

corner of the Eastern Court, and thence carried to the southern end of Mound 18 and thrown into the river. The same plan was adopted with the earth, which was carried away in wheelbarrows.

"The eastern wing proved to be a building consisting of two rooms, 24½ feet long and 17 feet wide. The southern or back wall rests on one of the terraces of Pyramid 16. The northern wall, 2.4 feet in thickness, through which a doorway 6.25 feet in width gives access to the first chamber, is almost destroyed, only the base stones remaining in place. The eastern and western walls are about 2 feet in thickness.

"The northern chamber is 20 feet 6 inches long and 5 feet 8 inches wide. Its floor is raised by a single step in the entrance to a height of 1 foot above the pavement outside. In either end of the chamber small niches, about 2 feet in width and about 3 feet above the floor, had been left in the walls. In the centre of the southern side a doorway 7 feet wide gives access to a second chamber, whose floor is raised 9 inches above the floor of Chamber 1. Chamber 2 is of the same length as that of the first room, and 6½ feet wide. In the eastern wall is a niche 2 feet 10 inches above the floor and 2½ feet wide. Above the floor of the niche, which is cemented to a depth of 2 inches, the wall is destroyed. In the western wall is a niche 2 feet 1 inch above the floor; this is 2 feet 1 inch wide, 1 foot 7 inches high, and 10 inches deep.

"A few fragments of animal bones were found resting on the cement in this niche.

"The height of the terrace of Pyramid 16, on which the southern wall of the building rests, above the floor of Room 2, is 2 feet 9 inches, and is covered with 4½ inches of cement, making a total height of 3 feet 1½ inches. It has a slant of 4 inches from the base.

"The height of Chamber 2, from the floor to where the roof-stones begin, is 6 feet 3 inches. The western wall of the room, at present, is 5 feet 8 inches in height. Adjoining the western wall of this building there is a single chamber, the southern wall being built against and partly resting on the terrace of Pyramid 16. This Chamber 3 is 11 feet 9 inches long and 5 feet 7 inches wide. The doorway is 3 feet 9 inches wide, and the northern wall is 1 foot 7 inches in thickness.

"In the southern wall are three niches 2 feet 8 inches from the floor; they average 2 feet in width, 1 foot 7 inches in height, and are 1 foot 4 inches deep at the base, and 3 inches deeper at the top, owing to the slant of the terrace against which the lower part of the wall is built.

"In the western end of the room are two ledges running the width of the chamber. The first is 2 feet 10 inches high, and 1 foot 3 inches wide; the second is 3 feet above the first, and is of the same width; both are covered with cement. The wall against which these ledges are built is 3 feet 3 inches in thickness. The stones of the roof at the western end of the chamber are still in position, but are somewhat sunken, the height from the floor to the base of the capstone being about eight feet. The top of the roof at the northwestern corner is still intact; it is covered with two inches of cement, and is 9 feet 3 inches above the floor of the chamber.

"The western wing is 38.5 feet long, and consists of a single chamber, with an entrance about 10 feet wide on the east. In the doorway two steps lead down to a platform or terrace 5.50 feet wide, running the whole length of the front; a flight of four steps leads from the platform to the pavement below. The walls of the chamber are nearly all destroyed; in the southern end the floor is raised 2.5 feet. The

northern wing seems to have been built later than the eastern. All the floors in this building are made of mortar cement.

"The sculptures found in the digging were few and unimportant. In the chamber between the two wings were found a small shallow bowl, a fine chalcedony spear-point, two broken obsidian spear-points, a few obsidian knives and flakes, some fragments of polished bone, and a small pottery face. No lintels of any kind were found about the doorways, and there was nothing to indicate the purpose for which the rooms were used."

From the elevation on which this structure is built, the Western Court is reached by a fine flight of steps of solid masonry, well preserved (15). At a short distance to the south of this stairway, in the Western Court, stands Stela P, facing the west; Catherwood's drawing of this face is given opposite page 140, Vol. I. of Stephens' "Incidents of Travel in Central America."

Farther south, at a few feet from the base of Pyramid 16, is Altar Q. This is described by Stephens, pages 141-2, Vol. I., with reproductions of Catherwood's drawings. Directly west from this is a flight of steps, with a plain circular stone at its base, ascending the raised platform (13), on which are strewn some broken fragments of sculpture and a quantity of loose building stone. At the southern end of this court is the structure designated 14, partly explored by Maudslay in 1885, and again by Saville and Owens in 1891-92. It resembles the foundation of a building, but does not seem to have supported a building of any kind. In front of its northern wall is a platform raised in three steps, running nearly the entire length of the structure. Two circular blocks of stone, each pierced by a hole in the centre, are placed symmetrically at either end of the platform; their use is not apparent, but they may have been used to support poles for an awning. On the north side of the mound, opposite the corners, are large flat slabs, each with an inscription around three sides. They are now displaced and broken. A number of loose sculptures, which are described by Maudslay (pages 23 and 24), are lying about the floor of the court.

Directly above Altar Q on the slope of Pyramid 16, the stairway by which the slope is ascended is divided from the twentieth step by a raised structure formed of large steps having, in high relief in front, rows of what have been called "death's heads." They look like the skulls of monkeys, as Stephens suggests, bare of flesh but with the eyeballs glaring in their sockets.

Maudslay made an excavation into the top of the mound where the temple stood, and found portions of the walls of a lower chamber, and part of a stairway which led to upper chambers of which nothing remains. Among other sculptures lying in the interior of the chamber mentioned, Maudslay describes (page 25) "a number of small human and grotesque heads" which "formed the ornaments of a cornice round the wall about seven feet above the cement floor."

From the Western Court a passage or gateway leads into the narrow court just south of Pyramid 16. On the right hand are the remains of some long stone houses, and directly back of these the terrace terminates in the southern slope of the Main Structure, broken by the terrace on which is Mound 29. This terrace forms the southern termination of the Main Structure. An inclined plane (42) leads from it to the ground below, which is covered with the remains of stone houses. From the passage-way leading to the Eastern Court, a steep flight of steps leads to the terrace (17), bounded on the east by a long range of steps or seats leading to another terrace, which terminates in the irregular contour of the cliff at a height of a hundred feet above the river. On the northern half of this terrace there still remains part of a building (19), most of which has fallen down the face of the cliff. Still farther north are the remains of a high tower or temple (20), partly explored by Maudslay. A portion of it has fallen away into the river below, and the remainder overhangs the very brink of the precipice. Maudslay, on pages 26-27, gives the following account of his discoveries at this point:—

"This line of tumbled stones (No. 19) I examined with great care, and was successful in making out that it was the remains of a row of houses which had extended nearly the whole length of the terrace, the greater part of which had fallen away into the river below. At the north end of this row of houses, there stands, facing the Eastern Court, another raised foundation (No. 20), which supported the most curious building the excavations brought to light,—no doubt the same building which Palacio describes as a tower. Such a mass of stone had fallen down into the court below, that the stone slope and steps leading up to the building were completely hidden. On the side towards the river, traces of a wall were found almost overhanging the cliff, which here measures 107 feet in height from the level of the river."

"The central doorway is approached from the Eastern Court by a flight of steps; on each side of the doorway a platform or terrace 9 feet wide runs in front of the building; 7 or 8 feet inside the doorway, another flight of steps commences and runs through to the back wall of the building, rising about 14 feet. At the distance of 4 feet 9 inches from the back wall, other steps turn to the north, and lead up to a narrow landing which gives access to what seems to have been an upper chamber; only a small portion of the surface of the wall and the cement of the floor of this chamber can now be traced. The stairways were covered by parallel-laid stone vaults. . . . The most curious feature of this building is the existence of chambers which have been purposely blocked up before the ruin commenced. . . . I cleared out the rough blocks of stone and earth which filled up the lower chamber on the south side of the steps, and found the walls and cement floor almost perfect. The front wall was pierced 3 feet above the floor by two narrow slits 6 inches wide, which appeared to extend to the top of the wall, in which were found some fragments of rough pottery. It did not appear as if this chamber had ever been roofed in. I did not remove the stones at the opening towards the stairway, as these had been built up into a faced wall, and still supported some of the roof-stones of the

ruined vault over the steps. In the same way the steps leading to the upper chamber had been blocked up, and the faced wall used as a support for the vaulting. . . . The only suggestion I can offer in explanation of this state of things is that the builders were not satisfied with the stability of the parallel-laid vaulting over such a large space, and had sacrificed the chambers in order to strengthen the roof over the stairway.

"Projecting from the wall on each side of the steps were two grotesquely carved heads, which probably supported a rope from which a curtain was suspended. . . .

"A large mass of broken sculptured stones lying near to or buried in the rubbish surrounding this building shows how elaborate its exterior ornamentation must have been. Amongst these remains are portions of a great human figure, which was probably seated cross-legged over the doorway."

To the north of this is Temple 21, which was explored and cleared of debris by Owens and Saville in 1891-92. It rises from the elevated terrace (Plate III. 2) at the north side of the Eastern Court, and, together with the Great Temple (22), explored by Maudslay in 1885, commands the northern side of the Main Structure above the Eastern Court. No. 22, one of the largest buildings that have so far been explored, is thus described by Maudslay (pages 27 to 29):—

"A very well-laid flight of steps, formed of large blocks of stone, leads to a platform in front of the centre doorway. This platform runs along the front of the building, and, at each end of the temple, is carried out at right angles as far as the line of the commencement of the steps. Two large grotesque faces and some handsome carved wing-stones extend across this platform to the head of the steps on either side of the doorway. The doorway itself is 9 feet wide, and was probably covered with a vaulted roof. In front of the doorway leading to an inner chamber is a step, 2 feet high and 15 feet long, carved on its face with hieroglyphs and skulls. At each end of this step is a human figure seated on a huge skull, supporting in its hand the head of a dragon, whose body is turned upwards, and is lost among the scroll-work and figures of a cornice which runs over the doorway. About four feet above the floor in each of the two positions marked X, a stone in the masonry of the wall is pierced by a hole through which a rope could be passed, and holes may also be noticed above the hieroglyphs on the step, which were probably needed for the support of curtains. How the roof of the passage between one chamber and the other was supported is a mystery. It was covered by a number of blocks of stone, and not by a single stone slab; and yet these blocks are square at their edges, and could not have formed part of a true nor of a parallel-laid arch. Possibly wooden jambs and architraves supported these blocks of stone; but if so, all trace of them has disappeared. . . .

"The floor and walls of the outer chamber, as well as the surface of the steps and terrace outside the house, bear traces of a coating of several layers of plaster, each layer differently colored, showing that the plaster had been frequently renewed, and this plaster coating appears also to have extended over the carved surface.

"The inner chamber is without ornament. Two stone incense-burners shaped

into grotesque heads, and some patches of charcoal, were found above the cement floor. The back wall of the house was only just traceable. The outer surface of the front wall facing the Eastern Court had almost disappeared; but that it must once have been elaborately ornamented is proved by the number of headless busts and other fragments of sculptured stone lying near it in all directions.

"On the outside wall of the building at the southwest corner are the remains of a huge grotesque face made up of several stones, much the same in design as the faces which form the principal decoration of some of the buildings in Yucatan. However, the trunk-like nose, which has there so greatly exercised the speculative powers of travellers, if it existed here cannot now be traced. I opened a passage about 4 feet wide between the west end of this house and another much-ruined building, and on this west wall I was able to see some of the ornament, if not exactly in position, at least giving evidence whence it had fallen.

"Three female figures, standing out in full relief from the waist upwards, with the left arm held across the body and the right hand extended in front, palm outwards, as if about to clap hands when in the act of singing, had been ranged along the upper part of this wall; and broken pieces of similar figures, found in other places, lead me to suppose that this decoration was continued all round the temple." (See Plate IX. 1, 2.)

The excavation of Mound 21 brought to light an interesting building occupying the space between Mounds 21 and 22; its walls abutting those of the two mounds. Although neither so large nor so elaborate as Temple 22, and apparently of less importance, it is one of the largest and most prominent of the temples.

From the manner of contact of its walls with those of the mounds, it seems to have been of later construction.

From the floor of the terrace that runs along the northern side of the Eastern Court above the range of seats, four steps (21 *a*) lead up to a terrace in front of the entrance to this temple (Plate IV. 1). A doorway, 7 feet wide, leads to an outer chamber, 25 feet long by 7 feet wide, with floor 12 inches higher than the terrace outside. Across the eastern end is a raised bench or table, 5 feet wide, covered on top with mortar cement, and in front of it is a step 8 inches wide. In the western end there is a square niche in the wall. In the centre of the northern wall is a doorway, 8 feet wide, leading to the second chamber. The floor of this second chamber is about 2 feet above the floor of the outer.

The row of stones composing the threshold projects three inches in front of the wall on the outside, and this projection continues the whole length of the wall. A row of carefully cut hieroglyphs runs along the face of this step, and continues to a distance of twenty inches on either side of the doorway. Under the centre of the doorway, and also at each side, the glyphs are replaced by two circular depressions connected by a loop. In the face of the stones below is a square depression, corresponding in position and width to the mark on the centre of the threshold, and on either side of it a smaller

square with the diagonals running vertically and horizontally; at a short distance on either side of this is a circular depression.

Nothing in the shape of lintels was found about either of the entrances. The inner chamber has the same dimensions as the outer, and like it is floored with a layer of mortar cement six inches thick. The southern wall is three feet thick, the wall dividing the two chambers three feet and a half, and the northern wall four feet and a half.

Outside the eastern wall of these chambers a narrow gallery running from north to south divides the building into two parts; the floor of this gallery is several feet above the level of the floor of the inner chambers, and the remains of the building to the east of this are at a higher elevation.

A stairway leads up from the floor north of Mound 20 to a landing with a small chamber in Temple 21 (Plate III. 2). From the north side of this landing a closed stairway, of which only four steps remain, probably led to a higher chamber or set of chambers. The stairway leading from the floor below is very steep, the steps consisting of two rows of stones, of which the upper projects two inches over the front of the lower. At either side are a number of little platforms at different elevations. The upper part of the stairway, where it passed over a transverse gallery, is gone, and the method is not apparent by which the steps were supported above the gallery.

To the east of this stairway on the level of the pavement is a low chamber or vault, roofed over with stone, covered with several layers of cement. It has two openings in front with lintels of stone, and a small passage leads from it to the face of the river front. On the front part of the roof was a terrace or platform, terminated on the north by two columns built of square blocks of stone, and apparently used to support the roof of another chamber or vault which is gone. Plate IV. Fig. 2, shows the masonry about these vaults, and the openings to the lower vault. A flight of four steps (seen on the right in the illustration), facing the west, leads up from the pavement directly in front of this vault, to a platform in front of a ruined wall, in which a doorway opens upon the remains of a cemented floor overhanging the river. The wall to the right of these steps has a panel formed by a projecting border of stones, and in the bottom of the wall a small opening leads to the face of the cliff. In the excavation of this temple many pieces of sculpture fallen from the ruined façades were removed during the progress of the work. In the interior of the chambers were found two faces in stucco, some obsidian spearpoints, and discs of obsidian, and a beautiful stone chisel.

Immediately north of these ruined temples the northern slope of the Main Structure (Plate II. 2) descends abruptly by large steps or terraces, now much broken and buried beneath quantities of building stone and broken sculptures fallen from the temples above. (Plate IX. 1, 2, 3.) At the foot of the