

They corresponded to other deer's-horn implements found in various parts of the shafts and galleries. But Canon Greenwell noted that, while in the case of the two implements specially observed by him, the handle of each lay towards the mouth of the gallery, the tines which formed the blades of the picks pointed towards each other, suggesting, as he conceived, that in all probability they had been used respectively by a right and a left-handed miner. The day's work over, the men had laid down their tools ready for the next day's work; meanwhile the roof fell in, and the picks were left undisturbed through all the intervening centuries, till the reopening of the gallery.

The circumstance, though worthy of note, among the other details recorded by an accurate observer, could not in itself be regarded as of great weight in its bearing on the general question of the origin or prevalence of right or left-handedness. But any evidence tending to throw light on the usage in prehistoric times has a significance and value in reference to the original and very general use of the right hand where special dexterity is required. The question of the reason for such preference was brought under the notice of Carlyle by painful experience near the close of his life. It was his sad misfortune, when he had reached the advanced age of seventy-five, to lose the use of his right hand. The period of life was too late to turn with any hope of success to the untrained left hand; and more than one entry in his journal refers to the irreparable loss. But one curious embodiment of the reflections suggested by this privation is thus recorded upwards of a year after experience had familiarized him with all that the loss involved:—"Curious to consider the institution of the Right Hand among universal mankind; probably the very oldest human institution that exists, indispensable to all human coöperation whatsoever. He that has seen three mowers, one of whom is left-handed, trying to work together, and how impossible it is, has witnessed the simplest form of an impossibility, which but for the distinction of a 'right hand,' would have pervaded all human things. Have often thought of all that,—never saw it so clearly as this morning while out walking, unslept and dreary enough in the windy sunshine. How old? Old! I wonder if there is any people barbarous enough not to have this distinction of hands; no human Cosmos possible to be even begun without it. Oldest Hebrews, &c., writing from right to left, are as familiar with the