

laid naked among the flints, chalk, or stone, or these materials were in some degree compacted about it, or it was enclosed in a walled cell or kist, or placed in an excavated wooden coffin. Usually the body was laid on the back, or on one side, with the legs drawn up, and the arms bent so that elbows and knees touched or approached each other. It was not placed constantly in one position, such as with the head to the west, so as to face the rising sun—a Greek custom—but was frequently in a north and south direction, with the head to the south or north.

Many of the tumuli which were opened on Acklam Wold in 1850, by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club, yielded entire skeletons, which had been quietly interred; but the articles useful in savage life were very rare. Two remarkable bone needles of great length (one was 9 inches long) were found, and several urns, all of rude construction; not made by help of the potter's wheel, but ornamented by the point of a stick. Some of these urns contained the ashes of burnt human bodies and the bones of small animals; but others were placed in the earth either empty, or filled with perishable matters—perhaps food. In one tumulus we had a buried skeleton and burnt remains, so placed that the contemporaneity of cremation and burial is certainly proved*.

The circumstances which accompany the interment of the aborigines of Britain vary with the district, and probably with the tribes. Along the chalk districts the material of the funeral mound is in a considerable degree derived from the flint and chalk rubble of the adjoining surface; the dryness of the ground allowed of simple burial in or upon the rock; and as arrow-heads and other weapons or instruments of flint were common among the living, they are sometimes found with the dead. In a tumulus on the Acklam Wold, however, it was observed that the centre was occupied by blue clay; perhaps the clay from which the rudely constructed urn, full of burnt remains, was made. This

* See the recent publication of Mr. Wellbeloved, entitled 'Descriptive Account of the Antiquities in the Yorkshire Museum.'