

the diverse ancient British forms : another opinion specially maintained by Dr. J. Barnard Davis, is, that the brachycephalic head of the barrows is the true Celtic skull-form, and that all others, not Anglo-Saxon,—including even the Kumbcephalic crania of the megalithic tombs,—are mere exceptional deviations, or what he styles “aberrant forms.” A third hypothesis may be started, which would receive confirmation from the opinions advocated by one class of ethnologists on philological grounds, that the Cymri and the Gaels are two essentially distinct races,* in which case the two very diverse forms of head may be physical tests of the two races. A fourth idea cannot be overlooked, in reference to some points discussed in subsequent pages, that the head of the Gaul and the British Celt may have undergone modifications in the course of time, wholly apart from any admixture with other races. One other opinion, in special favour among certain purely philological ethnologists, need not be discussed here, viz. : that craniology is valueless for ethnical classification.

Looking meanwhile to the osteological evidence derived from the British Islands, this much appears to be established, that at some remote period, lying beyond the earliest glimpses of any definite British History, the Kumbcephalic, or long headed race, occupied Britain in such numbers as to be capable of the combined labour required in the construction of vast chambered cairns and barrows. These sepulchres I cannot doubt are the mausolea of a royal or privileged class, and not common receptacles of the dead. They exhibit the laborious but unskilled architecture of a megalithic era, lavished ungrudgingly on the sepulchres of the honoured dead. The only works of art found in them, or at least appearing strictly to belong to their original contents, are bone and flint implements, and rude pottery. This race, as appears from some of the crania recovered from the megalithic chambers, was not altogether ignorant, at some period of its presence in Britain, of another, characterised by an essentially different form of head. The circumstances under which the latter have been met with seem to justify the opinion that this Brachycephalic race occupied a servile relation to the other. When, however, we pass into a later, but still prehistoric era, the long-headed race disappears; and the simple earth-barrow and small cist characteristic of the latter race, reveal almost exclusively the brachycephalic

* *Celtic Language in reference to Race*; by John Crawford, Esq., F.R.S. *On the Gaels and Celts*; by M. Lagneau, &c.