

*Calvary*,—a cross raised on steps, conveying the idea "Excelsior"—"Nearer, my God, to Thee." The *Floriated, Resurrection*, or *Easter Cross*, which like Aaron's rod that budded, or Joseph of Arimathæa's staff (which, if Geoffrey of Monmouth tells us truly, grew, and became the Glastonbury Thorn which blossomed at Christmas) shews the triumph of Life over Death—of Jesus over Satan. One form of the Cross, as we shall presently see, had an especial bearing on the architectural designs of a succeeding period. It was a combination of the cross with five nimbi—one in the centre, having reference to the Saviour; the others at the extremities, signifying the four Evangelists.

The *Nimbus* was the halo of glory for the head, as the *Aureole* was for the whole body. The *Lily* was the emblem of purity. Combinations of nimbi formed the *Trefoil* and the *Quatre-foil*, suggestive, the former of the Holy Trinity, the latter of the Four Evangelists. The *Vesica Piscis* or *Aureole* is the acrostic symbol which takes its form from the fish—the initial letters of the following sentence forming the Greek, *ΙΧΘΥΣ*:—

Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς Θεοῦ Υἱὸς Σωτὴρ

Jesus Christ of God the Son the Saviour.

The *Sacred Monograms* are combinations of part of the letters of the Greek words, *Ἰησοῦς* and *Χριστός*. They were symbols highly suggestive to those initiated in the mysteries of Christ's religion; but unintelligible to those without. Indeed they have no voice to many at the present day. And here I would introduce an anecdote. Many years ago I built a little church at Iron Hill. Kind friends presented to this church a handsome cloth for the holy table. On the front of the cloth the sacred monogram, *IHS*, was handsomely worked. Soon after the Church was completed, a party of friends from a neighbouring village came to see the building, bringing with them the school-mistress of their district. Now, let me explain: My object in telling this story is two-fold: First, I wish to show how fitting a symbol the sacred monogram must have been for Christians to use in early days, the days of persecution—how little likely it was that those who had not been initiated should tell its meaning. Secondly, I wish to show how equal to any occasion that may arise our school-mistresses are. The visitors noticed the monogram; and turning to the teacher said: "Miss So-and-so, What does that mean? Will you tell us?" "Certainly," she replied, "do you not see? I stand for Iron, H