

## BOLONCHEN.

The name of this place is derived from the Maya words, "bolon" ten, and "chen" wells, which same are to be found in the plaza of the village, and which plaza has formed the centre of a population from time immemorial. No document is available to tell us of the origin of the wells which unfortunately are as little thought of, and uncared for by the inhabitants, as the ruined cities which are so frequently found in their midst apparently nobody cares anything or wants to know, seemingly perfectly satisfied to remain in their blissful ignorance, unfortunately this remark applies equally to the peon and to those in a higher degree.

The wells are circular cut in the rocky stratum, which as we have before stated, seems to prevail throughout the whole State of Yucatan, the water in all instances is at the same level, but differs frequently in its depth from the surface. The source of this water is a mystery to the inhabitants, but there are some facts which seem to render the solution simple. The wells being perforations through an irregular stratum of rock, all communicate, and in the dry season, a man may descend into one, and come out by another, even at the extreme end of the plaza, it is manifest therefore, that the water does not proceed from springs. Besides the wells are full during the rainy weather, and when that is over, the waters begin to disappear, failing altogether in the middle of the dry season, from which it would appear that under the surface, there is a great rocky cavern, into which the floods caused by the rains, find a way by crevices, or other openings, which cannot be positively known without a survey of the country being made, but presuming upon the above theory, the waters having little or no escape, are retained, and furnish a supply, as long as they are added to from time to time, by the rains.