

The pyramids in this country are also numerous. The largest is that of Cholula, which measures fourteen hundred and twenty-three feet in length, and one hundred and seventy-seven feet in height. It is built of alternate layers of clay and sun-burnt bricks, and is divided into four stories or stages, and ranges



*Pyramid at Cholula.*

exactly in the direction of the cardinal points. The ascent to the summit is by steps. In the interior has been discovered a vault with stone walls, roofed with beams of cyprus wood, containing skeletons, idols, &c. This large pyramid is surrounded by several smaller ones.

At Xochicalco, is a pyramid, which seems to have been formed by cutting a hill into an artificial shape. It is nearly three miles in circuit, from three to four hundred feet high, and encompassed by a ditch. It is divided into four terraces, and the intermediate slopes are covered with platforms, bastions, pyramidal and rectangular elevations and stages, one above the other, all faced with large porphyry stones, skilfully cut, but joined without cement. The construction of the stories is remarkably similar to the Egyptian style of architecture. On the stones of this pyramid are many figures sculptured in relief, some representing hieroglyphical signs, and others, human figures seated or legged, in the Asiatic manner, and crocodiles spouting water. Papanla are the remains of another pyramid, constructed of enormous blocks of hewn stone, regularly laid in cement. It is sixty feet high and eighty feet square. No city of any importance, at the time of the conquest, was without a number of the