

single apartment, once covered with plaster, and along the top of the wall, under the arch, are seen the traces of a line of medallions in plaster, which originally contained hieroglyphics. The smaller building of the two is of no apparent importance or special interest.

Leaving the "Iglesia", and after proceeding four hundred feet in a Northerly direction, along the path shown on the Map, we reach a particularly picturesque building, conspicuous among the ruins belonging to Chichen Itzá, it is unique in plan and outline, bearing no similarity to any other edifice in Chiapas or Yucatan, with the exception of a very ruined structure at Mayapan, it being circular in form, the shape of its chambers and above all the peculiar inner stairway winding around a solid centre, have combined, caused the natives to call it

"El Caracol" or the House of the Snail.

Its purpose is unknown, but from its construction, and the position of its outlook, it is believed to have been devoted to astronomical study. From the fact that the Calendar system being so accurately computed, it is clear that the learned ones, the wise men among those people were astronomers, not mere star gazers, and there are found among the Mayas of the present day, those that have a surprising knowledge of celestial geography.

The edifice rises like a turret, forty feet in height, with an interior diameter of twenty six feet six inches, which in its turn has a solid centre seven feet six inches in diameter, all stands upon a base consisting of two terraces, the lower one of which is two hundred and twenty three feet from North to South, with a width of one hundred and fifty feet from East to West. The remains of a grand staircase forty feet wide, containing, twenty steps, rises to the base of the upper terrace