

them; first, those representing inanimate objects, such as weapons, badges and various emblems which were familiar to the native races; second, animal effigies as such, using the word animal in the peculiar sense of four-footed beasts, and all creatures inhabiting the water or land, belonging to the order of mammalia; third, the effigies of birds and winged creatures. Another division might also be added, and made to include fishes, reptiles and such creatures as have neither wings nor legs.

With this classification we propose to give a description of some of the more common and prominent of the effigies, and shall first consider the inanimate objects, such as war-clubs, badges and other symbols of office. Under this head also, there are certain conventional forms, which neither bear resemblance to any animate or inanimate object, but which had become common as symbols. This same class would also embrace the so-called composite mounds. These bear the shape of animals in combination, forming figures which resemble the fabled creature called the chimera, which combined in one the head of the lion, the body of the goat, and the tail of the dragon. There are many such figures among the effigies, resembling, in some respects, the early pagan symbols, but differing from them.

The subject of symbolism is not understood, and it is difficult, at times, to separate the conventional and tribal signs from animal forms; and the danger is that we shall ascribe to the effigies the shapes of such symbols as we are familiar with, when in reality they represent animals and birds rather than symbols.

We begin with the symbol of the cross. This has been frequently referred to by Dr. Lapham in his work; but, in nearly every case where the cross is recognized by him, the effigy intended was that of a bird or some other animal. It would seem that no two specimens of the cross are alike. Sometimes it is in the shape of an upright bar, with a straight cross-piece, sometimes two bars crossing one another, the arms of equal length, but tapering towards the end; sometimes the standard is in a straight line, but the cross-bar forms oblique angles with it. Again, the cross-bar is curved, and the writer is doubtful whether it is a bird or a