

basis of any general deductions. It is with this subject of artificial compression of the skull, as with so many others, the more fully it is studied, novel illustrations appear in the most unexpected quarters; and what was once deemed peculiar to America is now found illustrated among the characteristics of many wide scattered races of ancient and modern times.

During a recent visit to Washington, I availed myself of the facilities afforded me by Professor Henry, the learned Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to examine with minute care the ethnological collections formed by the United States Exploring Expedition, illustrative of the manners, customs, arts, and ethnical characteristics, of the races on the Pacific coasts and islands. The collections include crania of various Indian tribes of North and South America, a number of compressed and greatly distorted Chinook and other flat-head skulls, as well as crania of Fiji, Kanaka, and other Pacific islanders. A renewed visit to the Mortonian collection at Philadelphia—already familiar to me by former study of the cabinets of the Academy of Natural Sciences there—afforded additional means of testing the extended diffusion of the practice of cranial deformation. Among the Fiji skulls in both collections, several examples exhibit the broad, well-rounded occiput, which is considered by the Fijians as a special beauty. But this is not an invariable characteristic even among that peculiar insular race. One male skull brought home by the United States Exploring Expedition (No. 4581) has the full, rounded form of the occiput well defined, presenting in profile a rotund development passing by a nearly uniform gradation into the coronal region. But, in another Fiji skull of the same collection,—that of Veindovi, Chief of Kantavu, who was taken prisoner by the United States ship "Peacock" in 1840, and died at New York in 1842,—the occiput though full, is slightly vertical. The occipital development of the Fiji cranium is the more interesting, as we are now familiar with the fact, that an artificially flattened occiput is of common occurrence among the islanders of the Pacific Ocean. "In the Malay race," says Dr. Pickering, "a more marked peculiarity, and one very generally observable, is the elevated occiput, and its slight projection beyond the line of the neck. The Mongolian traits are heightened artificially in the Chinooks; but it is less generally known that a slight pressure is often applied to the occiput by the Polynesians, in conformity with the Malay standard," \* Dr. Nott, in describing the skull of a Kanaka of the Sandwich Islands who died at the Marine Hospital at Mobile, mentions his being struck by its singular occipital formation; but this he learned was due to an artificial flattening, which, the islander had stated to his medical attendants in the

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\* Pickering's Races of Man, p. 45.