

We shall lastly notice an imaginative classification which separates the aborigines of America into four *species* of men exclusive of the Eskimaux. This curious but unphilosophical hypothesis has been advanced by Bory de St. Vincent, a French naturalist of distinction, who considers the civilized nations to be cognate with the Malays, and designates them by the collective name of the *Neptunian species*; while to his three remaining species, — the Columbian, the American and the Patagonian, he assigns certain vague geographical limits, without establishing any distinctive characteristics of the people themselves. The system is so devoid of foundation in nature, so fanciful in all its details, as hardly to merit a serious analysis; and we have introduced it on the present occasion to illustrate the extravagance and the poverty of some of the hypotheses which have been resorted to in explanation of the problem before us.

Once for all I repeat my conviction, that the study of physical conformation alone, excludes every branch of the Caucasian race from any obvious participation in the peopling of this continent. If the Egyptians,* Hindoos, Phenicians or Gauls have ever, by accident or design, planted colonies in America, these must have been, sooner or later, dispersed and lost in the waves of a vast indigenous population. Such we know to have been the fact with the Northmen, whose repeated, though very partial settlements in the present New Eng-

* With respect to the Egyptians and Hindoos as involved in this question, I can speak without reservation. Through the kindness of an accomplished gentleman and scholar, George R. Gliddon, Esq., late United States Consul at Cairo, I have received ninety heads of Egyptian mummies from the tomba of Abydos, Thebes and Memphis; and I unhesitatingly declare, that, with a very few exceptions, which have a mixed character, and resemble the Coptic form, the conformation throughout is that of the Caucasian race. In every instance in which the hair has been preserved, it is long, soft and curling, and indeed as silky as that of the most polished Europeans of the present time. I am now preparing, with the title of *Cranis Ægyptiacæ*, a brief exposition of the facts connected with these interesting relics of antiquity.

I possess also about thirty crania of the Hindoos, among which there is not one that could be mistaken for an Indian skull. In fact there is an obvious contrast between them in all respects excepting the internal capacity, which is nearly the same in the Hindoo and Peruvian.