

**THE STORY OF EXTINCT
CIVILIZATIONS
OF THE WEST**

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The story of extinct civilizations of the West by Robert E. Anderson

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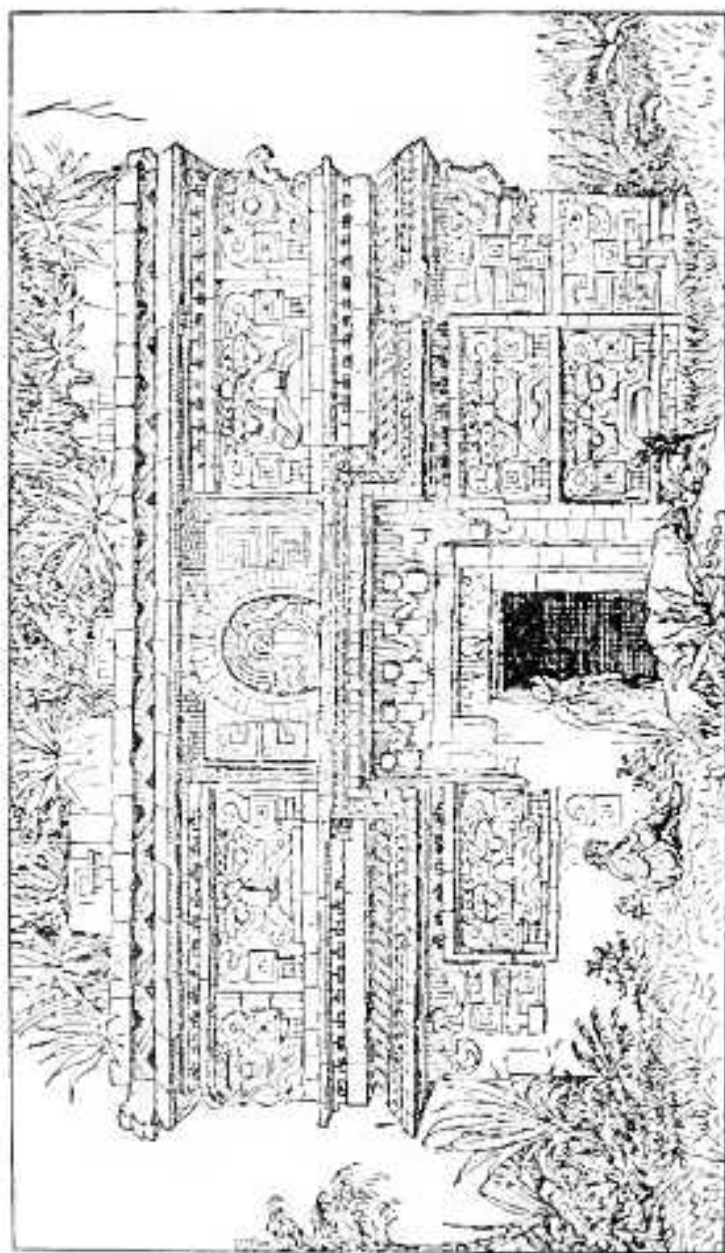
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ROBERT E. ANDERSON

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Pre-historic Structure, Uxmal (Yucatan), v. p. 78.

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BY

ROBERT E. ANDERSON, M.A., F.A.S

AUTHOR OF "EXTINCT CIVILIZATIONS OF THE EAST"

"Venient anis saecula seris
Quibus Oceanus vincula rerum
Laxet, et ingens pateat tellus,
Tethys que novos detegat orbes."

Seneca (*ib.*, pp. 10, 11).

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EXTINCT CIVILIZATIONS OF THE WEST

INTRODUCTION

THROUGHOUT all the periods of European history, ancient or modern, no age has been more remarkable for events of first-rate importance than the latter half of the fifteenth century. The rise of the New Learning, the "discovery of the world and of man," the displacement of many outworn beliefs, these with other factors produced an awakening that startled kings and nations. Then felt they like Balboa, when

. . . with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific, and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

It was at this historical juncture that the "Middle Ages" came to an end, and modern Europe had its beginning. (See Chap. II.)

Why was Europe so long in discovering the vast Continent which all the time lay beyond the Western Ocean? Simply because every skipper and every "Board of Admiralty" believed that this world on which we live and move is flat and level. They did not at all realise the fact that it is *ball*-shaped; and that