

by vanity; oh, no! they have a more serious basis.

My sister and I are charged by our parents with the work of procuring the necessities of life. Now, if some sickness should befall my sister and make her unable to work (and I tell you in confidence my sister is subject to cramps, rheumatism, gout and many other ailments) what will become of our family? Alas! we shall perish in misery, for I will not be able to draw up even a supplication for obtaining charity. Even for this present petition I have been obliged to use a stranger's hand.

Oh! how my parents will yet regret having established such an unjust distinction between two sisters who resemble each other so nearly.

Will you be so kind, ladies and gentlemen, as to make my parents realize how unjust it is to be so partial in their treatment of their children, and how necessary it is for them to bestow their care and affection upon their offspring in equal measure.

I am, ladies and gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your most humble servant,  
"THE LEFT HAND."

#### A PHILOSOPHICAL ANSWER.

The value of services rendered by skilled workmen should not be calculated by the time it takes to perform the task. Allowance should be made for the weeks and months spent by thorough workmen in learning how to do their work well. This knowledge has its money value.

While Judge Tracy was on the circuit, going from court his trace broke. The judge spent a half hour trying to mend it, but to no purpose. His patience was exhausted, and he expressed his vexation in words. A negro came along, and the judge told him of his trouble.

The negro let out his trace and cut a hole in it, and the job was done.

"Why," said the judge, "could I not have thought of that?"

"Well, marster," said the negro, "don't you know some folks is naturally smarter than others?"

"That's so," said the judge. "What shall I pay you for fixing my trace?"

"Well, marster, fifty cents will do," said the negro.

"Fifty cents!" said the judge. "You were not five minutes at it."

"I do not charge you fifty cents for doing it," said the negro. "I charge you twenty-five cents for doing it and twenty-five cents for knowing how to do it."

A pessimistic wag, on seeing two men abusing each other, remarked to a by-stander that they quarreled "just like two brothers."

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