Description of Two Beothuc Skulls

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Fig. 2.—Snow-shoe, used by Beothucs. A A, netting of cord or sealskin; B, board, with foot-hole.

Fig. 3.—Axe found in Red Indian Pond, Newfoundland. The outline shows probable original shape of axe, whilst the shaded part of the figure represents its form as converted into a tomahawk by the Beothucs.

Fig. 4.—Section through centre of a Beothuc wigwam. B, the entrance.

Fig. 5.—Red Indian Canoe of Newfoundland.

Fig. 6.—Sketch-section of canoe amidships.

DISCUSSION.

MR. E. B. TYLOR inquired whether any exact description has been preserved of the complexion of the Beothucs. The presence of fair tribes on the north-west coast of America, described as not darker than Spaniards, and as sometimes with blue eyes, had given rise to ethnological speculations as to immigration of tribes from Asia, &c. The similar phenomenon of fair tribes appearing in Newfoundland seems to throw light on this problem, but the mere assertion that their complexion was fair is too vague to found an argument upon.

MR. LLOYD, in reply to the query respecting the complexions of the Beothuc Indians, said that, in the opinion of Mr. John Peyton, who is the only man now living who was familiar with their personal appearance and with their complexions, they resembled gipsies or Spaniards.

DESCRIPTION of two BEOTHUC SKULLS. By GEO. BUSK, F.R.S., V.P. Anth. Inst. [With Plate viii.]

MR. LLOYD, on his late visit to Newfoundland, was unable to obtain any skull belonging to the aboriginal Indian inhabitants, although he was afforded an opportunity of inspecting several, and had a photographic view of one taken. Owing to the circumstance, however, that this view had been taken from the skull in an oblique position, and was without any scale of measurement, it was not available for the determination of the craniological characters.

But as he was desirous of supplementing his remarks upon the "Beothucs of Newfoundland" by some account of their cranial peculiarities, I have, at his instance, been very liberally allowed the opportunity of examining and figuring two authentic specimens of the skull of that people, which are now in the Edinburgh Museum, having, I believe, been presented to the late Professor Jamieson, by Mr. M'Cormack, in 1826.

Fig 1.

Fig 2.

Fig 4.

Fig 3.

Fig 5.

Fig 6.

Fig 8.

Fig 7.

BEOTHUC SKULLS.

1 - 4 . ♂.

5 . 8 . ♀.

I.—One of these skulls (Pl. viii. figs. 1—4.) is that of a “male Red Indian from Newfoundland.”

It is the skull of an elderly man, and has the lower jaw attached. Its principal characters are as under :—

1. *Norma lateralis*.—Forehead high and arched ; the outline slopes with a gentle curve from the vertex to the apex of the occipital. Occiput prominent ; spine very strongly developed. Subinial portion much hollowed and horizontal, mastoid processes very large and thick ; but the digastric fossa of moderate size. Zygomata thin.

2. *Norma facialis*.—Forehead narrow, but rounded. Frontal sinuses well marked. Supraorbital border towards external angular process rather thick, and that process is prominent. Supraorbital foramen complete. Orbits quadrangular (1.5×1.5). Nasals broken off ; what remains of them shows that they were strongly carinate and continuous with the forehead. Nasal spine very prominent. Face orthognathic.

3. *Norma occipitalis*.—Outline subpentagonal, the sides sloping inwards from the mastoid region. The temporal lines are seen approaching within two inches of each other, at about the level of the summit of the occipital. They extend far further back than is usual.

4. *Norma verticalis*.—Outline broadly oval. Zygomata just visible (subphænozygous).

Norma basalis.—Palate deep, elliptical. *Foramen magnum* (1.5×1.3), horizontal.

This skull is chiefly remarkable for the elevation of the frontal region seen in profile, and the comparatively sparing elevation of the parietal region, which, however, cannot in this case be assigned to an early closure of the sagittal suture. As in the female skull, the occiput is projecting. In fact, the outline of the two skulls, starting from the vertex backwards, is very nearly alike in the two. The chief difference between them is the more upright forehead in the female skull. In both there is no depression at the root of the nose, and in both the nasal spine is very prominent. In both, also, the greatest width is in the squamosal above the auditory foramen.

II.—The other skull (Pl. viii. figs. 5—8) is entitled that of “a female Red Indian of Newfoundland,” who died, or was killed, in the year 1823. It exhibits the following characters :—

5. *Norma lateralis*.—Forehead upright, but rather low, continuous with the nasals, of which bones only a small portion remains. The outline is moderately arched in the vertical region ; the occiput projecting, much hollowed in the subinial portion, and bulging on either side below the superior semicircular lines. The maxilla is slightly prognathous.

6. *Norma facialis*.—Forehead narrow; supraorbital borders thin; frontal sinuses very faintly marked; supraorbital foramen complete. Orbits subcircular, large (1.5×1.5). Nasal spine prominent. Nasal opening triangular.

7. *Norma occipitalis*.—In this view the outline is pentagonal, sloping on either side rather rapidly, from the sagittal suture (subfastigate), and flattened on the sides.

8. *Norma verticalis*.—Outline broadly oval; zygomata invisible (aphænozygous).

Norma basalis.—Three sound but worn molars remain on the left side; all the other teeth are gone, but the alveoli are perfect. Palate deep and narrow. Pterygoid plates remarkably narrow. *Foramen magnum* circular, horizontal.

The sutures are all open, and finely serrated; the sphenoparietal measure $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. Remarkably deep grooves for the anterior branches of the temporal artery. The zygomata slender. The mastoid process well developed; the digastric fossa deep and wide.

On comparing the photographic figures procured by Mr. Lloyd, a close resemblance in most respects may be traced between the skull of the female above described and Mr. Lloyd's figures. Amongst the points of resemblance I may notice the upright frontal outline continuous with the nasals—the absence of indications of the frontal sinuses and the slight maxillary prognathism. In the occiput also the same degree of projection may be perceived, although, from the oblique position of the photographic figure, this character is somewhat concealed. The orbits, however, in the photograph are more angular than in the skull.

It may be remarked that neither of these skulls presents the least sign of artificial deformation.

The dimensions and capacity of these two Beothuc skulls are given in the subjoined table:—

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Length	6.7	7.1
Breadth	5.5	5.8
Height	5.6	5.8
Least frontal width	3.9	4.1
Coronal width	4.7	4.7
Parietal width	5.3	5.4
Occipital width	4.4	4.6
Zygomatic width	5.2	5.9
Frontal radius	4.6	4.9
Vertical radius	4.7	4.9
Parietal radius	4.8	4.75
Occipital radius	3.9	3.75

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Maxillary radius	4·0	4·3
Fronto-nasal	3·7	4·0
Circumference	19·4	20·5
Longitudinal arc	14·0	14·5
Frontal longitudinal arc	4·7	5·1
Parietal longitudinal arc	5·0	5·2
Occipital longitudinal arc	4·3	4·2
Occipital (subinial)	1·8	2·4
Frontal transverse arc	11·8	12·7
Vertical transverse arc	12·8	13·1
Parietal transverse arc	13·2	12·8
Occipital transverse arc	10·8	11·0
Latitudinal index	·820	·816
Altitudinal index	·830	·816
Gnathic index	·500	·325
Capacity C.I.	84·	92·

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VIII.

Figs. 1 to 4. Skull of a male Red Indian of Newfoundland.—Fig. 1, norma lateralis; 2, norma facialis; 3, norma occipitalis; 4, norma verticalis.

Figs. 5 to 8. Skull of a female Red Indian of Newfoundland.—Fig. 5, norma lateralis; 6, norma facialis; 7, norma occipitalis; 8, norma verticalis.

On the STONE IMPLEMENTS of NEWFOUNDLAND. By T. G. B. LLOYD, C.E., F.G.S., M.A.I. [With Plates ix. x. xi.]

THESE implements belong to the class known as surface implements. Numerous discoveries of chisels, gouge-shaped implements, stone pots, spear-heads, &c., have been made in various parts of the island, a few of which have found their way into the Museum of the Geological Survey at St. Johns. Some have been carried away out of the country as “curios,” whilst others have been preserved for use as hones by their discoverers. The localities at present known are comprised in the following list. Starting from St. Johns, from east to west, and passing round the island, they will be met with in the following order:—Fox Island, Randra Sound; Trinity Bay; Bonavista Bay; Funk Island; Torilinguet Island; Nôtre Dame Bay (Bay of Exploits and Hare’s Bay); Granby Island, Sop Island, White Bay; Conche Harbour; How Harbour, Hare Bay; Bonne Bay; mouth of Flat Bay Brook, St. George’s Bay; Codray River. It is probable that the foregoing list does not include many of the localities where stone implements have