

sioned by the influence of climate, or unequal progress of improvement, we must pronounce them to be descended from one source."* Malte Brun, with more caution, simply affirms, as the result of a long course of physiological observations, "that the Americans, whatever their origin may be, constitute at the present day a race essentially different from the rest of mankind."† But greater importance is to be attached to the precisely-defined views of Humboldt, in so far as these are not—like those of so many other writers on this subject—a mere reproduction of the opinions of Morton. Humboldt remarks in the preface to his *Researches*: "The nations of America, except those which border the Polar circle, form a single race, characterized by the formation of the skull, the colour of the skin, the extreme thinness of the beard, and the straight glossy hair."

Very few and partial exceptions can be quoted to the general unanimity of American writers,—some of them justly regarded as authorities in ethnology,—in reference to this view of the nations of the whole American continent, north and south. With the solitary exception of the Esquimaux, they are affirmed to constitute one nearly homogeneous race, varying within very narrow limits from the prevailing type, and agreeing in so many essentially distinctive features, as to prove them a well-defined variety, if not a distinct species of the genus *Homo*. Prichard, Lawrence, Wiseman, Knox, Squier, Gliddon, Nott, and Meigs, might each be quoted in confirmation of this opinion, and especially of the prevailing uniformity of certain strongly-marked cranial characteristics: but the fountain-head of all such opinions and views is the justly-distinguished author of the *Crania Americana*, Dr Morton of Philadelphia. His views underwent considerable modification on some points relating to the singular cranial confirmation observable in certain skulls found in ancient American graves; especially in reference to the influence of artificial means in perpetuating changes of form essentially different from the normal type; but the tendencies of his ma-

* Robertson's America, B. IV. In relation to languages, this difference between the Esquimaux and the Indians is no longer maintained.

† Malte Brun, Geog. Lib. xxv.