

the town of Kertch, in which were preserved many historical antiquities of the Crimean Bosphorus; and especially sepulchral relics recovered from the tumuli which abound on the site of the ancient Milesian colony.

Learning from an old fellow-student that he was about to proceed to the Crimea to join the Army Medical Staff, I wrote to him, drawing his attention to various objects worthy of observation; and in directing his notice to the treasures accumulated in the Museum at Kertch, specially requested him to note for me—should opportunity offer,—the characteristics of an ancient Macrocephalic skull preserved there. It is referred to in Captain Jesse's "Notes of Travel in Circassia and the Crimea," where it is said to have been found in the neighbourhood of the Don. The interest of such cranial remains increases in value, from the evidence they furnish of ancient analogies to the remarkable artificial compression which now we associate almost exclusively with American crania.

It chanced, as is now well known, that, in the fortunes of war, the town of Kertch fell into the hands of the Anglo-French invaders; and some few of its ancient treasures were preserved and transmitted to the British Museum. By far the greater portion of the Museum collections however, were barbarously spoiled by the rude soldiery; and among the rest doubtless perished the little-headed relic of the Macrocephali of the Crimea, first described by Hippocrates, five centuries before our era. Blumenbach has figured in his first Decade, an imperfect compressed skull, received by him from Russia, which he designates as that of an Asiatic Macrocephalus; and in 1843, Rathke communicated to Müller's "*Archiv für Anatomie*," the figure of another artificially compressed skull, also very imperfect, but specially marked by the same depression of the frontal bone. This example is described as procured from an ancient burial-place near Kertch in the Crimea; and no doubt other illustrations of the peculiar physical characteristics of the ancient Macrocephali of the Bosphorus will reward future explorers, when the attention of those engaged in such researches, or even in ordinary agricultural labours on the site, is specially directed to the interest now attaching to them.

Meanwhile, however, my hopes of obtaining any further facts from the Macrocephalic cranium seen by Captain Jesse in the Kertch Museum, had been dissipated by the dispersion and wanton destruction of its treasures; and I had ceased to think specially of Crimean