

the Ohio was unusually blocked up with ice, may have swept off Indian towns and villages, and caused the terrified occupants to remove. The flood would be construed by their superstition into a warning from heaven to seek a residence upon some smaller streams; and before the remembrance of this fearful calamity had been effaced from their imaginations, the deserted region would, from its great fertility, become an unusual resort of game. It would then be a common hunting ground for the hostile tribes of the north and south, and consequently a great arena for battle. In this state it continued when first visited by the whites.

Dr. Morton, in his luminous and philosophical essay on the aboriginal race of America, seems to have proved that all the different tribes, except the Esquimaux, are of one race, and that this race is peculiar and distinct from all others.\* The physical characteristics of the Fuegians, the Indians of the tropical plains, those of the Rocky Mountains, and of the great valley of the Mississippi, are the same, not only in regard to feature and external lineaments, but also in osteological structure. After comparing nearly 400 crania derived from tribes inhabiting almost every region of both Americas, Dr. Morton has found the same peculiar shape pervading all, "the squared or rounded head, the flattened or vertical occiput, the high cheek bones, the ponderous maxillæ, the large quadrangular orbits, and the low receding forehead." The oldest skulls from the cemeteries of Peru, the tombs of Mexico, or the

\* Philadelphia, 1844