

4 *On the Supposed Prevalence of One Cranial Type*

tured opinions all went to confirm his original idea of universal approximation to one cranial type throughout the New World. In some of his latest recorded views he remarks, as the result of his examination of a greatly extended series of Peruvian crania, — “ I at first found it difficult to conceive that the original rounded skull of the Indian could be changed into this fantastic form ; and was led to suppose that the latter was an artificial elongation of a head remarkable for its length and narrowness. I even supposed that the long-headed Peruvians were a more ancient people than the Inca tribes, and distinguished from them by their cranial configuration. In this opinion I was mistaken. Abundant means of observation and comparison have since convinced me that *all these variously-formed heads were originally of the same rounded shape.*”

Such are the latest views of Dr Morton, as set forth in the posthumous paper on *The Physical Type of the American Indians*, contributed by him to the second volume of Dr Schoolcraft's “ History of the Indian Tribes,” and edited for that work by his friend and fellow-labourer, John S. Phillips. In that same final contribution to his favourite science, Dr Morton's matured views on the cranial type of the American continent,—based on the additional evidence accumulated by him, in the interval of twelve years which elapsed between the publication of the *Crania Americana* and the death of its author,—are thus defined : “ The Indian skull is of a decidedly rounded form. The occipital portion is flattened in the upward direction, and the transverse diameter, as measured between the parietal bones, is remarkably wide, and *often exceeds the longitudinal line.** The forehead is low and receding, and rarely arched as in the other races ; a feature that is regarded by Humboldt, Lund, and other naturalists as a characteristic of the American race, and serving to distinguish it from the Mongolian. The cheek-bones are high, but not much

* In this statement Dr Morton would seem to have had in view his theoretical type, rather than the results of his own careful observations, unless he accepted as evidence the artificially abbreviated and flattened skulls, and even of these his *Crania Americana* furnishes only one exceptional example, from a mound on the Alabama River (Pl. LIV). “ It is flattened on the occiput and on frontis in such a manner as to give the whole head a sugar-loaf or conical form, whence also its great lateral diameter and its narrowness from back to front.”