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Looking Back at Ancient America

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LOOKING BACK AT

Ancient America

By WILLIAM and DEWEY FARNSWORTH

*Publishers of "Buried Empires of South America"
and "Grandeurs of Ancient America."*



KABAH

The city of Kabah is directly south of the great city of Uxmal in Yucatan. The first view discloses a huge mound or platform of stone, containing no less than eight million cubic feet of solid stone cemented and surmounted by splendid buildings of astounding proportions. One immense structure is the temple of justice containing many rooms, some of which are so badly ruined it is impossible to estimate their number.

THE COLOSSAL HEAD OF HUEYAPA

In the vicinity of Vera Cruz in the little village of Tres Zapotes, recent remarkable discoveries have been made. One is in the form of a giant stone head, skillfully carved from a large block of basalt which had become blackened from exposure to the elements. The head terminates at the neck, resting on a foundation of unworked stones.



THE GREAT ARCH OF LABNA (Below)

The ancient ruined structures of Central America present one great contrast to modern architecture, in the absence of the arch. The Mayas were greatly restricted in their architectural achievements because they never discovered the principal of the true arch. Their temple walls were very thick and high, being divided into single chambers which were extraordinarily narrow in comparison to their length and height. Perhaps their chief reason for constructing their buildings in this manner was that it permitted the erection of a very lofty and imposing roof comb, which could be easily spanned by the overlapping of single stones. As there are usually exceptions to the general rule, so there appears to be in the matter of the arch as in the ruined city of Labna, situated in the interior of Yucatan, where stands a celebrated Maya arch. This is a perfect specimen of this principle of architectural development and for nearly a thousand years has withstood the ravages of the elements and is still in sound condition.

