

The Indians insist that these grinding stones found in the ground are far superior to those manufactured today, as they are of a better grain, and the corn, therefore, can be ground much finer on them.

The preparation of the corn for grinding and subsequent baking into tortillas is done in the following way. First the corn is boiled in water containing lime, whereby it swells up. Then this swollen corn is taken to the river where the lime is washed out by sieving the corn in a basket. Well cleaned in this way it is laid on the grinding stone. The person grinding stands at the higher end of the stone, and grinds by pressing and rolling a cylindrical stone pestle over the corn. This operation is repeated many times until the dough has the desired fineness. Then the dough is flattened out in the hand to make thin cakes varying in size according to the custom of the district, and laid over a clay disk resting on the three stones of the fireplace. The tortilla is baked on both sides, and is then ready for eating. These tortillas are the principal food of the Indians. To make them is a slow process and hard work. The Indian women spend, it appears, two thirds of their time in front of the metate preparing tortillas for the household.

After our meal we at once set out for the reported monuments. One of the sons of the house took it upon himself to guide us to them. They were there, to our great relief.

Through the forest and across a small stream, the Xuichapa, we came out in a clearing, and soon discovered that this clearing recently had been used as a pasture for cattle. It was infested with ticks, and before long we were covered with these pests. Walking along we would brush them off the smaller bushes onto our clothes, and these insects, as large as the head of a pin, at once started for every opening in our clothes in order to get at us.

On a slope facing towards the sea were several artificial mounds, and between two of these we at last came across the monument we were in search of. The information we had received from Mr. La Cerda, the Mexican engineer friend, who first drew our attention to this stone, proved correct. It was well carved, and around it lay several other carved stones. The principal monument, *Stela 1*, was a monolith, 2.02 meters long, the lower 18 c.m. of which was shaped into a plug. This plug fitted a nearly circular hole in a square stone tablet lying close to the Stela. Undoubtedly the monument once stood upright, the square stone forming the base. The Stela was an average of 35 c.m. broad, and on its front were a series of carvings. At first sight they looked Maya, but a closer investigation proved them not to be so. The best description of this monu-