

## II. LEFT HAND.

There is no reason why the thumb, which plays such an important part in the right hand, should do nothing in the left hand, excepting where nature has given it neither the suitable form nor dimensions for that employment. The thumb being shorter than the fingers, and having the power of acting easily in the opposite direction, it might be brought to meet them, and offer a point of support for the neck, the profile of which section is represented by the segment A, Fig 3, so that the neck might not yield to the pressure of the fingers. These fingers falling perpendicularly on the strings, the position of the forefinger F gives that direction to the extreme joints. By unbending this finger, it can reach the point B. By placing the extremity of the thumb M on the point N, that of the forefinger can be placed on C, without contracting the joints in such a manner as if the neck were supported at the point O; and, finally, the thumb can be used, as it is on the pianoforte, as a pivot on which the whole hand changes its position, and which serves as a guide in returning to the position quitted. To correct the phrase **Ex. 2**, without the assistance of the thumb may be accomplished, as in **Ex. 3**. There are some deviations which cannot be performed at all with the thumb, see **Ex. 4** and **Ex. 5**, but which can be played easily with the hand as in Fig. 3. Rule:—**Place the thumb always at half the width of the neck**, facing the finger which answers to the second fret; never displace it but for the purpose of barring, which is effected easily, if, instead of making great efforts that all parts of the finger, Fig. 4, should touch all the points in the line A B (the width of the finger-board) with a force capable of pressing them against the fret, it be withdrawn towards the edge A, Fig. 5,

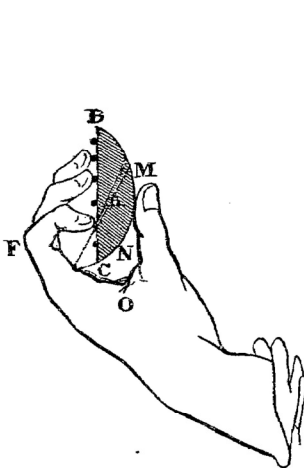


FIG. 3.

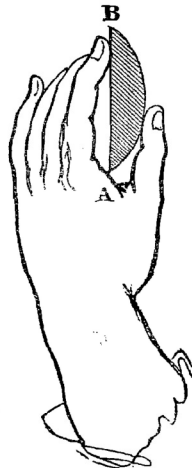


FIG. 4.

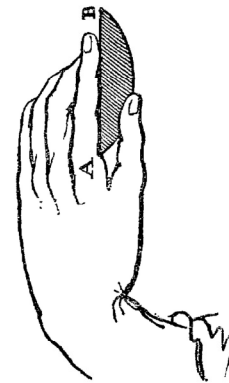


FIG. 5.

and giving the fore-finger the direction of the straight line A B (a line which, by its construction, cannot be bent in the contrary direction) and regard only the support of its extremity B, and that of the thumb; and not to press, in any other case, the thumb against the neck, but the approach of the arm, which, conducting the hand beyond, might experience a check to advancing farther than necessary, by the obstacle which the thumb would offer in opening as far as possible. Briefly: **Let the thumb not seek for the neck, but let the neck meet the thumb.**