

exist between the various ancient and modern people of America, amount to no more than variations within the normal range of a common type, then all the important distinctions between the crania of ancient European barrows and those of living races amount to little; and the more delicate details, such as those, for example, which have been supposed to distinguish the Celtic from the Germanic cranium; the ancient Roman from the Etruscan or Greek; the Slave from the Magyar or Turk; or the Gothic Spaniard from the Basque or Morisco, must be utterly valueless. If external circumstances or the progress of civilization exercise any influence on physical form, a greater diversity of conformation is to be looked for in Europe than among the Indians of America, where, as in Africa, nearly the same habits and modes of life have characterized the whole "Barbarous Race" throughout the centuries during which Europe has had any knowledge of them. But, making full allowance for such external influences, it seems to me—after thus reviewing the evidence on which the assumed unity of the American race is founded—little less extravagant to affirm of Europe than of America, that the crania everywhere, and at all periods, have conformed or even approximated to one type.

As an hypothesis, based on evidence accumulated in the *Crania Americana*, the supposed homogeneity of the whole American aborigines was perhaps a justifiable one. But the evidence was totally insufficient for any such absolute and dogmatic induction as it has been made the basis of. With the exception of the ancient Peruvians, the comprehensive generalizations relative to the Southern American continent strangely contrast with the narrow basis of the premises. With a greater amount of evidence in reference to the Northern continent, the conclusions still go far beyond anything established by absolute proof; and the subsequent labours of Morton himself, and still more, of some of his successors, seem to have been conducted on the principle of applying practically, and in all possible bearings, an established and indisputable scientific truth, instead of testing, by further evidence, a novel and ingenious hypothesis.

Dr Latham, after commenting on the manifest distinctions