

More recent discoveries of artificially compressed crania on European sites, have removed all doubts of their native, or intrusive Asiatic origin. It thus appears that the barbarous practice is neither recent, nor peculiar to the New World. Neither to America nor to Europe do those examples of mediæval and ancient compressed crania really belong, but seemingly to the nomad Mongols and Ugrians of the steppes of Northern Asia, in the vast wilds of which we lose them as they spread away eastward toward the Okhotsk Sea and the Aleutian Islands. We are thus guided by unmistakable indications backward, as it seems, on this ancient trail, down the valley of the Danube, and beyond the Caspian and the Ural Mountains, to a region outside the farthest limits assigned by Hippocrates, Strabo, Pliny, or Mela, to the Asiatic Macrocephali; and recover traces of the strange practice of the American Flatheads far to the northeast of the Altai chain, in the valleys that skirt the Yablonoi mountains, as they trend eastward towards the Okhotsk Sea. It may indeed be an American practice which Asia borrowed, for the affinities of race between the tribes of the islands and Asiatic mainland immediately to the west of Behring strait point to a migration to Asia from America. Such, however, is limited and exceptional. On evidence which embraces the ethnical characteristics of a very wide Asiatic area, the Mongolian classification of the American Indian is confirmed by many significant points of resemblance in form, color, texture of hair, and peculiar customs and traits of character, which fail us when we turn either to the Asiatic Aleutians, the Namollos, and other allied tribes of the older continent, or to the true Eskimo. The striking resemblance noted by Humboldt as existing between the American race and the Mongols of Asia, received independent confirmation from Dr. Charles Pickering, as the result of his extensive observation of the races of both continents, in his capacity of ethnologist to the American Exploring Expedition. Such affinities are still further confirmed, as we recover the traces of the singular practice of cranial deformation extending in ancient and mediæval times eastward from the Euxine and beyond the Altai mountains. To those little-known areas of northern Asia the ethnologist and the archæologist have yet to turn in quest of the footprints of one of the immigrant routes to the new world. There it is, in the vast unknown regions of Asiatic Russia, that we may hope to recover evidence confirmatory of at least one source of the Asiatic relations of the American race.