## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER III.

### THE SACRED NUMBER, ITS ORIGIN AND APPLICATIONS.

PAGE

66

99

The number FOUR sacred in all American religions, and the key to tacir symbolism.—Derived from the CARDINAL POINTS.—Appears constantly in government, arts, rites, and myths.—The Cardinal Points identified with the Four Winds, who in myths are the four ancestors of the human race, and the four celestial rivers watering the terrestrial Paradise.—Associations grouped around each Cardinal Point.—From the number four was derived the symbolic value of the number Forty and the Sign of the Cross.

# CHAPTER IV.

### THE SYMBOLS OF THE BIRD AND THE SERPENT.

Relations of man to the lower animals. —Two of these, the BIRD and the SERPENT, chosen as symbols beyond all others. —The Bird throughout America the symbol of the Clouds and Winds. — Meaning of certain species. —The symbolic meaning of the Serpent derived from its mode of locomotion, its poisonous bite, and its power of charming. —Usually the symbol of the lightning and the Waters. —The Rattlesnake the symbolic species in America. —The war charm. —The Cross of Palenque. —The god of riches. —Both symbols devoid of moral significance

### CHAPTER V.

#### THE MYTHS OF WATER, FIRE, AND THE THUNDER-STORM.

Water the oldest element.—Its use in purification.—Holy water.—The Rite of Baptism.—The Water of Life.—Its symbols.—The Vase.— The Moon.—The latter the goddess of love and agriculture, but also of sickness, night, and pain.—Often represented by a dog.— Fire worship under the form of Sun worship.—The perpetual fire.— The new fire.—Burning the dead.—A worship of the passions, but no sexual dualism in myths, nor any phallic worship in America.— Synthesis of the worship of Fire, Water, and the Winds in the THUNDER-STORM, personified as Haokah, Tupa, Catequil, Contici, Heno, Ttaloc, Mixcoatl, and other deitiesSupany of them triume 122

n