

some of the customs of Europe's prehistoric tribes. The subject thus referred to was first brought by me, under the notice of ethnologists, in a paper on the supposed American cranial type, read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its Montreal meeting in August, 1857,* and submitted to the notice of the Ethnological section of the British Association, at the Dublin meeting in the same year.† In this I selected the Barrie skull as exhibiting in a remarkable manner the peculiarities of the vertical occiput; and after quoting the above remarks of Dr. Morton on the corresponding feature, as it occurs both in the Scioto Mound-skull, and in many Peruvian crania, the paper thus proceeds:—

I think it extremely probable that further investigation will tend to the conclusion that the vertical or flattened occiput, instead of being a typical characteristic, pertains entirely to the class of artificial modifications of the natural cranium familiar to the American ethnologist alike in the disclosures of ancient graves, and in the customs of widely separated living tribes. In this I am further confirmed by the remark of Dr. Morton in reference to the Peruvian crania:—"These heads are remarkable, not only for their smallness, but also for their irregularity; for in the whole series in my possession there is but one that can be called symmetrical. This irregularity chiefly consists in the greater projection of the occiput to one side than the other, showing in some instances a surprising degree of deformity. As this condition is as often observed on one side as the other, it is not to be attributed to the intentional application of mechanical force; on the contrary, it is to a certain degree common to the whole American race, and is sometimes, no doubt, increased by the manner in which the child is placed in the cradle."‡ To this Dr. Morton subsequently added in describing an unsymmetrical Mexican skull: "I had almost omitted the remark, that this irregularity of form is common in, and peculiar to, *American crania*."§ The latter remark, however, is too wide a generalization. I have repeatedly noted the like unsymmetrical characteristics in the brachycephalic crania of the Scottish barrows; and it has occurred to my mind, on more than one occasion, whether such may not furnish an indication of some partial compression, dependent, it may be, on the mode of nurture in infancy, having tended, in their case also, if not to produce, to exaggerate the short longitudinal diameter, which constitutes one of their most remarkable characteristics.

From this it will be seen that, so early as 1857, I had given expression to an idea formed previously to my leaving Scotland in 1853, relative to undesigned artificial changes wrought on crania recovered from Scottish barrows, and which I conceived to be traceable to the

* *Canadian Journal*, Vol. II., p. 406.

† *Edinburgh Philosoph. Journal*, N. S., Vol. VII., p. 1.

‡ *Crania Americana*, p. 115.

§ *Types of Mankind*, p. 144.