

cross the most common, the letter X very ancient, the Greek cross the most ornamental, and the Maltese cross the most expressive, perhaps, of all. None of these conventional forms of the cross, are, however, discovered. Imagination might indeed picture this symbol. The form of the cross is, indeed, discovered in America.

The tablet of the cross found at Palenque proves this fact conclusively. It is possible that the cross which has been recognized on certain inscribed shells, found in Missouri, and described by Mr. F. F. Hilder, was also a symbol derived from the same source; but that any of the cases referred to by Dr. Lapham, embodied the Christian symbol, we doubt. We give herewith several cuts which represent the cross, in Dr. Lapham's opinion, and a list of

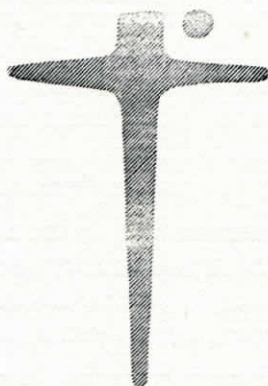


FIG. 1.

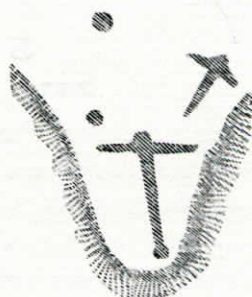


FIG. 2.

other specimens referred to in his work. It will be noticed how much they differ from one another, and for this reason alone might be supposed to represent something else than the cross. The bird shape may not be easily recognized in all of them, but they are as good resemblances of birds as of crosses. It will be noticed in the cut No. 5, that the direction of the bird would be exactly reversed if it were a cross, and thus the significance of the group might be destroyed. On Fig. 4, the cross has crooked arms. It is certainly anomalous for such a symbol, and in Figs. 2 and 3 the arms are oblique.—See also Fig. 5.

We turn now to consider the symbols which are absolute exceptions to the animal forms. We have discovered certain sym-