

recovered from French and English grave mounds, contemporary with the era of Roman occupation.

It may be assumed as a recognized fact, that the form of the human skull is essentially distinctive of race. The difficulty is to determine the characteristic differentiæ, especially in approximate races; and hence considerable diversity of opinion still prevails as to the methods best fitted to express the ethnical significance of form, proportions, prognathism or orthognathism, and other characteristic diversities. But as the study of craniology, and anthropology generally, continues to receive ever increasing attention, the simple broad distinctions, such as those which satisfied Blumenbach or even Retzius, disappear; and now we have brachycephalic, dolichocephalic, kumbecephalic, scaphocephalic, macrocephalic, sphenocephalic, acrocephalic, and platycephalic skulls, with numerous subordinate modifications. Of those forms, five, at least, occur among ancient British crania; and include types of extreme diversity. To some of these I have already repeatedly referred in former papers; and have indicated in other publications some of the grounds that lead me to infer the existence, at some remote period, of races distinct from the Celtic tribes found in occupation of the British Islands, at the period of Roman invasion.*

Briefly, the evidence already set forth points to a megalithic era, with huge chambered catacombs of cyclopean masonry, and traces of a race remarkable for long, narrow heads, moderately developed zygomata and cheek bones, and small under jaws, as their builders. To this it is objected that by assigning priority to the constructors of the elaborate and massive chambered catacombs over the simpler barrow builders, the probable order in the succession of constructive remains is inverted. This idea, however, proceeds on the assumption that primitive arts must invariably proceed from the rudest to more ingenious and elaborate works. The recently discovered carvings and engravings, found by M. Lartet and Mr. Christie in the Dordogne Caves, of Central France, rude though they are, suffice to prove that artistic ingenuity is no modern acquisition of man. But we are dealing with races nearer the confines of the historic period than the contemporaries of the Reindeer of Central France. The cyclopean cata-

* *Ethnical forms and undesigned artificial distortions of the Human Cranium.* Canadian Journal, Vol. VII. p. 399. *Illustrations of the significance of certain Ancient British skull forms.* Ibid. Vol. VIII. p. 127. *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland.* Sec. Ed. pp. 227-298, &c.