

study and investigation, the consequence is, that to day, no living person can dare challenge his assertions, or in vulgar parlance, presume to hold the proverbial candle to him, with respect to the knowledge of Yucatan antiquities and folk-lore.

It must be remembered that the writer has been a continuous resident in Mexico for over quarter of a century, and in Yucatan for nearly five years, during which time, it is only reasonable to suppose his opportunities have been great, in collecting the veritable information given in these notes, and although there is a notable lack of concordance in what is offered, and that published by other writers, it must not be forgotten that many people gifted with fertile imaginations, and possessing a well developed bump of credulity, are only too prone to put on paper what they think they have seen or heard, from apparently a reliable source during their hurried trip, often as has been stated by an American, perpetuating as facts, what they have seen from the car window, as the train hurriedly carried them across country. There are instances also, too well known, that, writers are too liable to air their private grudges or petty annoyances in print.

We remember once being told by a Norwegian captain, that he considered the inhabitants of London thoroughly corrupt, the men liars, thieves and swindlers, and the women highly immodest and vitiated; upon investigation, it was ascertained that he drew his inferences and conclusions from the denizens of Ratcliffe Highway, Billingsgate, and Whitechapel, the only parts of London, those near the Docks, that he had occasion to know, and upon which alone he formed his conclusions.

We fear we might apply similar foundations to a great deal of so-called traveller's experiences, for we have unfortunately recently seen works on Yucatan, containing information of such baseless description, as to be thoroughly unreliable, and not worthy of a moment's consideration, but still the remarks made are apt to cause wrong impressions to be formed, besides injudiciously and uselessly hurting people's susceptibilities, by publishing gross insults of personal, and positive defamation of national character.