them being carried away by the water. Close to one of the other mounds a graveyard has been made up the side; many other big mounds exist, all being of the Zapotec civilization.

At the village of San Lorenzo Cacalotepec, and at the farms, Hacienda Blanca and Hacienda del Cacique, all being close to the city of Oaxaca, many important mounds and other ruins are seen, most of them being graves. Very few of them have been disturbed, and in consequence a well organised excavation would doubtless reveal an immense amount of interesting matter. At Santa Catarina Minas, in the District of Ocotlán, there is a fortified hill. Within a mile of the city of Oaxaca there is also a monolithic column which was used by the Spaniards as a whipping post for the Indians; this stone was removed from the ruins of Mitla to the place where it now stands.

It would be impossible to mention all the mounds that are found around the city of Oaxaca, almost every village has ruins of some sort, principally mounds and tombs.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF ZAACHILA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The big Mound.

THE RUINS OF ZAACHILA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. Carved stone slab.

THE RUINS OF ZAACHILA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF JÁLPAM.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF CUILAPAM.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF SAN PABLO HUITZO.

District of Etna, near the City of Oaxaca. Mounds at the hill
called "La Campana."

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF ETLA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF ETLA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF ETLA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF ETLA.
Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF TEOTITLÁN DEL VALLE.
Near the City of Oaxaca. Sculptured stone.

THE RUINS OF TEOTITLÁN DEL VALLE.
Near the City of Oaxaca. Sculptured stone.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF SANTA INÉS YATZECHE.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Pyramid and Temple. Front view.

THE RUINS OF SANTA INÉS YATZECHE.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Pyramid and Temple. Back view.

THE RUINS OF SANTA INÉS YATZECHE.

Near the City of Oaxaca. Mound with Graveyard.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF SANTA INÉS YATZECHE.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF SAN LORENZO CACALOTEPEC.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF THE HACIENDA BLANCA.

Near the City of Oaxaca. Graves in Mounds.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF THE HACIENDA DEL CACIQUE.

Near the City of Oaxaca. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF SANTA CATARINA MINAS.

District of Ocotlán, near the City of Oaxaca. Fortified hill.

THE RUINS OF OAXACA.

Near the City. The Monolith.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

The Ruins of the Mixtecas.

The Mixteca people inhabit most of the Western and Southern part of the State of Oaxaca. A shadow only now remains of their past greatness, but still the race remains pure in many parts. The ruins found in several of their ancient towns are supposed to be about one thousand five hundred years old, as that was the time of their splendour. The two principal cities they had were Tilantongo, where their kings lived for many centuries, and Achiutla, their Sacred City. The Mixtecas conquered many other races who lived round them, and with the Zapotecs, were the two most powerful races found in the state of Oaxaca. They subdued most of the Chontal, Trique, Mazatec and Chatino tribes, and though they sometimes fought the Zapotecs, they were still their allies, and in fact, had they not helped them, the Zapotecs would never have conquered the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

The Mixteco or Mixtec language is one of the most perfect of the ancient Mexican languages, and a complete dictionary exists showing its richness, and many Codices have been found with the history of these people written on them by means of painted hieroglyphics.

This race was exceptionally famous on account of its warlike tendencies, and for many years it was independent from the Aztecs, though all the other tribes near them sent their regular tributes to the Aztec or Mexican Kings. Even when the Spaniards came, they honoured in many ways the bravery of this indomitable race.

The best known kings of their history are King Ocoñaña, which means in their language "Twenty times a lynx," King Dzahuindanda, King Nahuixochil, and the brave Casandóo, one of the last independent kings of the ancient Mexicans. The Mixtecs hated the Aztecs, and fought them for many years, and though they were at last subdued, they never really rendered the same tribute that the other tribes did.

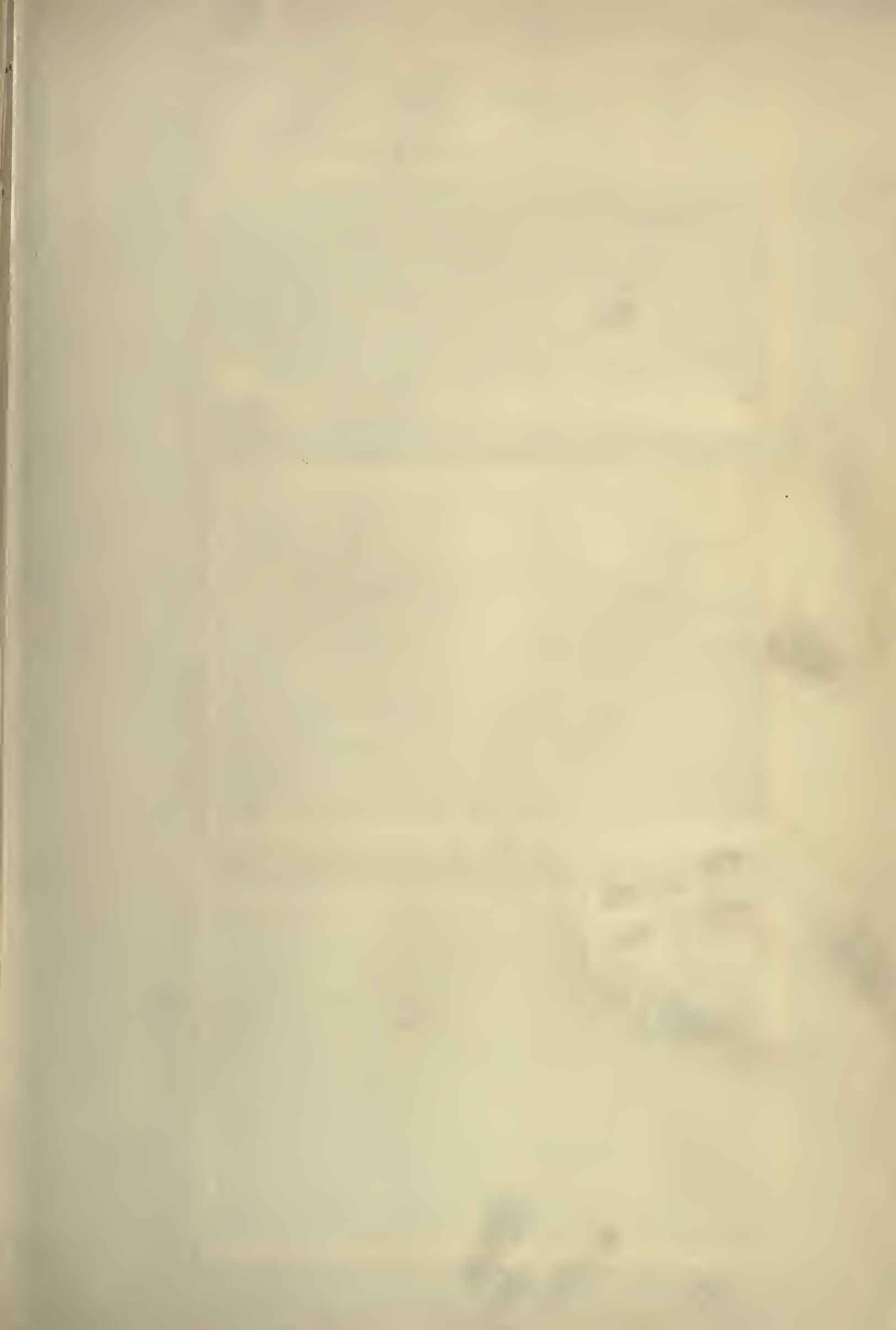
In 1521 the Mixteco language was divided into six dialects, which at first the Spaniards thought were six different languages, but afterwards when a dictionary was made of them, it was found that it was only one rich language with several dialects. The Mixteco, compared with the other languages of the State of Oaxaca, like the Trique, Mazateco, Chontal, Chinanteco, the Cuicateco and many others, is found to be far superior and one of the richest of the Mexican, and with the Zapoteco, it is one of the most perfect languages of the State.

The Ruins of Mexico.

Thousands upon thousands of jade beads and jade idols have been dug out from the tombs of the Mixtecos, and some of the most beautiful painted vases and other earthenware utensils that have ever been found in Mexico come from the Mixteca country. Copper needles, small bells, rings and masks are also found in profusion, and many gold articles. The ancient Codices are on woven cloth and leather, and the colours are very bright, some are also found made of the fibre of the maguey plant.

At Tilantongo, many big mounds are to be seen, and many graves are brought to light every year by the heavy rains.

At Achiutla are still standing many walls forming courts, and at the end of these stands a huge mound, many other smaller ones and graves can also be seen.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

THE RUINS OF THE MIXTECAS.

THE RUINS OF TILANTONGO.

District of Nochixtlán. The Mounds.

THE RUINS OF ACHIUTLA.

District of Tlaxiaco. Ruined wells.

THE RUINS OF ACHIUTLA.

District of Tlaxiaco. The Mounds.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF OAXACA.

Idols from the State of Oaxaca.

The two principal civilizations of the State of Oaxaca are the Zapotec and the Mixtec. The Zapotecs and the Mixtecs still inhabit the greater part of the State, the rest being populated by the Mixes, Chinantecos, Chontales, Cuicatecos, Triques, Tehuantepecanos, Zoques, Chochos, Mazatecos, Netzichies, Huaves, and other races.

The idols of the Zapotecs are nearly always found to be made of earthenware, while those of the Mixtecs are mostly made of stone. A great deal of jade, from which beads and idols have been made, has been found in the Mixteca country, as well as many painted vases, burners and plates. In some parts the tombs of the two races are adjoining, but the two civilizations are always distinct.

The photograph showing two idols of the Huave civilization is interesting, as there are very few specimens known to exist of this race.

The Huaves inhabit the islands on Lake Superior in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and are a very peculiar race of people. They are considered as foreigners by the natives, and are supposed to have come from South America. They have been driven from the land, and have been obliged to live in caves on the islands and on the sides of the lakes. The idols were found in a cave called Monapox-tiac, which means "House of God." This cave is on a hill called Cerro Cristo, on one of the islets which form the series of islands in the Laguna Superior. One idol represents a God, the other a rattle-snake.

The Huave race is a degenerate people, and has always been subdued by the native races.

Probably in ancient times the Zapotec and the Mixtec races were but one, but with long wars and contentions they got divided, and when the Spaniards came they were two separate races, having only some analogy in their language and customs and by being allies.

The word Zapoteca, meaning in the Mexican language "An inhabitant of the land of the Zapotes," is derived from two words, viz., Zapotlán, the name given to the district in which the tree *Achras Sapota* (called by the natives Zapote), is very plentiful, and teca the plural of tecatl, an inhabitant; also Mixteca, which in the Mexican language,

The Ruins of Mexico.

means "The People or Nation of the Clouds," similarly comes from Mixtlen, signifying the region or place of snows or clouds, and teca the plural of tecatl, an inhabitant.

The principal God of the Mixtecos was Nuhu Iñi Nuú, the God of the Heart of the People, and at Achiutla they had their Sacred City. Their other chief Gods were Tlaloc, the God of Waters, and Mictlantecuhtli, the God of Hell. Their religion was called Quetzalcohua, from Quetzalcoatl, the God of Air.

The Ruins of Mexico.

IDOLS FROM THE STATE OF OAXACA.

Mixtec Jade Idols and Beads. State of Oaxaca.
(*Author's Collection.*)

Zapotec Idols. State of Oaxaca.
(*Author's Collection.*)

Zapotec Idols and Mixtec Pottery. State of Oaxaca.
(*Author's Collection.*)

Zapotec Idols. State of Oaxaca.
(*Author's Collection.*)





The Ruins of Mexico.

IDOLS FROM THE STATE OF OAXACA.

Zapotec Idols. State of Oaxaca.
(Author's Collection.)

Zapotec Idols. State of Oaxaca.
(Author's Collection.)

Huave Idols. Tehuantepec, State of Oaxaca.

The Ruins of Mexico.

IDOLS FROM THE STATE OF OAXACA.

Painted Sacred Vase. Mixtec Civilization. State of Oaxaca.
Height, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; Circumference, $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
(Author's Collection.)

Clay Idol from Etlá. District of Etlá, State of Oaxaca.
Height, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; Width, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
(Author's Collection.)



THE RUINS OF MEXICO.



STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Cholula.

Prescott, Ober, and many others have written on the wonderful pyramid of Cholula and the beauties that surround it. Historians seem to agree that this pyramid is Aztec, and that it was built in honour of the God Quetzalcoatl. It is situated about eight miles from the city of Puebla and close to the village of Cholula, which is an historic spot in Mexican History. It is made of earth and stone, and many sun-baked bricks and some mortar can be seen. Its height is 249 feet, and its base is 1,423 feet long. History tells us that Quetzalcoatl stopped here, and that is why the pyramid was erected, and a great temple, dedicated to him, was built on the top. After the conquest by Cortes, the Spaniards destroyed the Aztec temple, and built on the same place a church, which still exists. The pyramid looks much more like a natural hill than like an artificial mound, as it is overgrown with vegetation, and even big trees grow all over it. However, on close inspection, one can at once see that it is all artificial. There is a winding stair-way on its west side, and on reaching the top one is rewarded by the beautiful panorama of valleys and snow-tipped mountains. Some stone idols, painted vases, and human remains were found here in a stone chamber some years ago. This pyramid is certainly one of the largest which exist, and it is especially noticeable on account of its breadth.

Around this structure are found many other smaller pyramids, or teocalli, some of which are merely mounds over which the ploughman has gone with his oxen and rude Indian plough.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

The Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

Smaller Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

The Pyramid.





The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

Steps leading up to the Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

Steps leading up to the Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF CHOLULA.

Church on the Pyramid.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Tehuacán.

In olden times Tehuacán used to be an important place, but now there only remains a big mound on which a church was built by the conquering Spaniards, and round it there are many small mounds which have not been excavated or explored. The place used to be a sanctuary of the Mexicans and was called Teohuacan which means the "dwelling-place of the Gods." These Gods were of the Mixtecs. When the Spaniards came in 1520 the Indians who had already settled here long before, quietly accepted the conquest, and to-day a fair sized town flourishes close to the old settlement.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF TEHUACÁN.
The Pyramid at El Calvario.

THE RUINS OF TEHUACÁN.
Mounds near the Pyramid.

THE RUINS OF TEHUACÁN.
The Church on the Pyramid at El Calvario.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Atlixco.

About six miles from the town of Atlixco, capital of the District of the same name, is found a burial ground of the Aztecs; this place is called "Mictlantogco," which means in the Aztec language, "Place where they bury the dead."

The whole district is covered with mounds, or teteles, as they are called here, some large, others small; in the middle stands a very big one which overlooks all the others around it. Very few of these mounds have been explored, but in those that have been opened many pieces of pottery, idols, beads and other objects have been found. Several big idols that were found here have been removed, and only one, representing Death, now remains. There is no doubt but that this spot was a cemetery of the Mexicans, as besides the skeletons found under the mounds, bones and many remains have been discovered all over the surrounding district, and as this ground has been ploughed for many years, bones are still discovered every time that the ground is newly tilled.

All around this place there are remains of ancient dwellings, but only the foundations are now visible, and this district must have been inhabited pretty thickly before the Spaniards came.

Nothing now remains of interest here but this burial ground, which, whenever it is explored, will probably give up some valuable relics of Aztec civilization.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF ATLIXCO.
The Mounds or Teteles.

THE RUINS OF ATLIXCO.
The Statue of Death.

THE RUINS OF ATLIXCO.
General view of the Mounds.



The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Tepeaca.

Tepeaca is one of the oldest cities in the Republic, and the old Spanish historian, Bernal Diaz del Castillo, mentions that when the Spaniards came, it was a very flourishing city and that all the neighbouring towns and villages used to get their supplies from here for their pottery ware, of which they used a great quantity, and he says that Tepeaca was to Mexico what Talavera was to Spain.

The truth of this statement is proved by the millions of broken pieces of pottery found strewn all over the fields which surround Tepeaca. The pottery is nearly all painted and some most beautiful designs are seen. The colours are still quite clear and are chiefly bright red, yellow, white and black. Now and then whole pieces are taken out from the Aztec graves, and the colouring and shapes are most beautiful.

Several mounds exist all around the town, but none of these are very large.

In the market square is set up a stone ring which the Aztecs used for their ball game. This ring is of great interest as it has hieroglyphics on both sides around the hole in the centre. It is placed quite close to a curious watch-tower, built by the conqueror, Hernán Cortes, who resided here for some time, having built a house for himself on a hill close by. This ring is of the same shape as those found in Yucatán, where at the ruins of Chichen Itzá one of these rings is still standing in the wall of the Court used by the Mayas for ball play.

Close to the City of Tepeaca is a mound having several floors. These have been found to have been painted, as the mortar in some places is red or yellow, while in others it is white or blue. This mound has been nearly all destroyed, as they plough over it, and many relics have been dug up.

In a village called Santa Maria Oxtotipam, I saw a most curious burial ground, such as I had never seen in Southern Mexico. There is a deep gully with flowing water and on each side of the ravine, from the base to the top, are found Aztec graves. One can see that the sides have been filled in artificially, and holes are visible which, when dug out, lead to a chamber like a big bowl all plastered over with a sort of clay. Human remains are found at the bottom of this big bowl-shaped grave,

The Ruins of Mexico.

and fine pieces of pottery are invariably found with the skeletons, one big vase always on the chest with the arms and hands of the dead Aztec over it.

This place reminds one very much of the cliff-dwellers of North America and is quite a unique sight in this part of the country.

Very few of the graves have been explored, and much will be found here of interest.

The natives of this village still bury their relatives with pottery and food, and keep up many of the old Aztec customs.

The town of Tepeaca is now of very little importance. No pottery is made here, and nothing but a shadow remains of its past greatness.

The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

Ring used in ball game.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

Ring used in ball game.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

The Mounds.





The Ruins of Mexico.
STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

Graves on cliffs.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

Graves on cliffs.

THE RUINS OF TEPEACA.

Aztec graves on cliffs.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

The Ruins of Acatlán.

Fifteen miles from the town of Acatlán, in the village of Guadalupe, District of Acatlán, and near the remains of an old settlement or Pueblo Viejo, called Titzilín, exists a huge stone, called by the natives Peña Prieta, which has engraved on it a most interesting figure of an Aztec God, with hieroglyphics around it.

This huge rock measures about thirteen feet in length, nine feet in width, and about six feet in thickness, but the engraved figure measures only about four feet in length.

There is no doubt that this monolith belongs to the Aztec civilisation, though it is found in the midst of the Mixteca country. Probably an Aztec settlement flourished here at some time, or the carving was made to commemorate some Aztec battle or glorious event.

The God is very well finished on the hard rock and according to the archæologist Mena, it represents the Fire-God of the Mexicans, or Xiuntecuhtli-Tletl as he was called. The God is formed like the figure of a human being bending forward, and has a fine head-dress with plumes, and a mask on the face. Implements of war are in each hand, and on both sides are fine hieroglyphics, one of them stating a date.

This stone is found on one side of the road, and above it, on a very high hill, having its top covered with immense flat rocks, are engraved a number of other figures, also Aztec. Some of these are rather worn away, but many other Gods and hieroglyphics are still visible. These are about the same size as the Fire-God, and must have been made about a similar time; they are all carved on the ground rock, and being so, it is very difficult to take good photographs of them; all are most interesting, and a complete study should be made of these relics.

Close by, on a small hill, are seen the remains of some walls, mounds, and foundations. This old settlement is called Titzilín in the Mixteco language, and probably the Aztecs fought a great battle here and defeated the Mixtecos, and the warriors, to commemorate the events had these Aztec hieroglyphics put on the rocks as an everlasting memorial. In the same District of Acatlán there is a village called Chila, where a big pyramid is to be seen.

The Ruins of Mexico.

STATE OF PUEBLA.

THE RUINS OF ACATLÁN.

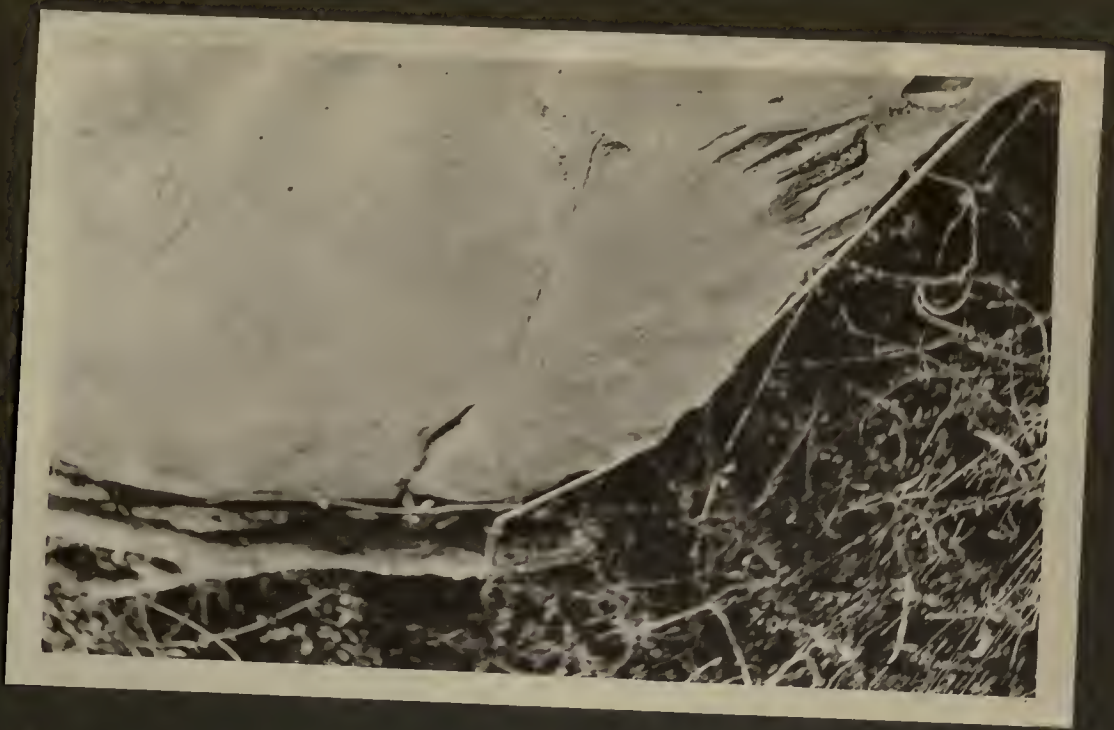
Fire-God carved on Rock.

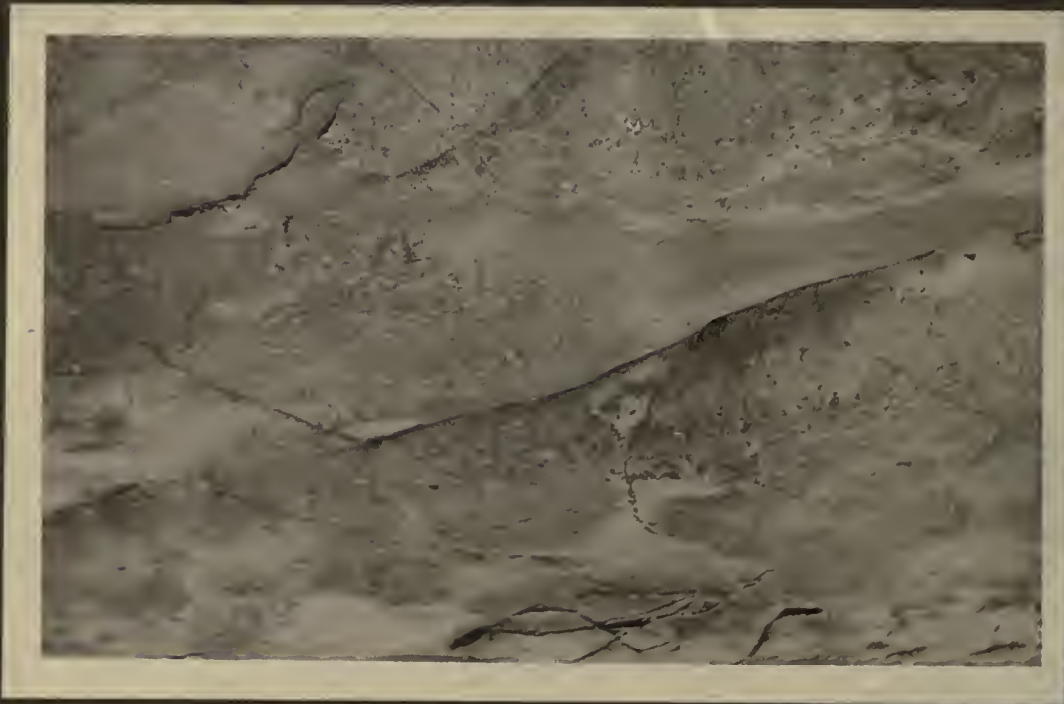
THE RUINS OF ACATLÁN.

Fire-God carved on Rock.

THE RUINS OF ACATLÁN.

Hieroglyphics on the Rocks.





The Ruins of Mexico.
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