

and in seeking their aid to determine the physical characteristics of Kelt, Gaul or Briton, the results are little less vague, than when he attempts to fix the ethnical character of the Pelasgi, or to group the Etrusci among indigenous races of Italy. The controversies, moreover, of which the term *Celtic* has furnished the key-note, were long embittered by the narrowest spirit of national prejudice, and exposed thereby to well-merited ridicule.* One recent champion of the Celt, in a communication to the British Association, after characterising the Saxon as "a flaxen-haired, bullet-headed, stupid, sulky boor," proceeds to define the Celtic characteristics recognisable in men who have taken a distinguished place in English or Scottish history, as "a long cranium, high and expressive features, dark or warm complexion, and spare or muscular frame."† Pinkerton the Teutonic partizan,—who, in like fashion, maintained the opposite side in this controversy, by affirming: "What a lion is to an ass, such is a Goth to a Celt;"—assigns to the latter: dark hair and eyes, swarthy complexion, and inferior stature to the large-limbed, red or yellow-haired Goth, with fair complexion and blue eyes. In so far as the form of the head marks the difference between them, the supposed cranial contrast is indicated in the globular or "bullet-head" assigned to the Saxon, and the long cranium and high features ascribed to the Celt. The latter, at least, is an idea maintained, with more or less definiteness, by some of the most observant ethnologists; and so long as the Celt was supposed to belong to an essentially different division of the human race, it was not unnatural to assume that the opposite type of head must pertain to the Saxon. Few points, however, connected with physical ethnology rest on more uncertain evidence than the distinctive form, colour of hair, and other characteristics, not only of the ancient, but of the modern Celt.

The Gauls and Britons are the recognised representatives of that ancient people, who after being long regarded as in the most literal sense European aborigines, are even now commonly assumed to be the originators of all primitive art-traces pertaining to purely archæolo-

* The only occasion where Dr. Prichard is tempted beyond the simple language of the scientific investigator is where, in his *Researches*, he contrasts Pinkerton's views as a man "of clear and strong sense, though somewhat peremptory and wrong-headed;" with "the weak and childish dreams of the Celtic antiquarians who descant with amazing absurdity, through entire volumes, upon their Phœnician, Punic, Scythian, Spanish, and Magogian ancestry!"

† Mr. John McElheran.