

hur, Prichard, Laurence, Latham, and other writers, have debated the questions : were the Gauls xanthous or swarthy ; yellow, red, or dark-haired ; and blue or black-eyed ? and of the Britons, in like manner, it is still a moot point, whether they were fair or dark, and their long shaggy locks were black, brown, red, or yellow. Dr. Beddoe, an intelligent observer, applied the test of personal experience, a few years since, to determine some of the same questions ; and found it little less puzzling to arrive at any definite results in reference to their modern representatives, than to reconcile conflicting evidence relative to the Celts or Gauls of two thousand years ago.\* Niebhur, confounded by the assurance conveyed to him by an English correspondent, that all modern British Celts have black hair : in the last edition of his *Roman History*, places this supposed fact in contrast with the yellow hair assigned by Ammianus Marcellinus, a resident in Gaul, to the continental Celts. Dr. Beddoe, on the contrary, was forced at last to the conclusion “ that black and red hair are not so diametrically opposed as is generally imagined ;” and he ended by assigning to the British Celt :—eyes grey or blue, passing through dark grey into brown and black ; hair bright red or yellow, passing through various shades of bright brown, into dark brown and coal black. The Teutonic Briton differed in the red hair being light, and the yellow flaxen ; while the brown tints were dull ; and neither eye nor hair exhibited the pure black.

Difficult as it thus appears to be to determine the complexional peculiarities of the Gaul or Briton, either of ancient or modern times : it might seem an easier task to define the form of head characteristic of each. The light of their eyes may be quenched in dust, and the bright locks have yielded up their lustre to the grave ; but the skull, though not imperishable, has in many cases resisted decay. Of the Roman supplanters of the Gaul and Briton, many skulls are preserved ; some of which, recovered from inscribed sarcophagi, not only reveal the race of the deceased, but the name, age, rank, and term of military service or foreign residence of each. When we turn to the contemporary Gaulish or British barrow, we look in vain for information so minute or exact. Nevertheless, the evidence is sufficient for all practical requirements, and it is indisputable that hundreds of *Crania* have been

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\* *A Contribution to Scottish Ethnology* : by John Beddoe, B.A., M.D. ; London 1853. *On the Ancient and Modern Ethnography of Scotland*. *Proceed. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* Vol. I. p. 256.