

## LABPHAK

About half way between Bolouchenticul and Iturbide, and consequently in the State of Campeche, lies what is left of the grand and important ruins of Labphak. These consist of an edifice of three stories, although the third is only a bare dead wall, without any doorways, being as the indians said, the casa cerrada or closed house, but which the cura and alcalde of Bolouchenticul intended to open with powder, their curiosity prompting them to see if it contained anything of value, and with that object in view did not seem to hesitate at causing an irretrievable amount of damage, there were no conservators in those days, to prevent the vandalism, and as everything else in the country, the theory prevailed that the end justified the means. The whole building with all its terraces, were overgrown with gigantic trees. Interior staircases, for the first time, were found in this edifice, one of which was in good condition still. Stephens finding all complete not a step being out of place. An extensive view was obtained from the roof. The lowest range or story is one hundred and forty five feet in length, the roof and portion of the façade had fallen, almost burying the centre doorways. The building also possessed a gigantic staircase, forty feet wide, besides some excellent stucco bas-reliefs, to a certain extent similar to those found at Palenque, but decidedly inferior in every respect.

Near by other buildings, adorned with stucco, were found in the dense woods, and that more exist, there is no doubt, but as there is no person in this country, who has interest in searching, there they must lie, and as Stephens said, remain a rich and almost unbroken field for the future explorer, and no study would better deserve or repay a month's exploration.