

In the Kāmilarai dialect of the Australians bordering on Hunter's River and Lake Macquarie, *matara* signifies hand, but they have the terms *turoon*, right, on the right hand, and *ngorangón*, on the left hand. In the Wiraturai dialect of the Wellington Valley, the same ideas are expressed by the words *bumalgál* and *miraga*, i. e., dextrorsum and sinistrorsum.

The idea which lies at the root of our own decimal notation, and has long since been noted by Lepsius, Donaldson and other philologists, is no less discernible in the rudest savage tongues. Among the South Australians the simple names for numerals are limited to two, viz., *ryup*, one, and *politi*, two; the two together express three; *politi-politi*, four; and then five is indicated by the term *ryup-murnangin*, i. e., one-hand; ten by *politi-murnangin*, i. e., two hands. The same idea is apparent in the use (in the dialects of Hawaii, Raratonga, Viti, and New Zealand) of the common terms *lima*, *rima*, *linga*, *ringa*, &c., for *hand* and the number *five*. But *fulu*, and its equivalents, stand for *ten*, apparently from the root *fu*, whole, altogether; while the word *tau*, which in the Hawaiian signifies *ready*, in the Tahitian *right*, *proper*, and in the New Zealand *expert*, *dextrous*, is the common Polynesian term for the right-hand. In the Vitian language, as spoken in various dialects throughout the Viti or Fidji Islands, the distinction is still more explicitly indicated. There is first the common term *linga*, the hand, or arm; then the ceremonial term *daka*, employed exclusively in speaking of that of a chief, but which, it may be presumed, also expresses the right-hand: as, while there is no other word for it, a distinct term *sema* is the left-hand. The root *se* is found not only in the Viti, but also in the Samoa, Tonga, Mangariva, and New Zealand dialects, signifying to err, to mistake, to wander; *semo*, unstable, unfixed. But also there is the word *matáu*, right, dexter, clearly proving the recognition of the distinction. Again, in the Terawan language, spoken throughout the group of islands on the equator, called the Kingsmill Archipelago, the terms *atai* or *edai*, right, dexter, (entirely distinct from *rapa*, good, right,) and *maan*, left, sinister, are applied to *bai*, or *pai*, the hand, to denote the difference, e. g., *Te bai maan*, the left hand, i. e., the dirty hand, that which is not used in eating.

Turning to the languages of the American continent, similar evidence reveals the recognition among its savage hunter-tribes of the distinction between the right and left hand. In the Chippeway the word for my