

For many years two large stone monuments have stood in the yard of the Instituto Juarez, a school in Villahermosa, the capital of the State of Tabasco. Reports differed as to where they had come from. Some people said that they came from Blasillo, others that they came from La Venta. We were able to get the history of these monuments and to ascribe them definitely to the ruins of La Venta. About twenty years ago Don Policarpo Valenzuela, of the well-known Tabasco family, had a concession for cutting lumber in the territory along the Tonalá river. He found these monuments and removed them from La Venta to Blasillo on the river with the help of the oxen he was using in hauling lumber. We were told that he



FIG. 79—La Venta, Tab. Large Idol, now in Villahermosa.

had likewise tried to remove Altar 4, for which purpose he had dug a trench in front of the monument, but found it too heavy. He was unable to haul away the altar, and it sank down into the trench. The idols now found in Villahermosa are carved out of fine-grained sand stone just as the majority of the other idols of La Venta. The larger of these represents a sitting figure resting his hands on his feet. The smaller of the two has four faces, and is badly weathered. These two figures we have numbered Idols No. 1 and 2, number 1 being the larger (figs. 79-80).

The last monument shown us was a sand stone block, 2.10 meters broad, 3.70 meters long, and 1.30 meters thick, lying on the side of a small hill. It may have fallen face down, and as we were not equipped to turn such a huge block of stone we could not see whether it had carvings on its under side. On the back of the stone are some incisions made in recent days with steel tools. The Indians told us that they had tried to break it to see what was inside it, as they often had seen smoke rising from the stone. I think this smoke can be explained by the fact that the sandstone is porous and soaks up water when it rains, and when heated by the