## ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF

28

In his latest recorded opinions, when commenting on some of the abnormal forms of Peruvian crania, he remarks : " I at first found it difficult to conceive that the original rounded skull of the Indian could be changed into this fantastic form : and was led to suppose that the latter was an artificial elongation of a head remarkable for its length and narrowness. I even supposed that the long-headed Peruvians were a more ancient people than the Inca tribes, and distinguished from them by their cranial configuration. In this opinion I was mistaken-Abundant means of observation and comparison have since convinced me that all these variously-formed heads were originally of the same shape, which is characteristic of the aboriginal race from Cape Horn to Canada, and that art alone has caused the diversities among them.". The repeated opportunities I have enjoyed of examining the Mortonian and other American collections, have satisfied me of the occurrence of both dolichocephalic and brachycephalic crania not only as the characteristics of distinct tribes, but also among the contents of the same Peruvian cemeteries, - not as examples of extreme latitudes of form in a common race, but as the results of the admixture either of conquering and subject races, or of distinct classes of nobles and seris, most generally resulting from the predominance of conquerors. Among the Peruvians the elongated cranium pertained to the dominant race; and some of the results of later researches in primitive British cemeteries, and especially the disclosures of the remarkable class of chambered barrows, seem to point to an analogous condition of races. That the Uley and West Kennet skulls may have been laterally compressed, while the Codford barrow and other brachycephalic skulls have been affected in the opposite direction, appears equally probable. But such artificial influences only very partially account for the great diversity of type; and no such causes, even if brought to bear in infancy, could possibly convert the one into the other form.

But as the cranial forms, both of the Old and New World, betray evidences of modification by such artificial means : so also we find in ancient Africa a diverse form of head, to which art may have contributed, solely by leaving it more than usually free from all extraneous influences. Such at least is the conclusion suggested to my mind from the examination of a considerable number of Egyptian skulls. Among familiar relics of domestic usages of the ancient Egyptians is the pil-

<sup>•</sup> Physical Type of the American Indian. Schoolcraft: p. 326.

<sup>+</sup> Prehistoric Man, vol. ii. p. 225.