

most, if not all, of the Polynesian languages. 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 Fiji 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 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; while there is the word *matau*, right, dexter, proving the recognition of the distinction.

An occasional correspondent of the *Times* communicated a series of letters to that journal in the latter part of the past year (1876), in which he embodied anthropological notes on the Fijians, obtained, as he states, both from his own observations during repeated visits to the Islands, and from conversation with English, American, and German settlers, who may be met at the port of call and on the route in either direction between San Francisco and the Australian Colonies. "The Fijians," he says, "are quite equal in stature to white men; they are better developed relatively in the chest and arms than in the lower limbs; they are excellent swimmers, and, if trained, are good rowers. Lefthanded men are more common among them than among white people; three were pointed out in one little village near the anchorage."

Observations of this class will no doubt accumulate when attention is more fully directed to the inquiry, and so help to determine whether or not man is congenitally righthanded, and has, from anatomical structure, a specific right and left side. On this subject Sir Thomas Browne quaintly remarks in his "*Religio Medici*:" "Whether Eve was framed out of the left side of Adam, I dispute not, because I stand not yet assured which is the right side of a man, or whether there be any such distinction in nature." Dr. Struthers, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen, who has long directed his attention to this subject, thus writes to me: "I have again and again verified the fact in my own children, that in early childhood there is no preference for one hand more than the other."