

ancient Mexican painting, figured by Humboldt, "the man and woman who survived the age of water" are shown similarly inclosed in a leaf-tufted box, or hollow trunk of a tree;

Fig. 110.



OLD MEXICAN PICTURE.
(Humboldt.)

while a gigantic female,—Matalcueje, the goddess of water,—is seen pouring down her floods around them and upon an overwhelmed human figure, representative apparently of the victims of the catastrophe. All is classical in the forms of the one representation, and uncouth in those of the other. They bear the same sort of *artistic* relation to each other that the rude Tamauc tradition bears, in a *literary* point of view, to the well-constructed story and elegant verse of Ovid; but they are charged apparently with the same meaning, and shadow forth the same event.

The tradition of the Flood may, I repeat, be properly re-

two points of time. Two of the figures represent *Noe* and his wife quitting the ark; while the other two exhibit them as seated within it. An English print of the death of Abel, now before me, which dates a little after the times of the Revolution, shows, on the same principle, the two brothers, represented by four figures,—two of these quietly offering up their respective sacrifices in the background, and the other two grappling in deadly warfare in front.