

type of skull, with prominent parietal tubers and truncated occiput. This is the form chiefly occurring in native British graves of the Roman period ; and on this, as well as on other grounds, it is assumed by Dr. J. B. Davis and others to be the true type of the British Celt. I have already advanced reasons for thinking that a race of Brachycephali, Turanian or other, to whom the rude stone arts of prehistoric Britain chiefly pertained, intervened between the Kumbecephali of the long chambered barrows and the true Celtæ.* The linguistic affinities between the latter and the great Aryan family of nations, prove that the Celtæ branched off from the parent stock subsequent to the evolution of numbers, the development of metallurgy and many other arts of civilisation. The contents of the earlier cairns, cromlechs, and barrows, do not therefore correspond with their progress ; and the very term *cromlech*,—gael. *cromadh*, Wel. *cromen*, a *roof* or *vault*, and *clach*, or *lech*, a stone :—indicates as total ignorance of its sepulchral character, as the English name : Druidical Altar.

In this state of the question it becomes a matter of interest to ascertain what direct evidence is still accessible, and how far it can be made available for throwing light on the physical, and more especially the cranial characteristics of the Celt.

One form of the Anglo Roman period—the historical age of Celtic Britain,—undoubtedly approximates to the brachycephalic type, notwithstanding many aberrations. But on the other hand this is by no means the predominant skull-form of the modern Welchman, the Highlander of the most purely Celtic districts of Scotland, or the seemingly unadulterated native population of south-western Ireland. On this subject Dr. Anders Retzius remarks : “ During an excursion in Great Britain in 1855, I was able to satisfy myself anew that the dolichocephalic form is predominant in England proper, in Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland. Most of the Dolichocephalæ of these countries have the hair black, and are very similar to Celts.”† The Anglo-Saxon cannot be affirmed to be a pure race. Apart from later Danish, Norse, and Norman intermixture : it differs mainly, as I conceive, from its Germanic congeners, by reason of a large admixture of Celtic blood, traceable primarily to the intermarriage of English and Saxon

* *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, sec. ed., vol. 1. part I., chap. IX. *Canadian Journal*, vol. VII, p. 405.

† *Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles*, Geneva, 1860, *Smithsonian Report*.