

covered with gorgeous blossoming vines. The population of Merida is largely of mixed Spanish and Indian descent while throughout the peninsula there is still a large number of Maya Indians.

While there are numerous ruined cities of ancient Maya glory such as Uxmal, Kaba, Labna, Coba, Tulum, and others, Chichen Itza has been the first to be restored and rebuilt in a large degree. It is situated in the north central part of Yucatan near a group of natural wells. ^{**}
Cenotes they are called in Spanish, but the Maya word Chichen means the mouth of the wells. The name Itza is probably that of the tribe which founded this ancient city.

The work of the archaeologists is an enormous task, sometimes filled with dramatic incidents, more often consisting of months of meticulous and laborious work. Every stone must be numbered, catalogued, and carefully described; its exact location and relative position observed and noted. Walls must be supported, excavations most painstakingly made, noting every particle of the debris. In the instance of two temples at Chichen Itza, it was discovered when the work was partially completed, that earlier structures lay buried within. It was necessary to insert steel girders to support the upper temples, in order to examine the buried ones, before resuming the work on the larger outer buildings. Sometimes exciting 'finds' are

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OOSHwahl, KahBAH, LabNAH, KoBAH, TooLOOM.

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SayNOTays.