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The deliberations of the congress reveal the necessity of greater efficiency in the sphere of elementary education, so as to ensure the attendance of all children at school until fourteen years of age and of part time education until at least the age of seventeen.

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THE BRONZE-AGE INVADERS OF BRITAIN.¹

SOMEWHERE about the year 2000 B.C., when the peoples of Western Europe were beginning to learn the uses of bronze and to alter the style of their pottery, a race of invaders began to reach our shores who were totally different from any race which had lived in Britain before that time. The ancient British, although of various strains, were all of them of the long-headed type; they had projecting occiputs; their heads appeared as if compressed from side to side. But those Bronze age invaders had rounded heads, with flat occiputs; their heads had the appearance of having been compressed from back to front. European anthropologists name this round-head type of man "Celtic"; they regard him as an offshoot from the racial type which now attains its greatest purity in the mountainous countries of Central Europe—the "Alpine" type of race. We may take the Bavarian or Savoyard as good modern representatives of the ancient Celtic or Alpine type. They are usually men of short stature, with dark hair and skins, with short and wide faces, regularly modelled features, and rounded heads. The men who invaded England early in the Bronze age and buried their dead in round barrows, were of a different build of body; they were strong, tall, and muscular; they had long faces, rugged features, prominent noses, overhanging eyebrow ridges; we have reason to believe they were fair in hair and complexion. Although these early invaders of Britain had the "Alpine" form of head, it is not among the modern inhabitants of Savoy or of Bavaria that we can hope to find their ancestral stock. We are all agreed that they were continental in origin. Those who have studied our Bronze-age invaders—who have investigated their physical characters, their methods of burial, their domestic animals, their pottery, their weapons and ornaments, are almost unanimously of opinion that we must seek their ancestral home somewhere in that part of Europe which now lies within the bounds of the German Empire. Every year our knowledge of Europe during pre-Roman times becomes more exact, and I propose, once again, in the light of more recent discoveries, and particularly from the point of view of one who is a student of the human body, to seek for the origin of our round-headed ancestry. We shall find that this early invasion of England was but a side eddy of a racial movement which affected almost the whole population of Europe.

How far the British people were exterminated and replaced during the invasions which took place after Roman domination had come to an end is not easily decided. If the Anglo-Saxons brought a new tongue to

England they brought no new physical type; in stature and in head form we cannot distinguish them with certainty from the Britons of the period of Roman occupation, nor from the older pre-Roman population. But in this earlier invasion, which began 2000 years before the Roman legions crossed the Straits of Dover, we have not the same difficulty; so distinctive is the head-form of the Bronze-age or "round-barrow" men that we recognise the type at a glance; the type was then new to England. Along all the counties on our eastern seaboard, from Caithness in the north to Dorset in the south, we have found the graves of this distinctive round-headed race. The Hon. John Abercromby, who is our leading authority on British pottery, weapons, and ornaments of the Bronze age, is of opinion that the round-headed invaders were few in number, and that, after gaining a foothold in Kent, they gradually spread northwards and westwards throughout our country. With that conception I cannot agree. The south-eastern part of England was apparently only one of the landing places; the researches which were carried out by Canon Greenwell and Mr. Mortimer leave us in no doubt as to their arrival in eastern Yorkshire; the round-heads became masters of it. The counties which bound the Firth of Forth formed another centre of the invasion; the round-heads conquered that part of Scotland. For our present purpose their extensive settlement in the lowlands of Aberdeenshire and along the southern shores of the Moray Firth are the most important. In recent years Prof. Reid and Dr. Alex. Low, of the University of Aberdeen, have made us familiar with the Bronze-age men of the north-east of Scotland. These more northern invaders had their own peculiar kind of round-headedness, a kind remarkably flat on the crown—just as they had their own kind of graves, their own kind of pottery and ornaments. Sixty years ago that pioneer of anthropology—Prof. Anders Retzius, of Stockholm—identified a certain physical type in Aberdeenshire as similar to that which he had seen amongst the peoples in some of the Baltic provinces of Russia. The invaders who settled on the shores of the Firth of Forth, in Yorkshire, and in the south-eastern part of England have, like their more northern allies, their own distinctive traits in form of head, and in fashions of weapons and pottery. We find a difficulty in explaining the distribution and characters of the "round-head" invasion, if we suppose, as Mr. Abercromby does, that there was only one point of landing, but all our facts find an easy solution if we suppose that the invasion which occurred in the Bronze age, was similar in character and in extent to that which took place in Anglo-Saxon times.

We must presume, then, that those round-headed people, like the Anglo-Saxons, crossed the North Sea; we must presume further that the "round-heads" were then the dominant power in the North Sea. There are certain considerations which make such a presumption difficult to accept. Then, as now, the Continental shores of the North Sea were inhabited chiefly by long-headed peoples. We do know, however, that before the beginning of the Bronze age the "round-heads" had broken through from the hinterlands of Germany and had reached the coast at various points between Scandinavia in the north and Brittany in the south. It is somewhat difficult to believe that a round-headed people were master mariners; seapower has usually been the appanage of long-headed nationalities; the Spaniards, the Portuguese, the Dutch, Norwegians, and British were, and are, predominantly long-headed. However that may be, we know the round-heads reached the Orkneys, the Hebrides, and the western shores. They spread across the lowlands of Scotland and crossed over to

¹ Presidential Address delivered to the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, on January 26, by Prof. Arthur Keith, F.R.S.