

of its primitive barbarism; but it is interesting to notice the fact that the same simple mode of employing the spoils of the sea for personal decoration, as is found prevalent among the rude Indians of the North-west at the present day, prevailed among the primitive occupants of the British isles in that dim dawn of their primeval history revealed by the disclosures of their most ancient sepulchral deposits. Among the personal ornaments found in early British graves, seemingly pertaining to a period long prior to the acquisition of the simplest metallurgic arts, are necklaces formed of the small shells abounding on the neighboring coasts, such as the *nerita littoralis*, the *patella vulgata*, and others equally common at the present day. These are perforated, like the iouqua shells of the Chinook Indian, apparently by the simple process of rubbing the projecting point on a stone, and thus converted into shell-beads; they were strung together with a fibre or sinew. It may also be noted that, as among the savage Indians of this continent such personal ornaments are not confined to the squaws, but more frequently adorn the person of the brave, and mingle with the scalp-locks and other war-trophies of the most celebrated chief: so was it with the allophylian savages of Britain's primeval centuries. Bead necklaces occur alongside of the stone war-hatchet and flint lance-head, as the property of the warrior, and one of his most prized decorations. Possibly, indeed; they may have constituted the symbols of rank, and the special badge of office, as considerable variety marks their forms. An Orkney stone cist, for example, contained about two dozen of the common oyster shells each perforated, and in all probability designed to be strung together as a collar, abundantly noticeable for size, if not for beauty. In some cases, the form of these shells, as well as of those of the limpet (*patella vulgata*), and of the cockle (*cardium commune*), are taken advantage of to form a novel shell-ornament. They are rubbed down until they are reduced to rings, which were either strung together, or attached, as ornaments, to the dress. Underneath a large cromlech, accidentally discovered in the Phoenix Park at Dublin, in 1838, in the process of levelling a mound, which thus proved to be an ancient tumulus, two male skeletons were found, and beside each skull lay a quantity of the common littoral shells, *nerita littoralis*. "On examination," it is noted in the report of the Royal Irish Academy, "these shells were found to have been rubbed down on the valve with a stone, to make a second hole, for the purpose, as