

ETHNOLOGY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

CRANIA OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS.

Among the abstracts of papers in the departments of Ethnology, printed in the Report of the British Association for 1855, is one by Joseph Barnard Davis, M.R.C.S.; F.S.A., on the forms of the Crania of the Ancient Romans, which possesses an interest on various grounds. There is indeed an important element of error, probably not overlooked by the discriminating observer, though unnoticed in the following abstract. It would be contrary to all known facts to assume that Crania found in Roman Cemeteries at the British sites named below, were necessarily those of Romans. In the majority of cases, our information would justify an opposite conclusion. The Roman Legions, were *Roman* only, politically, not ethnologically. At Eburacum for example, the permanent station of the Sixth Legion, the memorial inscription of Lucius Duccius, proves that he was a native of Gaul; while the inscriptions on tiles found there, pertain both to the sixth, and to the ninth, a *Spanish* legion. Inscriptions on altars and sepulchral slabs; the *Notitia*; the earlier notices by Tacitus of the Roman forces in Britain &c., all combine to prove that of the ethnological elements introduced into Britain by Roman occupation, we must include Gauls, Germans, Iberians, Greeks of Asia Minor, and even Africans; and indeed so small was the actual Italian element of population, that it would be difficult to over state the chances of an Anglo-Roman Sepulchre containing a representative of any of the conquered provinces of the empire, rather than by an actual Roman. In the special case however, described, and chiefly dwelt upon here, it will be seen that means of identification existed, and receive due consideration. The following is the abstract of Mr. Davis's paper, containing ampler details on a subject previously noticed in the Canadian Journal, (vol. I, p. 76.)

"A numerous series of ancient Roman skulls, derived from three different sources in Italy and from the Roman cemeteries at Eburacum, Londinium, Lindum, and Glevum, has fallen into the hands of the author. As the basis of these observations, he selects the cranium of THEODORIANUS, a Roman of consequence, who died at Eburacum in his 35th year, and whose inscribed stone sarcophagus was discovered many years ago. The venerable antiquary of Roman York, the Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, has referred him to a Roman family of Nomentum, a town of the Sabini in Italy. His skull is an elegant example of the capacious Roman cranium. It is marked by the squareness of face common to the *typical* form of the Roman head, the fine prominent nasal bones of *aquiline* profile, their position being more expressed from the broad nasal processes of the superior maxillæ—the expanded and capacious forehead, of somewhat low elevation, terminating below in a prominence of the supra-nasal region, which distinguishes it from the regular skull of Grecian type. It may be regarded as belonging to the typical section of ancient Roman crania, although not presenting the typical character in so decided a form as others exhibited. It will come under the division of what may be called *platy-cephalic* crania, those distinguished by a horizontal expansion of the vertical region. The diacritical marks which distinguish the crania of the ancient Britons from those of the ancient Romans may be expressed as follows: after remarking that those of the Romans were decidedly the larger, he adds:—The face of the *former* was rather shorter, more