



Exhibition of Composite Photographs of Skulls.

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FROM THE SOCIETY.—Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria. Vol. XXI.

From the EDITOR.—“Nature.” Nos. 837, 838.

—— “Science.” Nos. 143–145.

—— Matériaux pour l’Histoire de l’Homme. 1885, Novembre.

The election of the following new members was announced:—
W. SETON KARR, Esq. ; E. LAWRENCE, Esq. ; Dr. R. MUNRO,
and Dr. W. SUMMERHAYES.

Mrs. BENT exhibited a number of Greek Dresses and other objects from the islands to which reference was made in Mr. Theodore Bent’s paper on “Insular Greek Customs” (p. 401).

Dr. EDWARD B. TYLOR, F.R.S., exhibited a collection of Tunduns, or bull-roarers, from Australia (p. 422).

Mr. C. H. READ, F.S.A., exhibited a collection of Ethnological Objects from Tierra del Fuego, consisting of models of a canoe and its fittings, bows and arrows in skin quivers, parts of dress, shell necklaces, &c. These specimens were collected from the natives at and around Ushuwia by one of the officers of the South American Missionary Society, and were sent by him to Mr. E. A. Holmsted, a gentleman living in the Falkland Islands. Mr. Holmsted has since presented the series to the British Museum. Mr. Read also exhibited an oil painting by the well-known artist, James Ward, R.A., dated 1815. It represents three views of the head of an African, and was obtained at the sale of the collection of Dr. Barnard Davis, but was unfortunately without any record of the person represented. The picture has been given by Mr. A. W. Franks, to be hung in the Ethnographical Gallery at the British Museum.

EXHIBITION of COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPHS of SKULLS.

By F. GALTON, Esq., F.R.S., *President.*

THE PRESIDENT exhibited twenty composite photographs of skulls, by Dr. J. S. Billings, of the War Department, Washington. They formed four series, referring respectively to Sandwich Islanders, Ancient Californians, Arapahoe Indians, and Whistitaw Indians. Six skulls of adult males of each of these races had been taken, and a composite had been made of each set of six skulls in the following five positions—front, back, side, top, and bottom. He remarked upon the great skill, from a photographic point of view, shown in making these composites, which were among the very best specimens of composite representation that existed, and he read the following extract from Dr. Billings’s letter which accom-

panied the photographs:—"It required much more time than I had anticipated to work out a satisfactory method. I think we are now ready to prepare composites from those crania in our collection which are suitable for such a process. I send you herewith by mail a package of such composites, and also photographs of the craniophore we now use. The adjustments are made by means of vertical and horizontal threads stretched on folding frames, and a full description will appear in the next volume of Transactions of the National Academy of Sciences.

"All are made exactly half the natural size, and after trying several other scales I think this is the one best suited to composite photographs of crania."

The following paper was read by the author:—

On INSULAR GREEK CUSTOMS.

By J. THEODORE BENT, Esq., M.A.

HAVING studied folklore in many parts of Greece, I consider that the islands of the Ægean Sea afford the richest field for the collection of genuine customs which have survived from classical days. My reasons for this opinion are as follows:—In the first place, the islands were never, like the mainland, subjected to the incursions of barbarous tribes. This was especially noticeable in the isle of Andros, the most northern of the Cycladic group, and the easiest of access from the mainland by way of Eubœa. To-day the northern portion of Andros is peopled by Albanians. The Greeks to the south of this island are considerably affected by this intermixture, but here the Albanian wave ended, for in none of the other islands is there a trace of this race, which has succeeded in destroying the identity of so many Greeks on the mainland.

In the second place, the Italian influence, which was dominant in the Middle Ages in the islands, has left little trace beyond the towns on the sea-coast. The Latin rule was never popular amongst the Greeks, religious feeling ran high, and each party retained their peculiar customs and their cult. At Naxos, for example, the residence of the Latin dukes of the Ægean Sea, the Italian influence is still very marked in the towns by the coast; many Italian-speaking families, remnants of the old *régime*, still live there, but up in the mountains of Naxos there is not a trace of them; the villages are inhabited by Greeks of the most undoubted pedigree.

In the third place, during the Turkish times the smaller islands of the Ægean Sea have never been interfered with. Chios, Crete, Samos, &c., have been subjected to severe persecutions;