

called its last resting place. The muscles, which still remained on the forehead, were dry and contracted, and across the forehead, and round the head, was a broad gold fillet, sufficiently indicating that the grave was tenanted by one who had occupied a high social rank. No other ornaments or relics were observed, the whole of those having doubtless been removed by the original riflers of the grave. Dr. Turner did not consider it a very serious aggravation of the desecration to which the dead had already been subjected, to possess himself of the skull, which struck him as one peculiarly marked with indications of former delicacy and beauty; and through the kind intervention of my friend Dr. C. W. Covernton, it has since been transferred to me.

From a comparison with other skulls procured by him, Dr. Turner at first inclined to the opinion that he had acquired the cranium of a Greek lady. The breadth at the parietal protuberances, however, along with other marked features, differ essentially from the Greek type of head; and as there were many Circassians among the wives of the most influential and affluent families in the city, the probabilities he conceives are, *a priori*, in favour of its being ascribed to a people celebrated for the beauty of its females, and for their frequent introduction both to Turkish and Græco-Russian households around the Euxine. An elaborately sculptured, but broken marble cross at the head of the grave, added additional proof that the once loved and lost beauty of some Kertch household, whose remains were subjected to such indignities, had been ranked, during her life-time, among the finest porcelain of human clay. Under the peculiar system which prevails in oriental households, however, and by which Christian as well as Ottoman alliances are influenced, a wide area is embraced within the possible origin of the beauties who adorn such eastern homes; and a comparison of the most strikingly marked characteristics of this head with the varying types of cranium pertaining to what may be regarded, even in some respects philologically, as the European ethnic area, would rather suggest its classification among Armenian than Circassian forms. The materials however, for arriving at any very definite conclusion are limited, and perhaps inadequate for positive generalizations; and it may suffice to put on record such minute descriptions and measurements, as may afford the means of future comparison.

The skull, as already indicated, is that of a female, of fully 30