

vailing type, so far as my present experience extends, presents a very marked predominance of the longitudinal over the parietal and vertical diameter; while, even in the exceptional cases, the brachycephalic characteristics fall far short of those so markedly distinguishing the ancient crania, the distinctive features of which some observers have affirmed them to exhibit. In point of archæological evidence of ancient occupation, moreover, our northern sepulchral disclosures have hitherto revealed little that is calculated to add to our definite knowledge of the past, although the traces of ancient metallurgic arts suggest the probability of such evidence being found. The discovery of distinct proofs of the ancient extension of the race of the mound-builders into these northern and eastern regions, would furnish an addition of no slight importance to our materials for the primeval history of the Great Lake districts embracing Canada West.

Such ancient osteological remains, of whatever type, are likely to be in a very fragile state, and will require much care in their removal. As it is not to be doubted that some are to be found among the members of the Institute, to whom investigations of this nature will present a just object of careful and persevering research, it may not be useless to add a few hints for collecting and preserving such ancient remains. It is not to be overlooked that, to those who have made such the subject of special study, the entire skeleton frequently possesses features of interest and value, as evidence of peculiar distinctions of race, or as traces of habits and conditions of life. It is manifestly, however, only under very rare and peculiar circumstances, as in that of the Norfolk County Grave described above, that it can be expedient to attempt the preservation of the whole of the skeleton; but as the determination of the sex has a very marked bearing on the relative form and proportions of the skull, the pelvis may be considered as, next to it, the most important part to be secured or specially observed.

In reference to crania, it must be borne in remembrance that it is desirable to possess the whole of the bones of the head and face, including the lower jaw and the teeth. The slender and fragile bones of the nose are of special importance, and when remaining in their place should be carefully protected from injury. In all cases they are highly characteristic, and in none more so than in the races of American Indians, whose strongly marked profiles derive much of their character from the prominence and peculiar form of the nose. It is also to be observed in the case of remains found under circumstances indicative of great antiquity, and consequently possessing peculiar value for the purpose which the Ethnologist has in view, that though the bones may be wholly disjointed and even fractured, if the whole,