

TRAVELS IN



CENTRAL AMERICA

INCIDENTS
OF TRAVEL
IN
CENTRAL AMERICA

PHILIPS & GUTTENBERG

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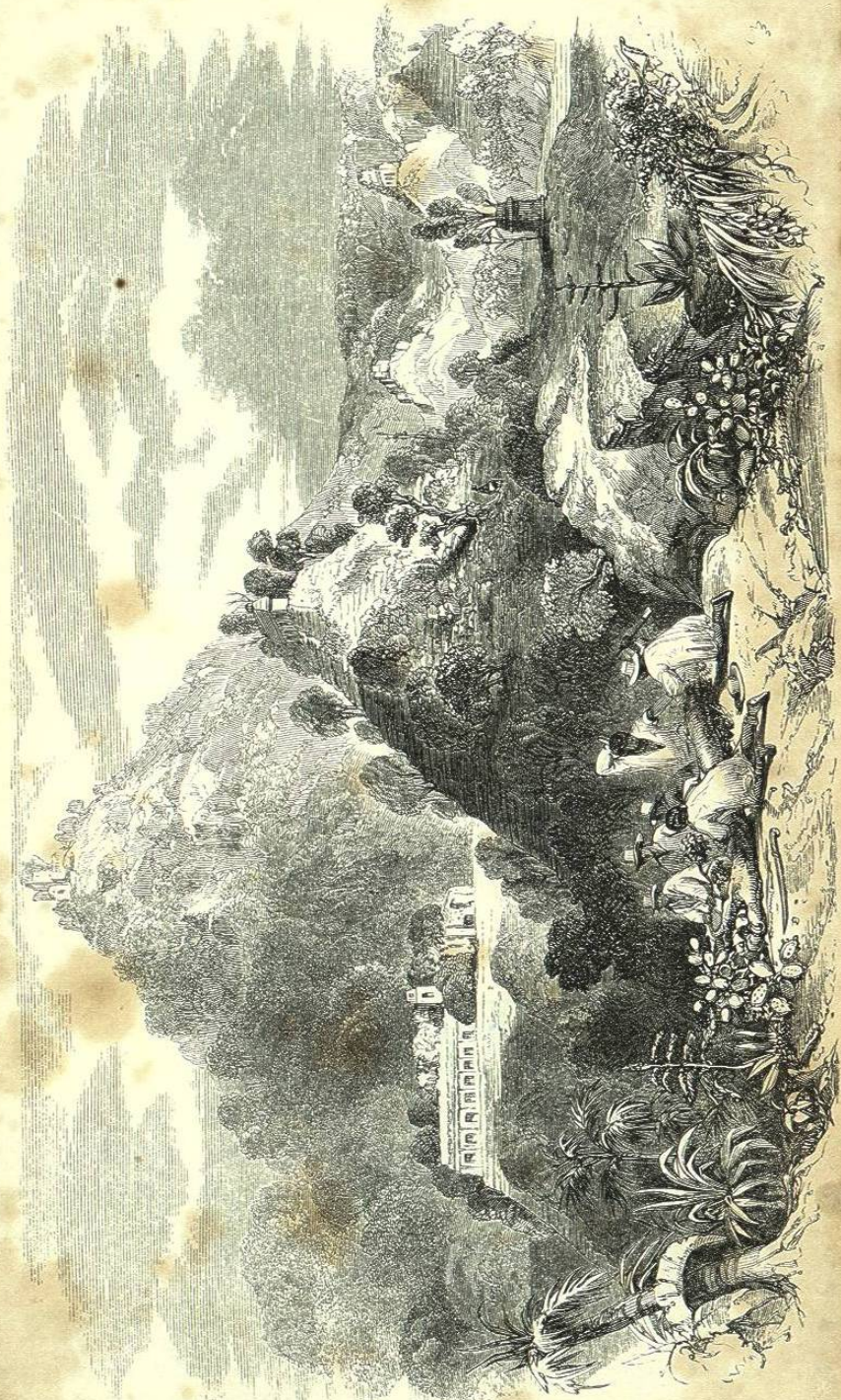
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GENERAL VIEW OF PALENQUE, Yucatan.

F. Catherwood.

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL
IN
CENTRAL AMERICA, CHIAPAS,
AND YUCATAN.

BY THE LATE
JOHN LLOYD STEPHENS.

With numerous Engravings.

REVISED FROM THE LATEST AMERICAN EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS,
BY FREDERICK CATHERWOOD.

LONDON:
ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE & CO.
25, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1854.



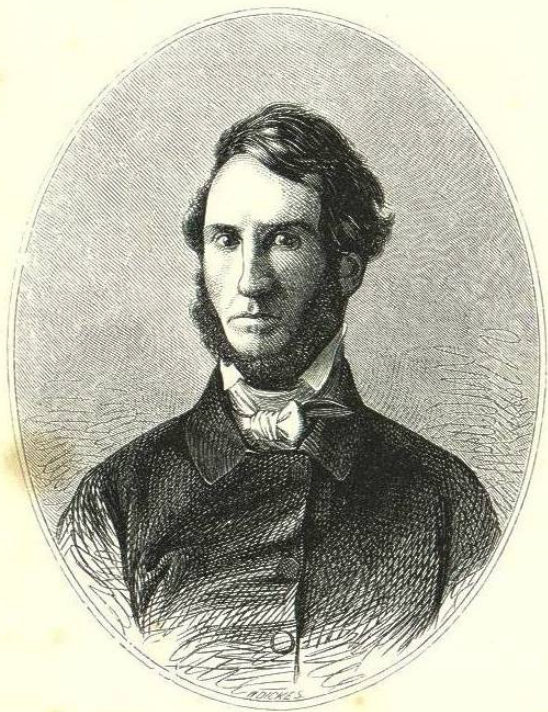
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FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

LONDON:

R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.



PORTRAIT OF MR. STEPHENS.

(From a Daquerreotype.)

PREFACE.

IN preparing the present Work for publication in a cheap form, and which, although it has been favourably received by the British Public, has never before been printed in England, I have not omitted any of the Illustrations which appear in the American Edition, and have given some additional ones, which are now published for the first time.

The Illustrations are all re-engraved from the Original Drawings and Sketches, and the greatest attention has been paid to make them accurate.

The reader will thus have the entire discoveries and anti-quarian researches as at first presented, and the material wherewith to form a correct judgment of their character and importance.

I have found it necessary to curtail a portion of the narrative written by Mr. Stephens, with a view of condensing the whole into a single volume; but those parts only are omitted which

appeared to me of less interest, as not being connected with the original, and, I may say, only object of our journey, an Exploration of the Ruined Cities of Central America, the appointment of Mr. Stephens as Special Confidential Agent from the United States to Central America, having taken place but a very short time previous to our leaving, and after all our arrangements were completed.

Should this volume be favourably received, it will be followed by a continuation of our travels in Yucatan in the years 1841, 1842.

F. CATHERWOOD.

LONDON, *Feb.* 1854.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

A SHORT biographical notice of my late fellow-traveller may not be uninteresting to the readers of the present volume. Mr. John Lloyd Stephens, the second son of Mr. Benjamin Stephens, was born at Shrewsbury in the State of New Jersey, in the United States of America, in the year 1805. Until the age of thirteen, Mr. Stephens studied at the school of Mr. Nelson, who, although blind, is described as an admirable teacher of the classics. For four years Mr. Stephens pursued his studies at Columbia College, New York, afterwards entered a law school, and when of age was admitted to the practice of the legal profession.

In the year 1834, the state of Mr. Stephens's health rendering it necessary for him to travel abroad, he visited many of the countries of Europe, extending his tour to Egypt and Syria. On his return to New York, he published "Incidents of Travel in Egypt, Arabia, Petraea, and the Holy Land," followed very shortly by "Incidents of Travel in Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Poland."

These works were received with great favour, and were very extensively read in the United States; and in this country have been several times reprinted, establishing Mr. Stephens's reputation as an excellent and agreeable writer of Travel and Narrative.

In 1839 Mr. Stephens and myself made arrangements for a tour in Central America, with a view to the examination of the remains of ancient art said to exist in the dense forests of those tropical regions.

Our preparations were scarcely completed, when Mr. Leggett, who was on the point of setting out as United States Minister for that country, died very suddenly, and upon application for it, Mr. Stephens immediately received the appointment. We had some misgivings lest it should interfere with our antiquarian pursuits, but Mr. Stephens contrived, as the reader will find, to combine the chase after a Government with a successful hunt for ruined cities. Our journey occupied about seven or eight months of the years 1839 and 1840.