

The preceding paper was read before the Anthropological Society of Washington January 3, 1888. In the discussion which followed Mr. FLINT called attention to the resemblance in thought and expression between the prayer just rendered and similar productions of Eastern countries. Even the position of the suppliant is precisely that of the contemplative Buddha in the three forms of the temple images.

DERMAL TOPOGRAPHY.—It is believed the readers of the ANTHROPOLOGIST will be pleased to see the following letter from the distinguished author of Hereditary Genius:

42 RUTLAND GATE, LONDON, S. W., Feb. 9, 1888.

DEAR SIR: Pray pardon my asking a question of you. It refers to the following passage in your remarks, p. 74 of the AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST. "He then referred to dermal topography and its use by the police and others as a means of identifying persons."

I should be particularly obliged for references on this matter. It is *said* to be largely used in China, but I have failed to get this verified as yet. I know of cases of its use in India, but by no means extensively. Has it ever been in general use by the police of any country? What evidence is there of its having been efficacious? What parts of the skin have been used for the purpose? And how is the examination or impression made? I am the more anxious to learn as I find a flat disagreement on one important point bearing on this subject in published accounts by two different persons.

I expect to have an opportunity for making some rather extensive experiments in this matter, and hardly know whether it is worth while to begin them. On this account I should be the more obliged for such information as you can give me, as a brother anthropologist (I am president of our Anthropological Institute).

Believe me, truly yours,

FRANCIS GALTON.

Prof. O. T. MASON.

In a note to Prof. Mason, after having been shown the above letter, Mr. Gilbert Thompson, of the U. S. Geological Survey, states that in 1882 he was in charge of topographical parties of the U. S. Geological Survey, in the vicinity of Fort Wingate, New Mexico, and had occasion to make disbursements by means of written orders upon the sutler at that post, with whom he had deposited personal funds. "In order to protect myself against any alteration in the amount as written, and being without any other resource, I adopted the additional precaution of making an ink impression of my thumb at the top and bottom of the orders, at the left hand, and I wrote in ink on the upper impression the number of the order and on the lower the amount in figures corresponding to the written value of the order."

Mr. Thompson found the plan he had adopted thoroughly efficacious.