

length and narrowness of head, a remarkable prolongation of the occiput, and poor frontal development. To this another appeared to have succeeded with a short or brachycephalic head, prominent parietal development, and truncate occiput. Accordingly when the questions involved in such researches and speculations were brought under the notice of ethnologists in a paper read by me before the British Association in 1850, I there remarked: "Not the least interesting of the indications which this course of investigation seems to establish in relation to the primitive races of Scotland, are the evidences of the existence of primitive British races prior to the Celtæ; and also the probability of these races having succeeded each other in a different order from the primitive colonists of the north of Europe. Meanwhile, however, these data, and the conclusions derived from them, are produced chiefly with a view to induce more extended research. A much greater accumulation of evidence is requisite to establish any absolute or certain conclusions; and this can only be obtained by a general interest in the inquiry leading to the observation of such, where the researches of the archæologist, or the chance operations of the agriculturist afford the desired means."* To suggest the possibility of primitive races of men, not of Celtic origin, having been the earlier occupants of Scotland appeared, in 1850, a sufficiently daring extravagance. But the *Antiquités Celtiques et Antédiluviennes* of M. Boucher de Perthes, had just issued from the French press; and already, after so brief an interval, we read in familiar phraseology of the prehistoric man of the Pfahlbauten of Switzerland and France, or of the Crannoges of Ireland and Scotland, and the Kjekkenmøddings of Denmark; and are no longer startled even to hear of the Flint-Folk of the preglacial period, the contemporaries of the *Elephas primigenius* and the *Rhinoceros tichorinus*. In 1851, before this wonderful revolution in opinion had been brought about, my ideas on the prehistoric races of Scotland, and inferentially of Britain, were set forth in greater detail;† but still necessarily accompanied with expressions of regret at the inadequate data available for investigations on a subject then altogether novel. Scottish antiquaries—sympathising in the views which guided Sir R. C. Hoare in returning to the barrow the skull and bones of its occupant, while carefully

* *Inquiry into the Evidence of Primitive Races in Scotland prior to the Celtæ.* Report Brit. Assoc. 1850, p. 144.

† *Archæology and Prehistoric Annals of Scotland.*