

ON THE

SUPPOSED PREVALENCE

OF

ONE CRANIAL TYPE THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN
ABORIGINES.*

Among the various grounds on which Columbus founded his belief in the existence of an undiscovered continent beyond the Atlantic, especial importance was attached to the fact that the bodies of two dead men had been cast ashore on the island of Flores, differing essentially in features and physical characteristics from any known race. When at length the great discoverer of this western world had set his foot on the islands first visited by him, the peculiarities which marked the gentle and friendly race of Guanahanè were noted with curious minuteness; and their "tawny or copper hue," their straight, coarse, black hair, strange features, and well-developed forms, were all recorded as objects of interest by the Spaniards. On their return the little caravel of Columbus was freighted not only with gold and other coveted products of the New World, but with nine of its natives, brought from the Islands of San Salvador and Hispaniola,—eight of whom survived to gaze on the strange civilization of ancient Spain, and to be themselves objects of scarcely less astonishment than if they had come from another planet. Six of these representatives of the western continent, who accompanied

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