

But though this is undoubtedly true of the majority, a certain number of children will be found to manifest a distinct preference, at a very early age, for one or the other hand. In the case of a niece of my own, the lefthandedness showed itself very early; and in my grandson, it was independently observed by its mother and nurse, and brought under my notice, that so soon as he was able to grasp an object and transfer it from one hand to the other, he gave the preference to the left hand. A like decided preference for the right hand, though doubtless also comparatively rare, is more frequent; and the further research is carried, the more manifest does it appear that the preferential use of what we designate the right hand is natural and instinctive with a sufficiently large number to determine the prevalent usage. With a smaller number an equally strong impulse is felt prompting to the use of the left hand; but my opinion remains unchanged, that with the majority righthandedness is no more than the result of prevalent custom and education.

Attention has already been drawn to the indications pointing to the simultaneous use of the right and the left hand by two fellow flint workers in the primitive flint-pits of Norfolk, styled "Grime's Graves." But some more recent disclosures are suggestive of the preferential use of the right hand among the men of Europe's palæotechnic dawn.* The recovery of specimens of imitative art, the work of the Troglodytes of the Mammoth and Reindeer Periods of Southern France, has familiarized us with carvings and etchings, executed with a remarkable degree of freedom and artistic truthfulness, by a people living at the head waters of the Garonne, under social and climatic conditions closely analogous to those of the Esquimaux of the present time. In dexterity of handling and faithful portraiture, the specimens of primitive art greatly surpass the most ingenious examples of drawing or etching executed by modern savages. The drawing especially of the mammoth, traced with a pointed implement on a tablet of ivory, found in La Madelaine Cave, on the river Vézère, is replete with interest, alike as a piece of contemporary portraiture of the long-extinct proboscidian of Europe, and as an evidence of the intellectual development of contemporary man. But the drawings and etchings on ivory thus executed by contemporaries of the mammoth and reindeer of Southern France have also a value for us

* *Vide Prehistoric Man*, 3rd Ed., Vol. I., p. 107.