

which seem to be rather huge jars of earthenware, four or five feet high and three in diameter, buried in the ground, and which correspond precisely to those now (1853) existing in Sonora and other gold districts of Mexico. The peculiar construction and locations of these receptacles, and the abundance of drinking water in close proximity, justify the conclusion that they were formerly used for washing gold . . .

"The number and variety of mounds found near San José render it a place of considerable interest. These are scattered over various points and generally composed of chalky earth, alternated by various coloured clay, beneath which are fragments of ancient vessels.



FIG. 61—Ixhuatlán, Ver. Idol found near the Village.

In examining some of these mounds, several copper hatchets and other antiquities have been discovered. The banks of the arroyos exhibit great quantities of plumbic ocre, and usually intersect strata of variegated clay suitable for purposes of pottery."

Mr. Williams states that gold has been washed in the rivers of the district. Now and then a few grains can still be washed out of the river sand, but the amount is so small that it has not been found profitable. This view is confirmed by the reports of the Conquerors, who tell us that they found only gold of poor grade in this district.

Unfortunately the writer was not acquainted with the Williams report when he, in 1921, passed through San José del Carmen, so that he was not able to investigate the wells which are mentioned.

Returning to the river, we continue upwards until we reach Paso Nuevo. It is the tradition that the town Espiritu Santo, the first town founded by the Spaniards, was located here. Now one only sees a few wretched huts on a hill. The surrounding corn fields, though, are full of potsherds and obsidian chips.

Thirty kilometers up the river from its mouth we pass the Usapaná river, one of the main tributaries to the Coatzacoácos, and shortly afterwards we reach the large oil refinery at Minatitlán, and the village supported by this industrial plant. It is an unattractive place, and the native inhabitants are more so.