

tion. It was found in the country of the ancient Hurons; and though the idea was, that it lay among other relics of a battle-field,—to which its unusual shape would give countenance, as the indication of some foreign intruder,—yet it is possible that it had been deposited in one of the Ossuaries into which it was the custom of the Huron Indians to gather their scaffolded dead, after they had been exposed for a certain time to decay.

The skull in question is large and massive, and differs essentially from the Huron type of Cranium in its short longitudinal diameter, vertical occiput, and flattening of the whole parieto-occipital region to so marked a degree, that when laid on the occiput it rests as firmly as on the base.

I have already shown, in a former paper,\* that the Hurons were characterized by the more elongated, or dolichocephalic form of head. In this respect indeed their crania are prominently distinguished, exhibiting a greater divergence from Dr. Morton's assumed type, than any other of the American Aborigines, if we except the Esquimaux. The Barrie skull, on the contrary, approximates in a considerable degree to the celebrated mound-skull of the Scioto Valley, which Dr. Morton specially selected as "perhaps the most admirably formed head of the American race hitherto discovered. It possesses," he added, "the national characteristics in perfection, as seen in the elevated vertex, flattened occiput, great interparietal diameter, ponderous bony structure, salient nose, large jaws, and broad face. It is the perfect type of Indian conformation, to which the skulls of all the tribes from Cape Horn to Canada more or less approximate."

I formerly showed, from the results of a series of careful measurements of Canadian crania, that the latter remark is not born out by a minute determination of the Algonquin, Iroquois, or Huron cranial type; and more extensive observations have since strongly confirmed me in that conclusion. The mean derived from the measurement of thirty-seven skulls procured from Indian graves within the Huron district, including those of twenty-nine males and eight females, is here placed in comparison with the measurements of the Scioto-Mound and Barrie skulls; and, as will be perceived, presents a striking contrast:—

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\* Supposed prevalence of one Cranial type throughout the American Aborigines. *Canadian Journal*, Vol. II., p. 406.