

freedom of worship. Hearing that it was the custom of the Jews to bury the wood on which the condemned were crucified, Constantine asked his mother Helena to go with an Imperial retinue to Jerusalem and find, if possible, the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Helena, then eighty years of age, went to Jerusalem and began her search for the true cross. While excavating at "Golgotha—the Place of Skulls"—the diggers came upon the three crosses, but the title board bearing the inscription "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" was lying at a distance from the crosses and no one could tell to which one of the three it belonged. Macarius, a Christian Bishop, who was standing near, caused the three crosses to be carried, one after the other, to the bedside of a worthy woman who was at the



RUINS OF TEOTIHUACAN.

point of death. The woman by the advice of Macarius placed her hand on each of the crosses, and when she touched that on which Christ was crucified, she was immediately restored to health.

After a time Constantine and his mother erected a magnificent Basilica over the Holy Sepulchre, which was destroyed by the Turks in the 13th Century.

This then is the tradition handed down to us from the early centuries. It may or may not be true.

#### BIRTH OF THE CROSS.

Let us now, before we deal with the Swastika and the commanding symbolism of the cross among the very remote nations of antiquity, glance at the position the cross fills in the Bible, and possibly trace the origin and the conspicuous position it occupies in the iconography (i.e. images, pictures, etc., of ancient arts and religions) of the early races in the old world and in the new.