

8 *On the Supposed Prevalence of One Cranial Type*

as among the best established and most indisputable summaries deduced from the well-ascertained data of American Ethnology. Dr J. Aitken Meigs, the editor of Dr Morton's "Catalogue of Skulls," subsequent to the transference of his greatly augmented collection to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, remarks, in his *Cranial Characteristics of the Races of Men*: "Through *Crania Americana*, it has long been known to the scientific world that a remarkable sameness of osteological character pervades all the American tribes from Hudson's Bay to Terra del Fuego. It is equally well known that the researches of Humboldt and Gallatin have demonstrated a conformity not less remarkable in the language and artistic tendencies of these numerous and widely scattered aborigines."*

Such, then, is the opinion honestly arrived at by Dr Morton, as the result of extensive study and observation, accepted and confirmed by his successors, and now made the starting-point from whence to advance to still more comprehensive and far-reaching conclusions. It is not necessary, therefore, to prove the universal recognition of this well-known ethnological postulate, by farther references to recent authorities; but there is one author, at once so distinguished among American men of science, and so peculiar from the point of view from which he has regarded the entire question of American Ethnology, as to merit special attention,—Professor Agassiz, in his *Sketch of the Natural Provinces of the Animal World, and their relation to the different Types of Man*, re-affirms the homogeneous characteristics and ethnic insulation of the American Indian on entirely novel and independent grounds. After defining the evidence on which the general opinion is based, that *the boundaries within which the different natural combinations of animals are circumscribed on the surface of the earth coincide with the natural range of distinct types of man*, he proceeds to show that America, including both its northern and southern continent, differs essentially from Europe and Asia, or Africa, in being characterized throughout by a much greater uniformity in all its natural productions,

* *Indigenous Races of Men*, p. 332.