



CUNNING OF THE LEFT HAND.

Some of the Advantages Possessed by the Ambidextrous.

Ambidextrous men and women, or those who can use either right or left hands with equal facility, are not nearly so frequently met with as might at first be supposed; in fact, they are quite rare. This double faculty is, however, much more frequently met with among butchers and sailors than in any other walks of life. Left-handed butchers are numerous, as a walk through any of our large market houses will quickly demonstrate, but it is a very interesting study to watch one of them who will cut, chop, saw and handle his meats without once changing it from one side to the other on the block or changing his own position.

In view of the many advantages derived from the ability to use both hands equally well, many people have often expressed surprise at the action of educational authorities in insisting on the use of only the right hand, instead of trying to develop an equal skill in the other. They all stick to the right-handed idea, however, and an old resident of Frankford, noted for his ambidextrousness, is still mourning the loss of a prize at school through the use of his left hand in writing, although he was equally skillful as a penman with his right.

The benefits derived from the use of both hands were excellently illustrated in the experience of two carpenters who lived in Frankford some years ago. Their names were Cross and Walton, and the former was right-handed, the latter left-handed. As one was also very tall and the other very short, they made a curious couple, but they always worked together laying floors and putting up joiners' work in buildings.

They could take jobs of this character cheaper than any other, because they could work from either end toward each other so handily. Cross would square a floor board at one end and Walton would "scribe" and cut it off to fit at the other end and then nail down, working together from opposite ends.

Left-handed machinists are always at a disadvantage, as machinery is invariably adapted to people who work right-handed, but the ambidextrous man or woman is always at home in whatever work is undertaken.

"What," exclaimed the legitimate hero, drawing her gently nearer to the footlights, "if our love is but a farce, after all!"

"Ah, what!" the legitimate heroine sighed with a shiver.

There was much to suggest the terrible thought; for the box office was actually selling out the house.—Detroit Journal.

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