

the traces of Indian sepulchral rites employed under special circumstances, and practised with peculiar care. The discovery of the skeleton, as in various other cases, lying directly under the roots of a large tree, naturally suggests the idea that the latter is altogether of subsequent origin and growth, and hence that its size and age supply some evidence tending to fix the period to which the inhumation may be assigned. It may be, however, that in some cases the grave was hollowed out beneath the roots of a full grown tree, which, would serve alike as a protection to the sacred remains deposited beneath, and also as a monumental grave-post, on which might be painted the inverted symbols, that told of the departed. If such should prove to have been a practice of Indian sepulture, it will suggest additional caution as to the inferences to be drawn from the size and supposed age of the trees found over such graves; but there can, under no circumstances, be any doubt as to the one now in question belonging to a period anterior to the settlement of the Norfolk district by the white man. Indeed, Mr. Paul Kane informs me that he has never seen any pottery resembling the specimen found in this grave, in use among any of the tribes of the North West, although fragments of such are of frequent occurrence in the district, and must once have formed a common object of native manufacture there.

In the *Canadian Journal* for October, 1855, * special directions were given with a view to the formation of a Collection of Ancient Crania, illustrative of Canadian Ethnology, and some of these may be recalled with advantage, in the hope of securing a more careful attention to the preservation of such relics as those above described. Collections of this nature are exciting the highest interest among men of science both in Europe and America. A section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is devoted to this special department, in connection with Geographical discovery, and recent exploring expeditions have had their attention particularly directed to the same subject.

When the importance of such evidences of the physical characteristics both of extinct and living races, in relation to historical investigation, as sepulchral remains disclose, is thus becoming so widely appreciated, it appears to be desirable that Canada should not lose the opportunity of contributing her share to the elucidation of ethnological science, afforded by her numerous public works, as well as by the rapid progress in the clearing and settling of wild land. Such a collection of native crania as that with which Dr. Morton has en-

* *Canadian Journal*, Old Series, Vol. iii. p. 345.