

Iroquois spread around them. They too have now nearly vanished from the scene of their former power under other influences, and may soon, like the Eries and Hurons, be remembered only by a name; but when we find such extraordinary vicissitudes occurring during the brief space, of which we have any certain record, we cease to be so much surprized at the total disappearance of the Mound Builders and other prehistoric races.

SUPPOSED PREVALENCE OF ONE CRANIAL TYPE THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN ABORIGINES.

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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 Columbus to Barcelona, where the Spanish Court then was, were baptised with the utmost state and ceremony, as the first fruits offered to heaven from the new found world. Ferdinand and the enthusiastic and susceptible Isabella, with the Prince Juan, stood sponsors for them at the font; and when, soon after, one of them, who had been retained