

## INTRODUCTION.

THE following lines must be accepted in the aggregate as a collection of private notes, no pretence at authorship being intended. A series of comprehensive memoranda for personal satisfaction only, that has become so voluminous, that possibly other people may derive more interest and information from its perusal than is to be obtained from any other individual source, especially as such is not always available.

As a rule, my most direct and authentic data has been culled from the works of Mr John L. Stephens, although also having had at my disposal a large library of reference works, such as those by Cogolludo, Carrillo Ancona, Juan Francisco Molina, Plongeon, Prescott, Lever, and various others, but Stephens has generally been before me in all the details of my studies, and has left his especial footmarks or tracks for me to follow in, and guide me, wherever necessary to investigate a troublesome question. I have availed myself therefore of the marvellous experience contained in his very excellent and interesting books, and freely admit him as the only reliable basis or foundation for my statements, as I notice all modern writers do, whether openly or indirectly.

I must also express my obligation to the recent very able Consul of the United States, Mr Edward H. Thompson, for the valuable assistance he has given me, he having been in this neighbourhood for nearly a quarter of a century, and whose thorough and unequalled practical and theoretical knowledge of the ancient ones, has been of the greatest benefit to me. He during the time stated has to a great extent devoted himself to