

Excuse should nevertheless be given, as frequently travelers are very easily taken in, their gullibility being only too noticeable, people bright and intelligent in their own countries, are very often the easiest imposed upon abroad.

In the year 1822, an Englishman living in Guatemala, having access to, and accidentally finding among the archives of that country, a document, calling attention to the fact, that marvellous ruins of an Egyptian character had been found, in the Mexican States of Yucatan and Chiapas, and which document he translated and published. It produced no effect whatever, as there was no means of getting there, or convenient line of steamers communicating with the locality; nothing was done in consequence or interest excited except in very isolated cases, Lord Kingsborough in particular subsequently published a magnificent work on the ruins he had seen, but which publication costing a prohibitive sum, was out of the reach of many, consequently years went past, and people remained unaware of the priceless prehistoric treasures that were in many instances fast going to irretrievable decay. However in the year 1831, "The Literary Gazette" possessing a large circulation in London, published an article to the effect, that if a like discovery had been made in Italy, Greece, Egypt or Asia, and within the reach of European travel, it would have created an interest not inferior to the discovery of Herculaneum or Pompeii, or the ruins of Paestum, but even this announcement caused no excitement, and from investigation, we find that nothing was done until the year 1841, when an American scientist, a Mr John L. Stephens, together with an English artist, a Mr. Catherwood, under instructions from the United States Government, came to the scenes in question, and subsequently published an illustrated work, that has become the basis and foundation of all archaeological treatises that have from time to time appeared since, on the local ruins, besides having been published at a more or less popular price, and by which means alone, thousands of persons have read about the marvellous remains, and proportionately speaking tens of people have come to the places to have ocular demonstration of what they had read.