

## NOHPAT.

These ruins lie about three miles from the village of Nocacab, which place although only about eight kilometres South of Ticul, is thoroughly behind the times, the inhabitants only a few years ago, running away and hiding themselves on the approach of strangers. The apparent decadence calls attention, as every appearance exists throughout the neighbourhood that it once had been a very thickly populated and important district, but now, directly after leaving the main road, little is known of one or the other. The very names of the places in the Maya tongue are suggestive, Nohpat meaning "a great lord or señor", and Nocacab signifying "the great place of the good land". The people belonging to the neighbourhood, are satisfied now to buy all their small wants at Ticul, considering that place their capital, and never thinking of coming to Merida, which has a distance of only eighty kilometres but is considered too far away, and no desire is evinced to ever visit the place.

Stephens adds that immediately after leaving the village of Nocacab, and fifteen minutes after turning off from the main road, are found the ruined relics and shattered remains of another ruined city. In making excavations near by, different sorts of vases and other vessels were dug up, and once a sculptured head was also similarly exposed. On a mound, one hundred and fifty feet on the slope, and about two hundred and fifty feet square at the base, stood a building which consisted of a single corridor, only three feet five inches wide. The original foundation of the building, had given way and separated, which dissolution was caused by the heavy rains. Great stone steps were found on the South side, at the base of which steps, was a large flat stone, eleven feet four inches long by three feet and ten inches broad, bearing in bas-relief, with sculpture rude