

so; but one of her brothers had much more than the usual facility in using both hands; and in paddling, chopping, &c., used to shift about the implement from one hand to the other in a way which I envied. As to my sister-in-law, she had great advantages from her lefthandedness. She was a very good performer on the piano, and her bass was magnificent. If there was a part to be taken only with one hand, she used to take the left as often as the right. But it was at needle-work that I watched her with the greatest interest. If she was cutting out, she used to shift the scissors from one hand to the other; and would have employed the left hand more, were it not that all scissors, as she complained, are made righthanded, and she wished, if possible, to procure a lefthanded pair. So also with the needle, she used the right hand generally; but in many delicate little operations, her habit was to shift it to the left hand."

In those and similar cases, the fact is illustrated that the lefthanded person is necessarily ambidextrous. He has the exceptional "dexterity" resulting from the special organic aptitude of the left hand, which is only paralleled in those cases of true righthandedness where a corresponding organic aptitude is innate. Education, enforced by the usage of the majority, begets for him the training of the other and less facile hand; while by an unwise neglect the majority of mankind are content to leave the left hand as an untrained and merely supplementary organ. From the days of the seven hundred chosen men of the tribe of Benjamin, every one of whom, lefthanded, could sling stones at a hair's-breadth and not miss, and of Ehud, the lefthanded Benjamite, the deliverer of Israel from their servitude to Eglon, king of Moab, the skill of the lefthanded has been noticeable. Milton, in sportive satire, plays, in one of his sonnets, with the name of "Colkitto, or Macdonnel, or Galasp." The name—which is that of the Earl of Antrim's deputy, by whom the invasion of Scotland, on behalf of the Stuarts, was attempted in 1644,—does not assume a less strange aspect in its more genuine form of Alastair MacCholla-Chiotach; that is, Alexander, son of Coll, the Lefthanded. This was the elder Macdonald, of Colonsay, who was noted for his ability to wield his claymore with equal dexterity in the left hand or the right; and hence his soubriquet of Coll Kittoch, or Coll, the Lefthanded.

The skill of lefthanded artists has been repeatedly noted. Foremost amongst such stands Leonardo da Vinci, skilled as musician,