

London 1765
A

Concise & Easy Method

of Learning the Figuring Part

OF

COUNTRY DANCES,

by way of Characters.

To which is Prefixed

THE

FIGURE of the MINUET,

BY

Nicholas Dukes,

Dancing Master.

Price One Guinea



By the Lords Justices —
Hardwicke C. Granville P. Grafton.
Anson.

Whereas Nicholas Dukas, of Paternoster Row, in the City of London, Dancing Master, hath by his Petition, humbly represented to us, that he hath, with great Labour & Expence, Compiled or made a Book, intituled, A Concise and Easy Method of Learning the Figuring part of Country Dances, by way of Characters; to which is prefixed, the Figure of the Minuet. And has humbly prayed us to grant him, his Majesty's Royal Licence & Protection, for the Sole Printing, Engraving, Publishing & Vending, the abovementioned Book, for the Term of fourteen Years. We are pleased to Condescend to his Request, & do, by these presents, in his Majesty's Name, as far as may be agreeable to the Statute, in that Case, made & provided, Grant unto the said Nicholas Dukas, his Heirs, Executors, Admini-

strators, & Assigns, his Majesty's Royal Priviledge & Licence,
for the sole Printing, Engraving, Publishing, & Vending, the said
Book during the Term of fourteen Years, to be Computed from the
day of the Date hereof; Strictly forbidding, & Prohibiting, all his
Majesty's Subjects, within his Kingdoms & Dominions, to
Reprint or Abridge the same, either in the like, or any other Size
or Manner whatsoever; or to Import, Buy, Vend, Utter, or Distri-
bute any Copies thereof, Reprinted beyond the Seas, during the
said Term of fourteen Years, without the Consent & Approbation
of the said Nicholas Dukes, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators,
or Assigns, by Writing, under his, or their Hands & Seals, first
had & Obtained, as they will answer the Contrary at their Peril.
Whereof the Commissioners, & other Officers of his Majesty's
Customs, the Master, Wardens, & Company of Stationers,
are to take Notice, that due Obedience may be render'd to his Majesty's
Pleasure herein declared: Given at Whitehall the Twenty
third day of April, 1752. in the Twenty fifth Year of his
Majesty's Reign. —

By their Excellencies Command
Claudius Amyand. —

THE PREFACE

Dancing being an Art very conducive to the forming, in either Sex, a genteel, free, and easy Carriage & Deportment, and not only so, but an Exercise delightfully pleasing & becoming both to Gentlemen as well as Ladies. It is now a diversion highly esteemed & valued in all y^e Courts of Europe, and become so universal, that, in many Foreign Countries, it's their Chief Amusement; and so much approved of, at this time, in England, that in many of our greatest Citys & Towns, it's their Chief diversion. Though I propose Chiefly to Treat on the different parts of the figuring of Country dances, yet first of all I will take the liberty to acquaint every Gentleman or Lady, who is desirous of performing Country dances, in a genteel, free, & easy manner, the necessity they are under of being first duly Qualified in a Minuet; that beautifull dance, being so well calculated and adapted, as to give room for every person to display all the beauties & Graces of the body which becomes a genteel Carriage. As this dance is the Ground work of all other dancing, I thought it my duty to recommend y^e knowledge of it to all Gentlemen & Ladies, that, by acquiring y^e Beauties & Graces of that dance, they may be Enabled

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to perform the other part of dancing with y^e greater neatness & delicacy. As I have intimated what I think is necessary to set forth the Advantages of knowing a Minuet, I shall now beg leave to advance a little on the Subject of Country dancing. As numbers of Gentlemen & Ladies are very desirous of acquiring the Art & knowledge of this branch of dancing, I have, for this purpose, endeavour^d to explain to them, in y^e most easy manner possible a certain number of the most principal turns, & different parts of figuring, wh^{ch} are made use of in this manner of dancing. As the Composition of Country dances, as well as all other dancing, depends on y^e fancy of y^e Composer; for w^h reason it's impossible to describe every figure that may be thought of; therefore I have confin'd myself to such general figures only, as always were, & always will be, in all probability, made use of, & cannot be left out: So that not to swell this little book with more figures than are necessary, or to perplex the Learner with more than what is absolutely useful, I have Compiled only — such a number of the most principal figures, as will be necessary to compleat any Gentleman or Lady; & by observing of which rules, any person, who has the least knowledge that may be of Country dancing, may be cap-

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able of picking out & performing almost any dance that is made or publish'd, Even a person who never has learn'd, cannot fail of improving themselves, by this method; every figure being so plainly Traced out, that, by following the lines, they cannot fail of performing the figure; Gentlemen and Ladies will find, that by being taught by this method, they will acquire the knowledge of the figuring part much sooner, and much easier, than they can by any other way of teaching; since, by the help of this Book, they may always be improving themselves, and that without the help of a Master; & by y^e help of this Book also, if they were not to dance for a considerable time, & was, in part, to forget what they had acquired, by turning to those figures they might immediately set themselves to rights. Such Gentlemen that Travel, or are so situated, that they can't so conveniently have y^e Instructions of a Master, will find this of peculiar service to them; since they may have recourse to this at all times, and improve themselves by so doing.

Those persons who are what may be called profess'd dancers, will find this Book of service to them; for, altho' they may be capable of going down any dance, after they have seen a Couple or two go it down; if they are not acquainted with y^e proper names of every turn.

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and every figure they may be frustrated in their performance; since they will find more difficulty of retaining y^e figure by the observation of y^e Eye, than they wou'd by being acquainted with all y^e proper names of every turn, &c., for then they will have nothing to do, when a dance is call'd but to keep in memory y^e names of the figures the one after the other; which when you know how those figures are to be done, & putting them together properly, one after the other, in their due Course; You'l find it an easy matter to go down with any dance whatever; w.^{ch.} for y^e want of knowing y^e proper names, as before mention'd, y^e best of dancers may be confus'd.

As I propos'd to give Instructions only for y^e figuring part; so for that reason, I have took no notice of several Whims and Humours which are often times introduced, according to the Caprice of the Composer: such as Clapping hands. & peeping over the shoulders, or many other Oddities; which I shall leave to the Observation of the Performer. Now for the greater ease of such Gentlemen or Ladies who are desirous of improving themselves in a Minuet, I have traced the figure of it, by which means any person may, in a few minutes make themselves Masters of y^e figure

P R E F A C E

As I have hinted, in the latter part of the Book, that a long Minuet is look'd upon as tedious, I have, for that reason, traced as many figures as will be necessary for the performing of it of a proper length; but if the performers are disposed to make it longer I shall leave that to their discretion. —

P R E F A C E

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The Contents

I

Back to back w th your partner. 35	Cast up & half figure. 73
Cast of & up again. 122	Foot it sideways & turn. 27
Cast of two Co. & up again. 3	
Cross over & half figure. 425	Hands all round at bottom 12
Cast of two Co. lead up two Co.)	Half figure up Contrary sides } 18
and Cast of one Co.) 7	& down again of your own. }
On's over two Co. lead up)	Lead up two Co. & Cast of. 19
two Co. & Cast of one Co.) 8	Stay of your own sides. 20
Cross over two Co. 9	Stay Contrary sides. 21
Cross over one Co. & turn your partn. 11	Half figure down of your own)
Cast of two Co. lead up one Co.)	sides & turn at bottom. } 48
& outside y ^e top Co. and turn)	Half figure up of your own)
your partner. 24	sides y ^e 3 ^d man & w ^c . and } 49
Cast of two Co. Cross up two Co.)	turn at y ^e top. }
& finish in your own places) 25	Stands all Six round. 55
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& finish in y ^e 2 ^d man's place. } 28	& up again of your own. } 72
The 1 st w ^c . Casts of one Co. and)	Half figure at top & turn hands. 71
turns y ^e 3 ^d man & finishes in)	
the 2 ^d w ^c . place. 29	Lead down or Gallop down)
Cast of one Co. & lead thro' y ^e)	& up again & Cast of. } 10
bottom Cast up one Co. & lead)	Left hands a Cross round. 14
thro' y ^e top & Cast of.) 30	Lead your partn ^r of into y ^e 2 ^d)
Cast of one Co. & Cross over y ^e 3 ^d)	Co. place Improper. } 15
Co. Cast up again & Cross over)	Lead your partn ^r below y ^e 2 ^d Co.)
to your own places.) 33	& leave your partn ^r Improper. & } 16
The 2 ^d man Casts of below y ^e 3 ^d)	turn y ^e w ^c . & finish in her place. }
man & y ^e 2 ^d w ^c . Cast round y ^e 1 st)	Lead your partn ^r round y ^e 2 ^d man)
w ^c . & turns partn ^r in y ^e middle.) 40	& round y ^e 2 ^d w ^c . into y ^e 2 ^d Co. place. } 17
Cross Corners half round. 53	Lead your partn ^r down to y ^e 3 ^d w ^c .)
Cross Corners quite round. 54	place & bring up y ^e 3 ^d w ^c . } 31
Cast of half figure. 72	Lead thro' y ^e 2 ^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of)
	lead thro' y ^e 3 ^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of. } 34

The Contents

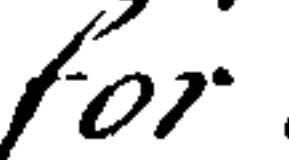

Lead out side and turn in the Middle	44	The 2 ^d man casts below y ^e 3 ^d man & the wo. casts up & meets in y ^e Middle & turn partners	40
Lead out sides & in again y ^e 2 first men & two first wo.	46	The 1 st man & 2 ^d wo. leads out- sides & inwards again y ^e 1 st wo. & 2 ^d man y ^e same & turn at top	45
Lead thro' y ^e bottom & cast up & thro' y ^e top & cast of	52	Turn corners right hand & your partner w th your left.	74 & 75
Lead thro' y ^e first two men be- tween y ^e 1 st two wo. & cast of round them to their own places and turn hands	62 63	Turn right hands round with y ^e 2 ^d wo. & left hands with your partner	58 & 59
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Right & left quite round	23	The 2 ^d man & wo. sets corners & turns hands	43
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Set 3 & 3 & turn hands and finish in y ^e Middle y ^e man of y ^e wo. side & y ^e wo. of y ^e man's side	41 & 42		
Set corners baulk them & turn your partner	50 & 51		
Set to y ^e 2 ^d wo. & turn her	56 & 57		
Set single y ^e man cast of & the wo. cast up	60 & 61		
The 3 ^d man leads up y ^e 3 ^d wo. & takes his partn ^r back again	32		
Turn y ^e partn ^r right hands & cast of	36		
Turn y ^e partn ^r left hand & cast up	37		
The 1 st man & 1 st wo. sets to y ^e 2 ^d wo. & hands all three round	38 39		


Rules to be Observed


You are to Observe that the top of the Book is always to be kept toward the upper end of the Room, so that as you Trace any Figure you must turn your hands in such a manner, as not to turn the Book as the Figure waves, but always keep y^e Book in the same position


This mark Signifies for the Man 

This for the Woman 

This Signifies for the giving the hand or hands
for one  for both 

Where this mark \times is, is to let go y^e hand or hands
According as the upper part of this mark is directed the face is to be carried 


This mark  Signifies a quarter turn of y^e body to the right or left according to which side of the line it is set, the mark's above, shews, one is a quarter turn to the left hand, and the other a quarter turn to right

Where those dots are in this manner it's to shew where the Person is to finish 

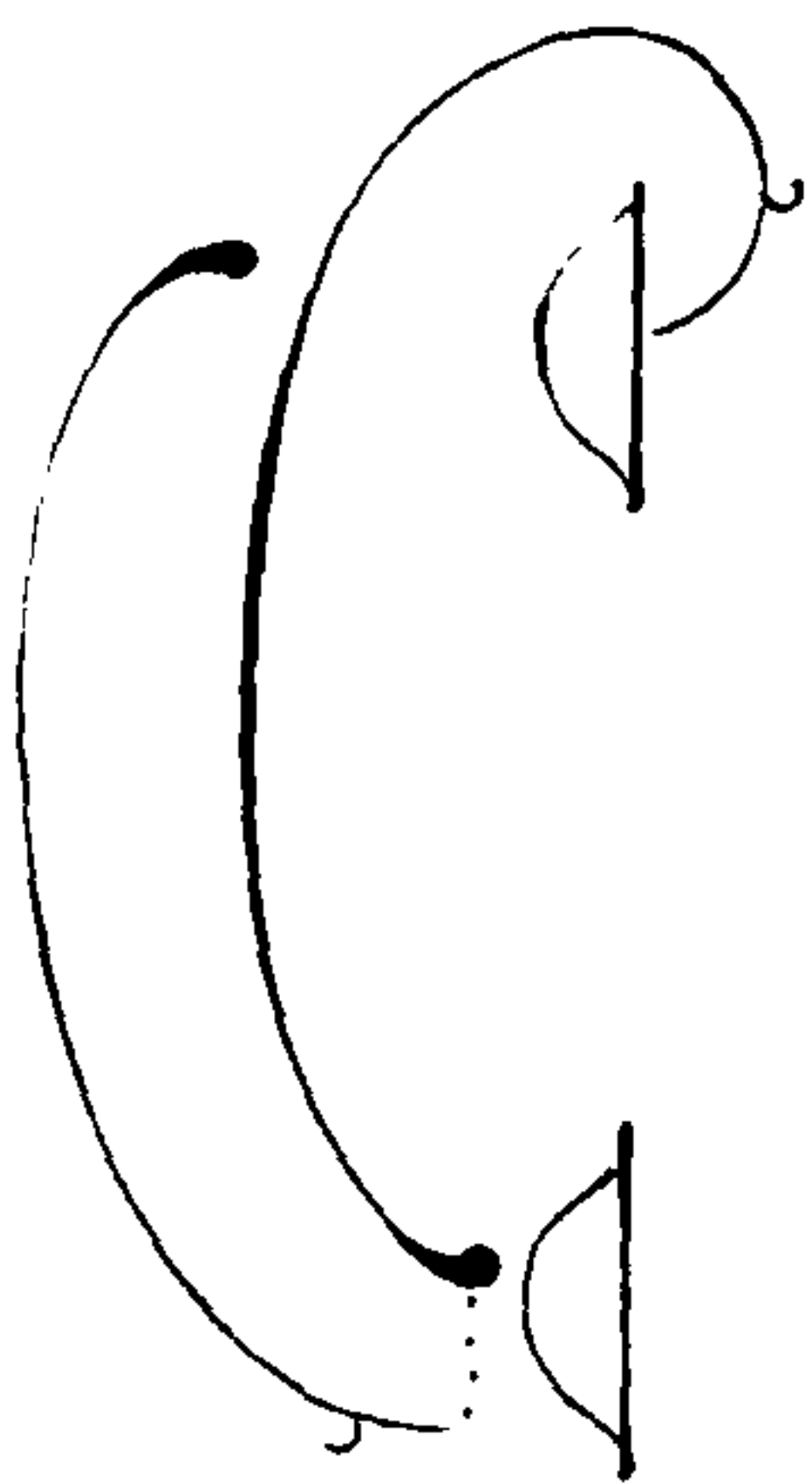
When you Cast of below a Couple they are to move up to your place, Likewise the same if you Cast up above a Couple they are to move down to your place and so the same in Crossing over or figuring in or

Rules to be Observed

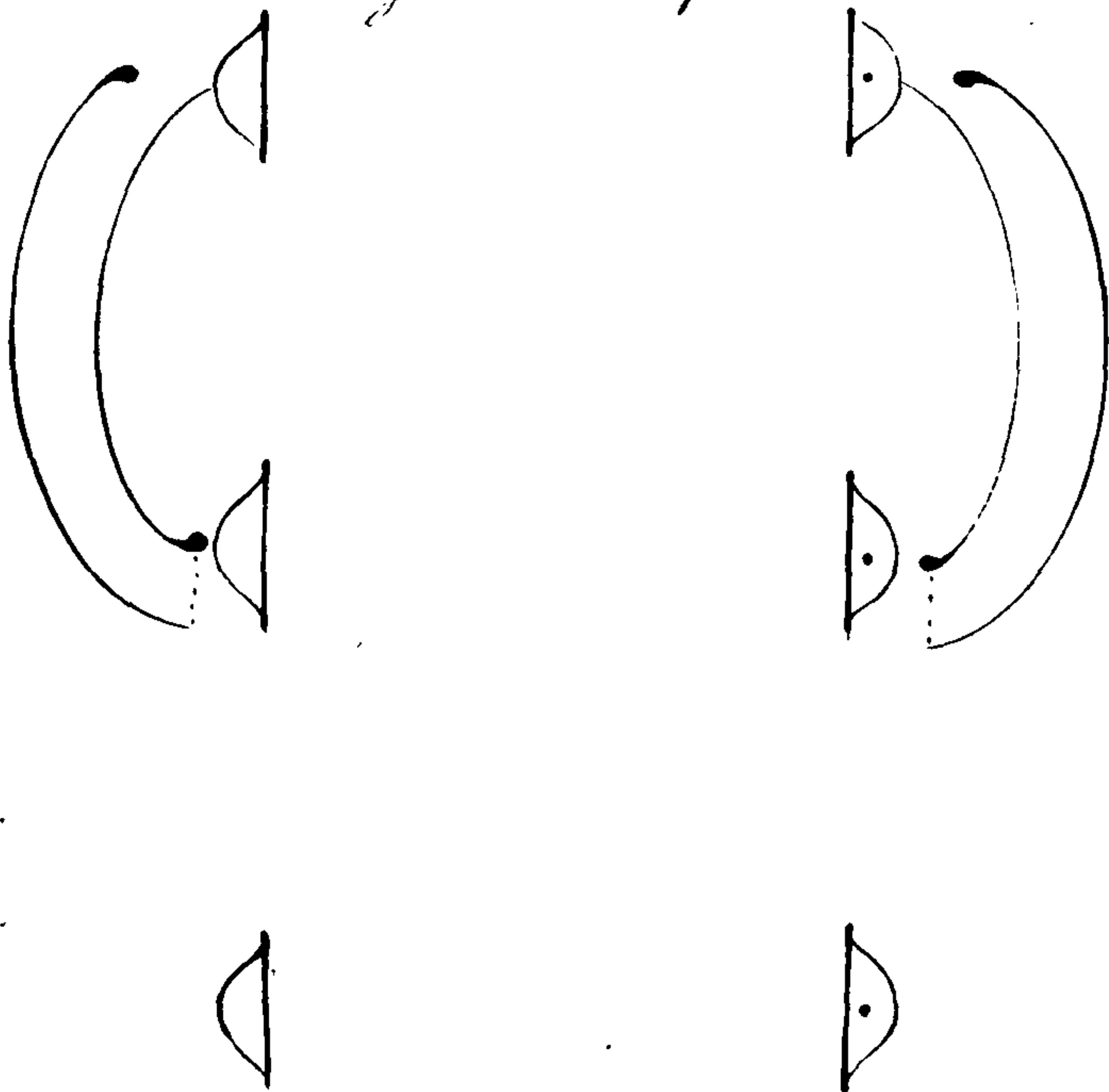
in any other part where you move down or up, the other Couple is to Shift as the Case requires.

I have set no perticuler mark for your seting or footing no otherways then by just drawing of a little line at this  pointing to the person you are to set to as the directions over y^e figure informs you; according to the present method of dancing they keep continually footing, as in Casting of, Crossing over, or any other part of Figuring, you may foot it forwards or backwards or sideways as the Case requires.

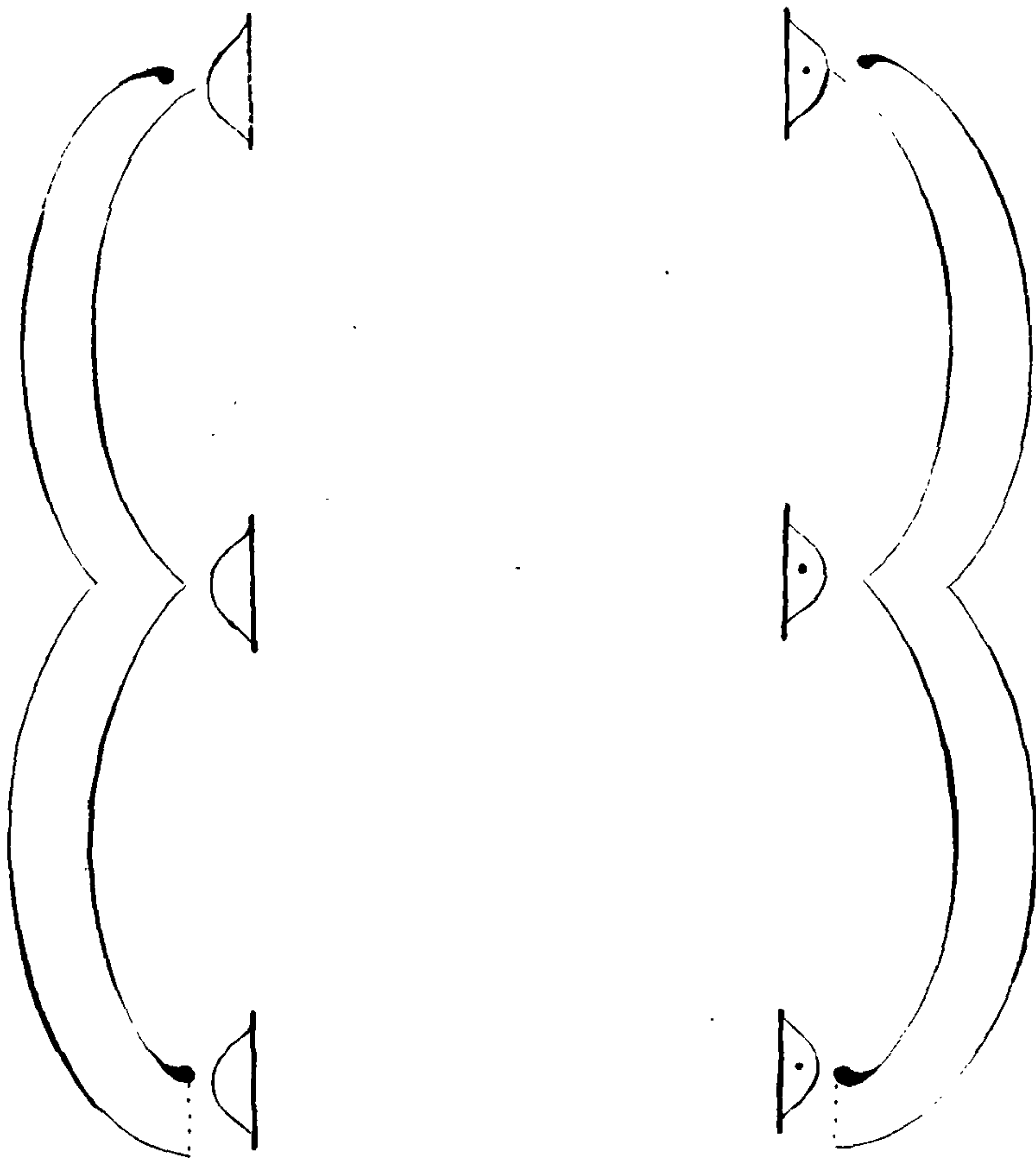
To Cast off & up again in the manner
 it used to be done formerly, which is here
 under described; that is, by turning round
 to your left hand, & going below y^e 2^d Co.
 into their place, & then turning round to y^e
 right hand, & coming up to your own place;
 the Wo. turn off first to her right hand, &
 then up again to the left. >



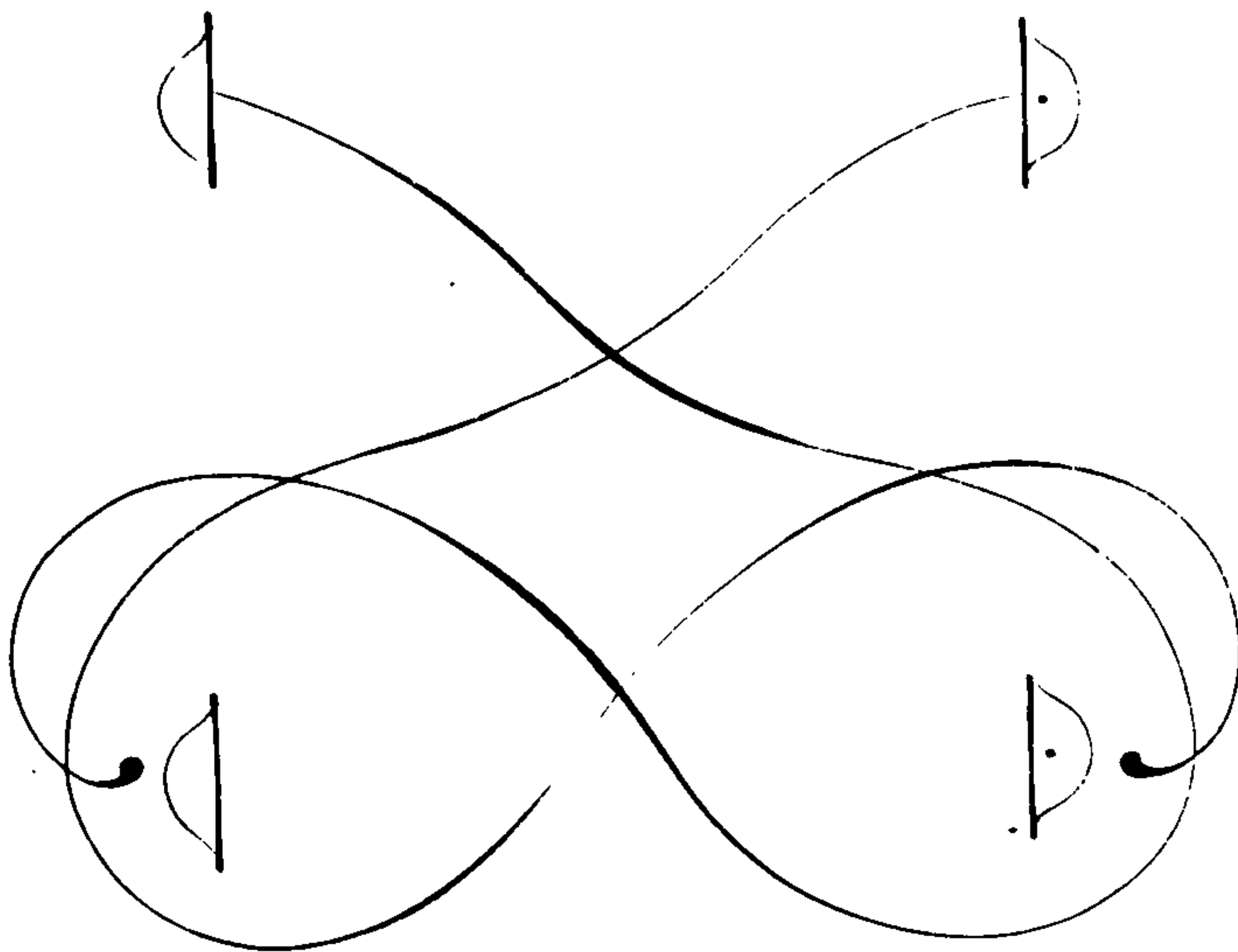
• As I have shew'd on the other side the manner of Casting of \S up again, as used formerly, • I shall now shew the manner of doing it according to the Modern method, & shall hereafter keep to this last mann^r of doing it; to Cast off \S up again, according to this last method propos'd, is to slip or footing it down behind the 2^d Co. to the 2^d Co. place, without turning round, & slip up again in the same manner to your own place.



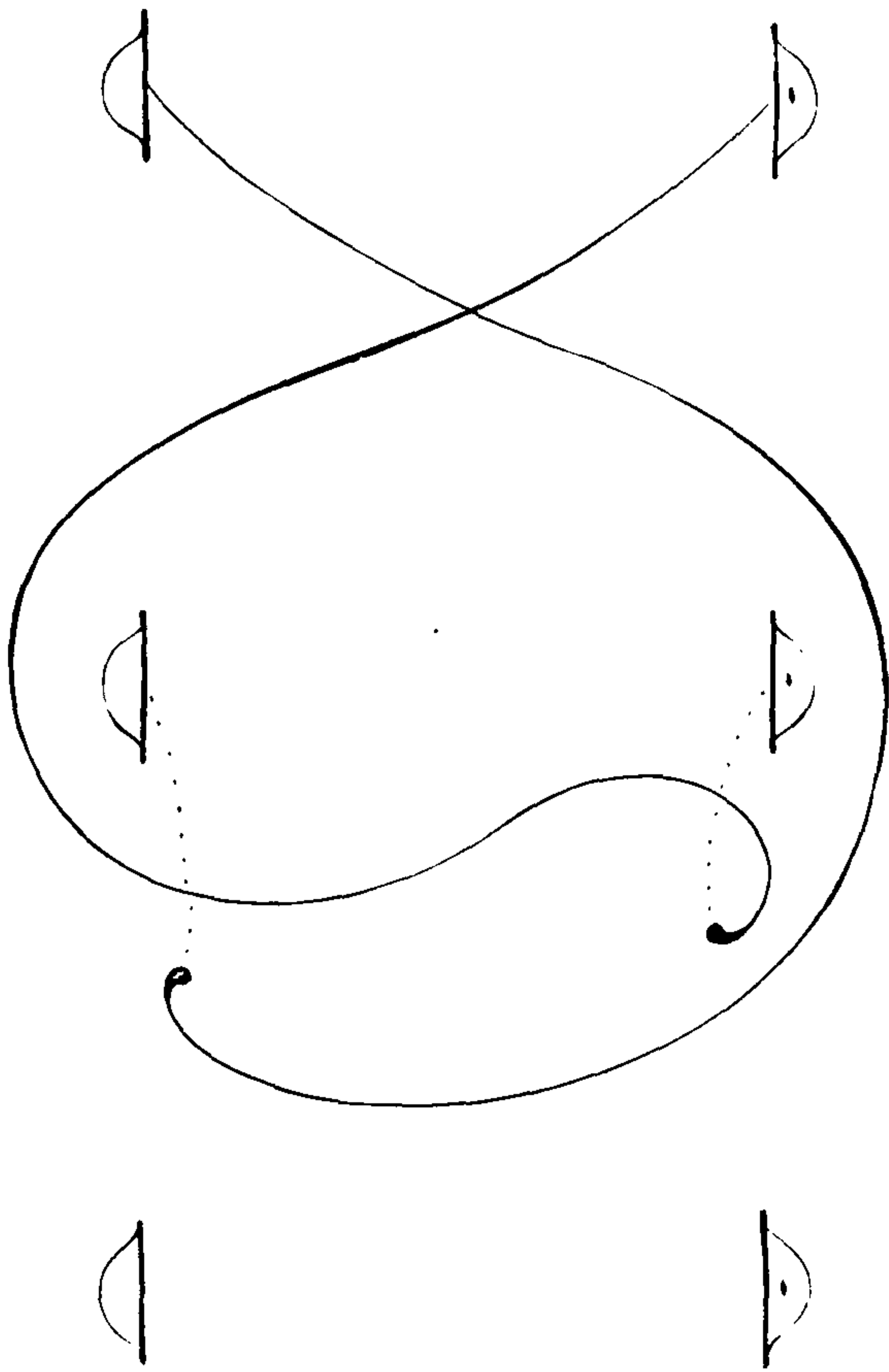
To Cast of two Co. and up again



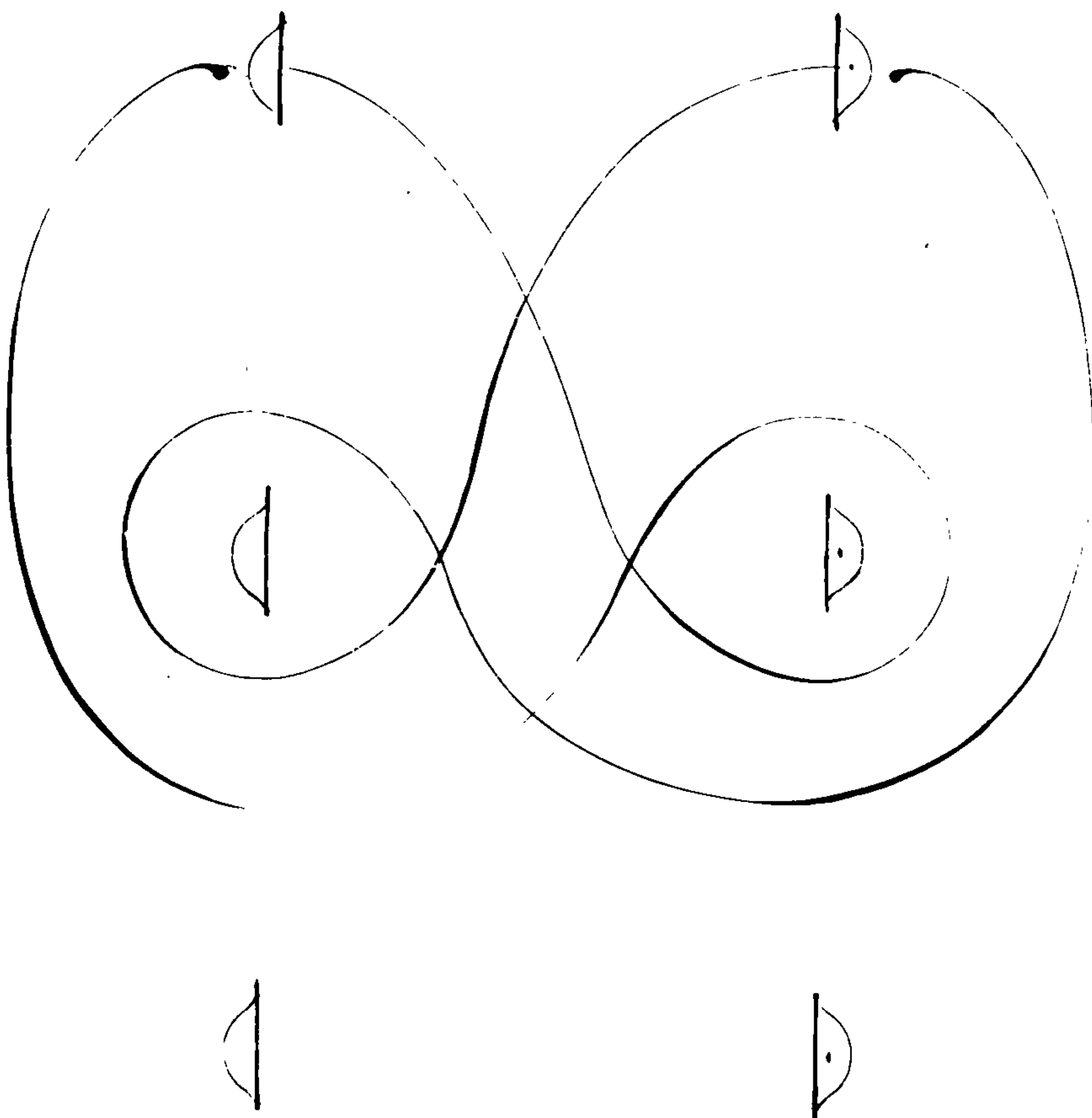
To Cross over, and half figure



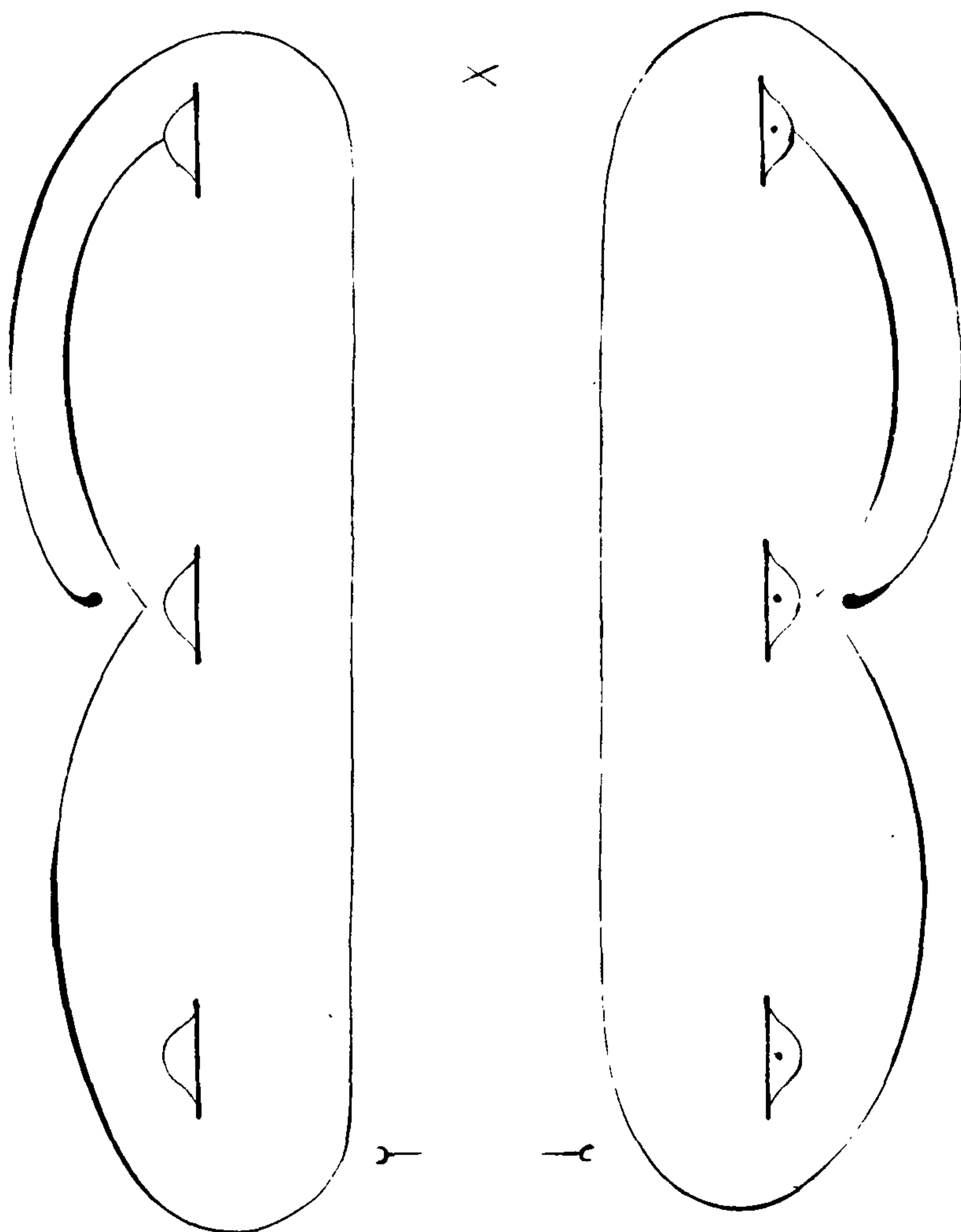
To Cross over & half figure Cutting of it >
 short as frequently done that is without going
 between & round the 2^d Co: but Crossing over &
 turning short to your own side



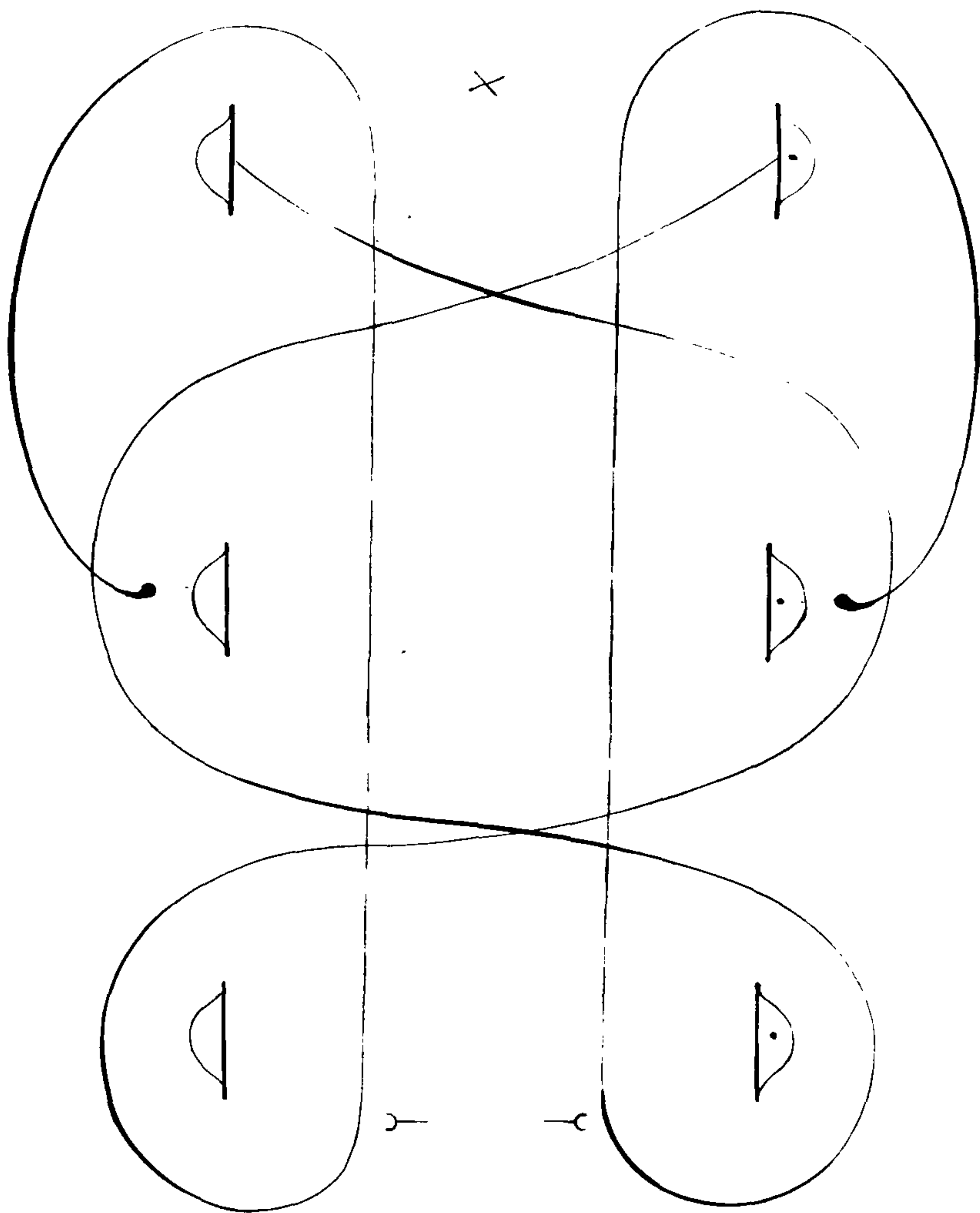
So' Whole figure



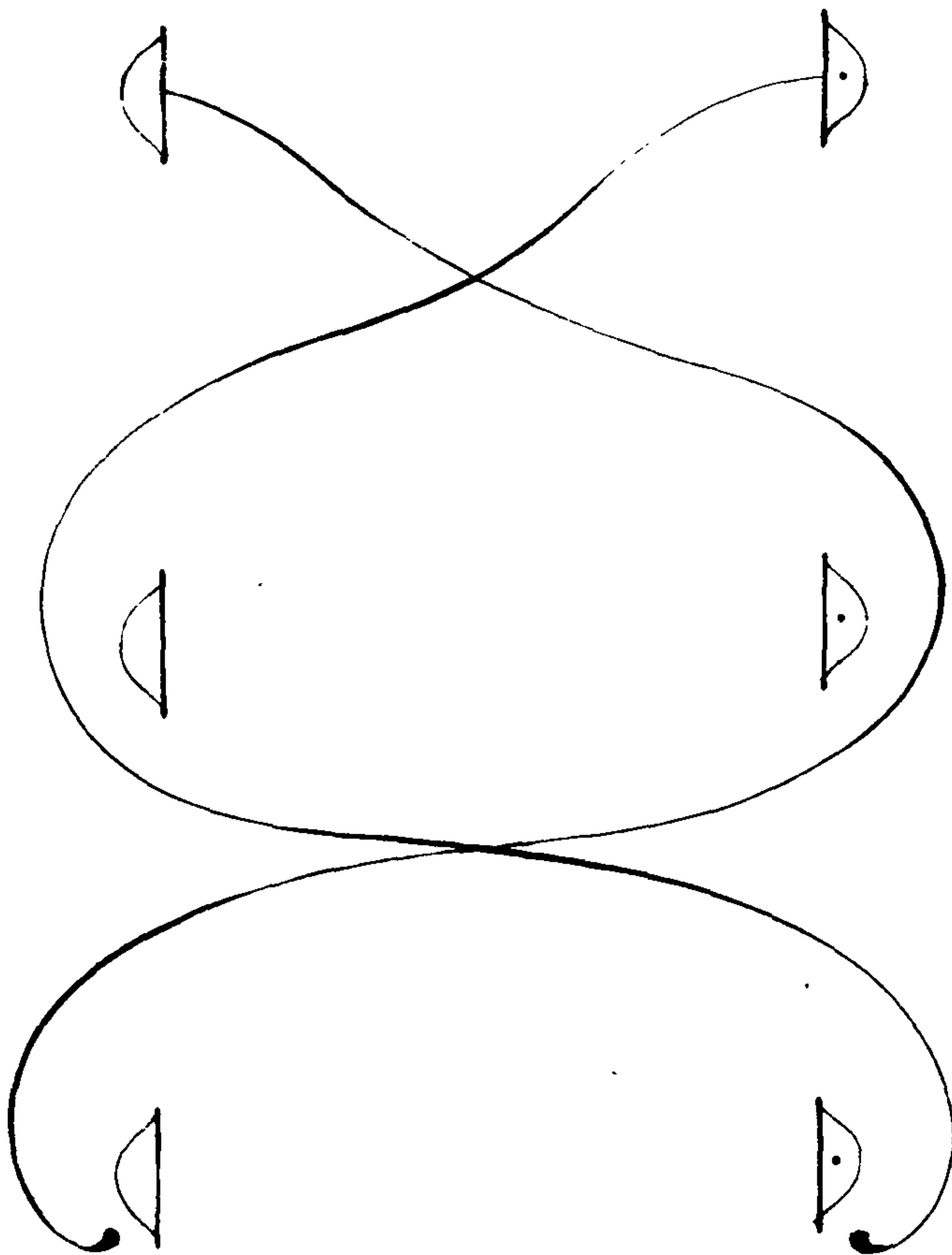
To Cast of two Co. lead up to the top & Cast of



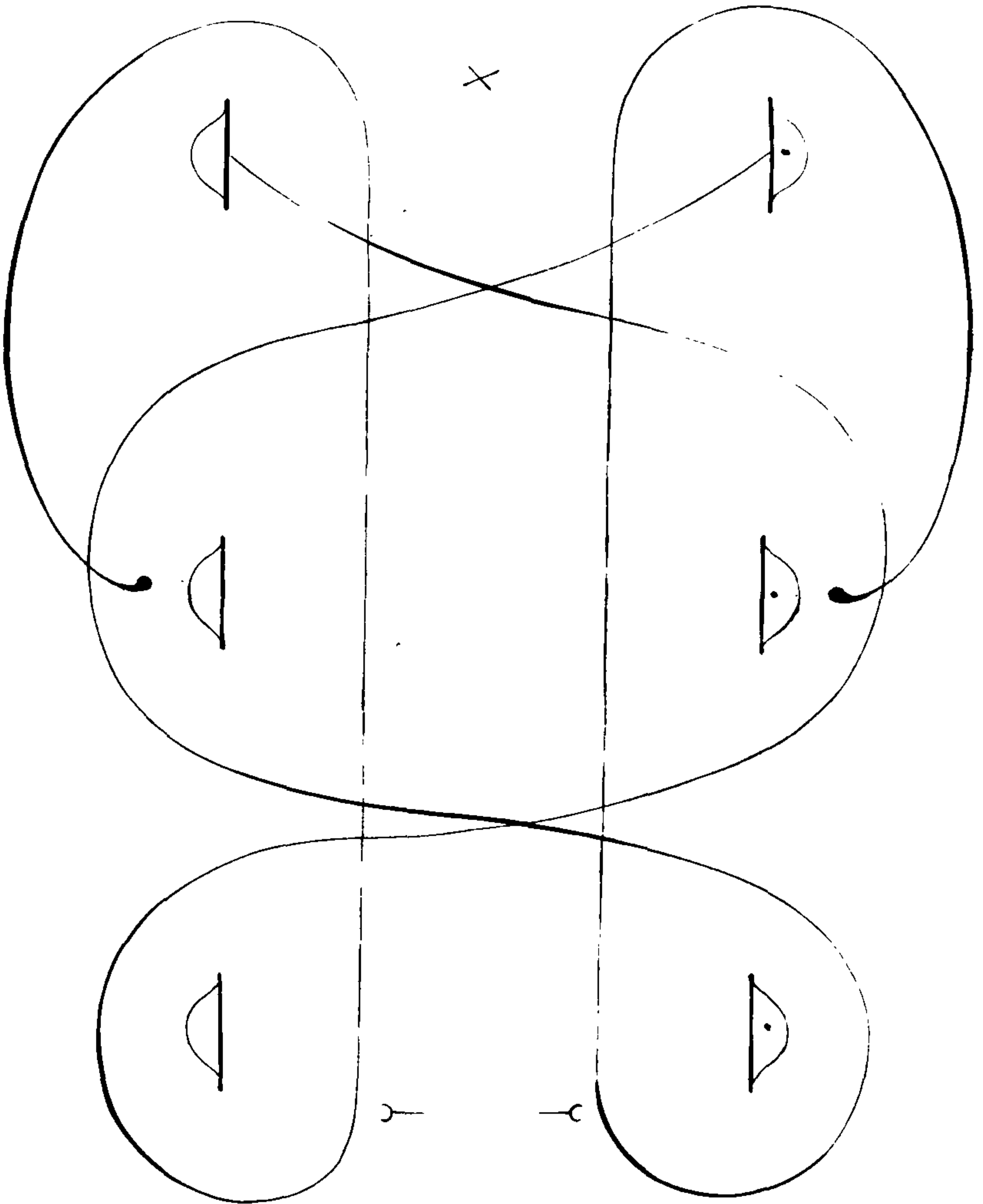
*To Cross over two Co. & lead up to the top and
Cast of*



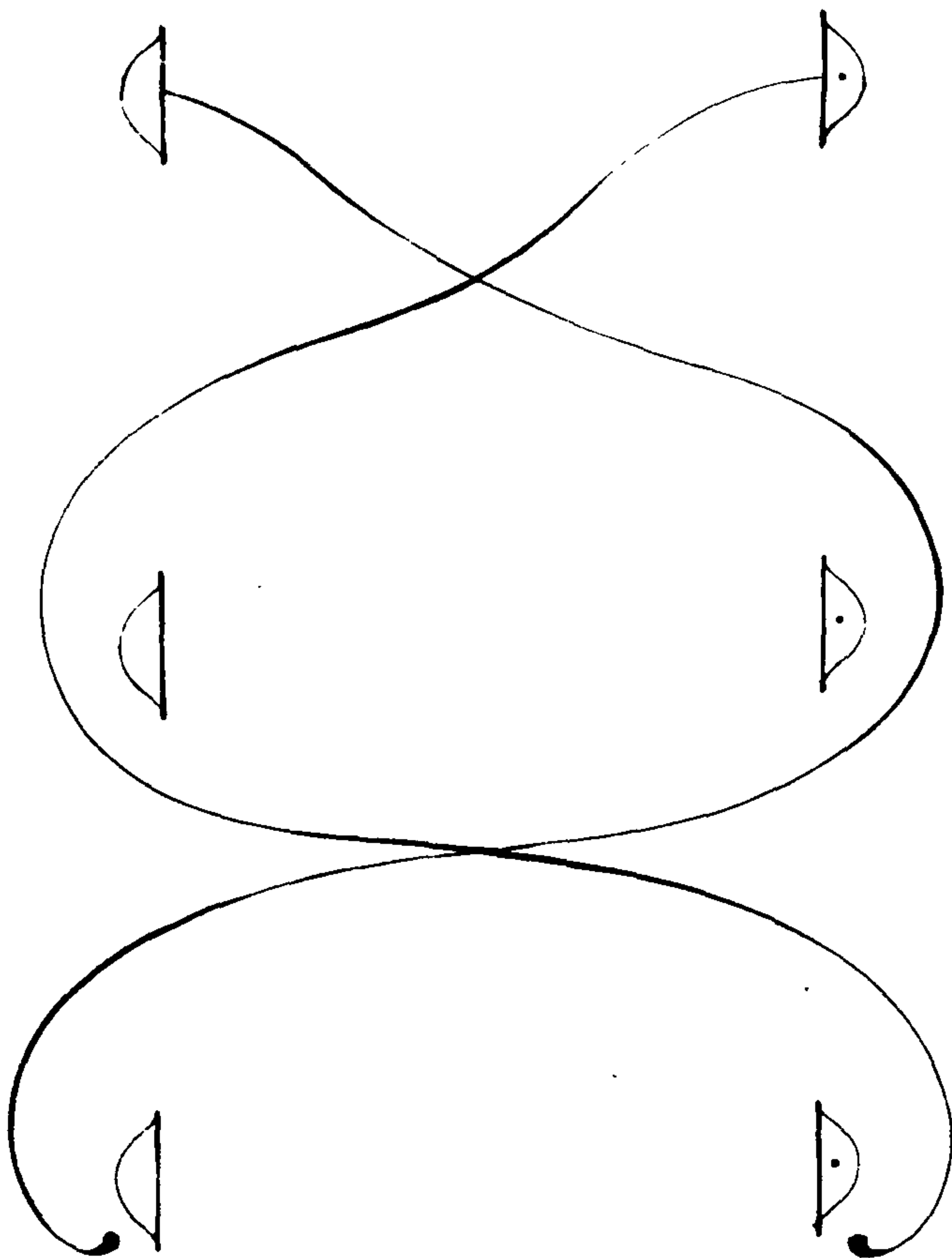
To Cross over two Co:



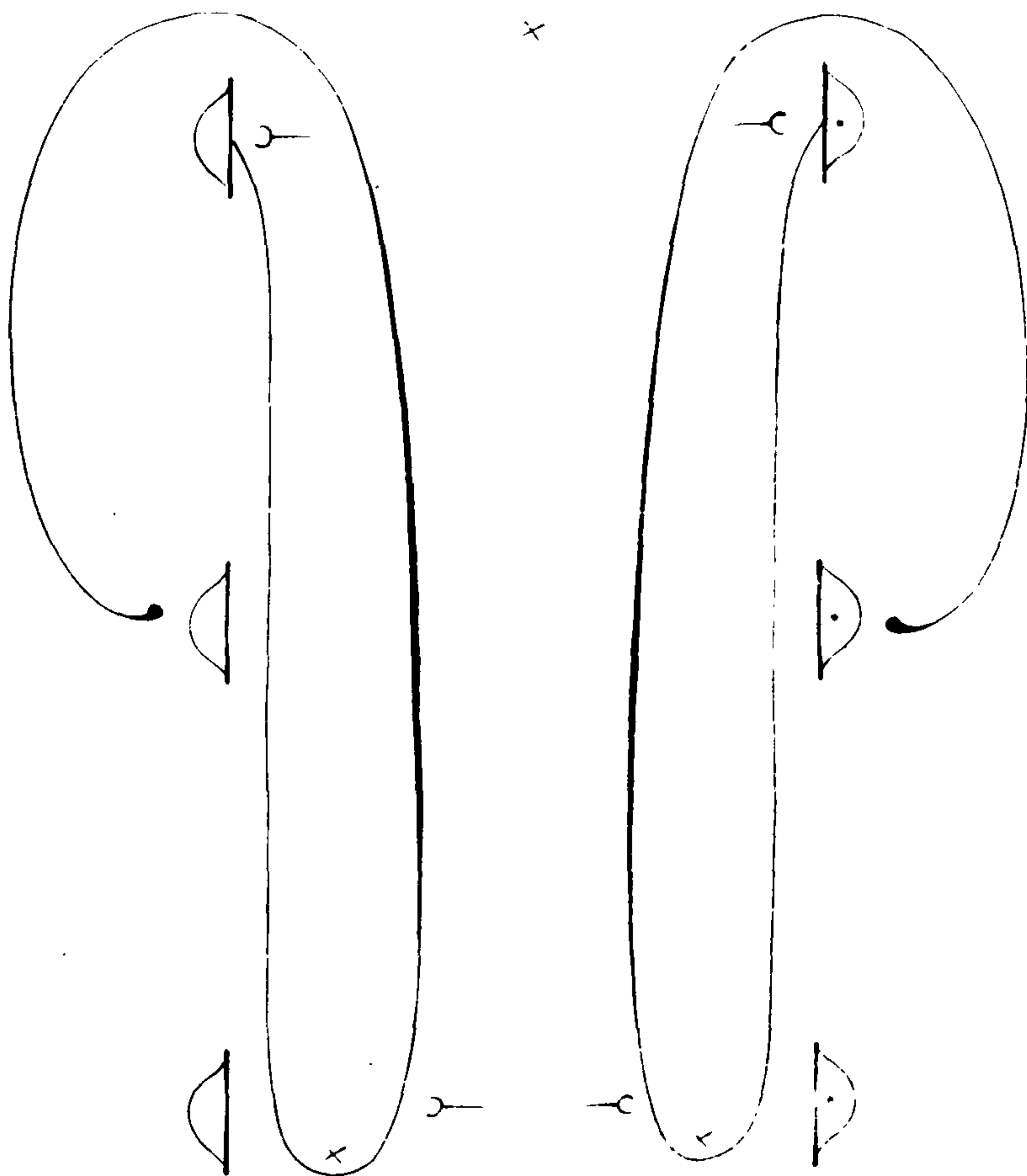
*To Cross over two Co. & lead up to the top and
Cast of*



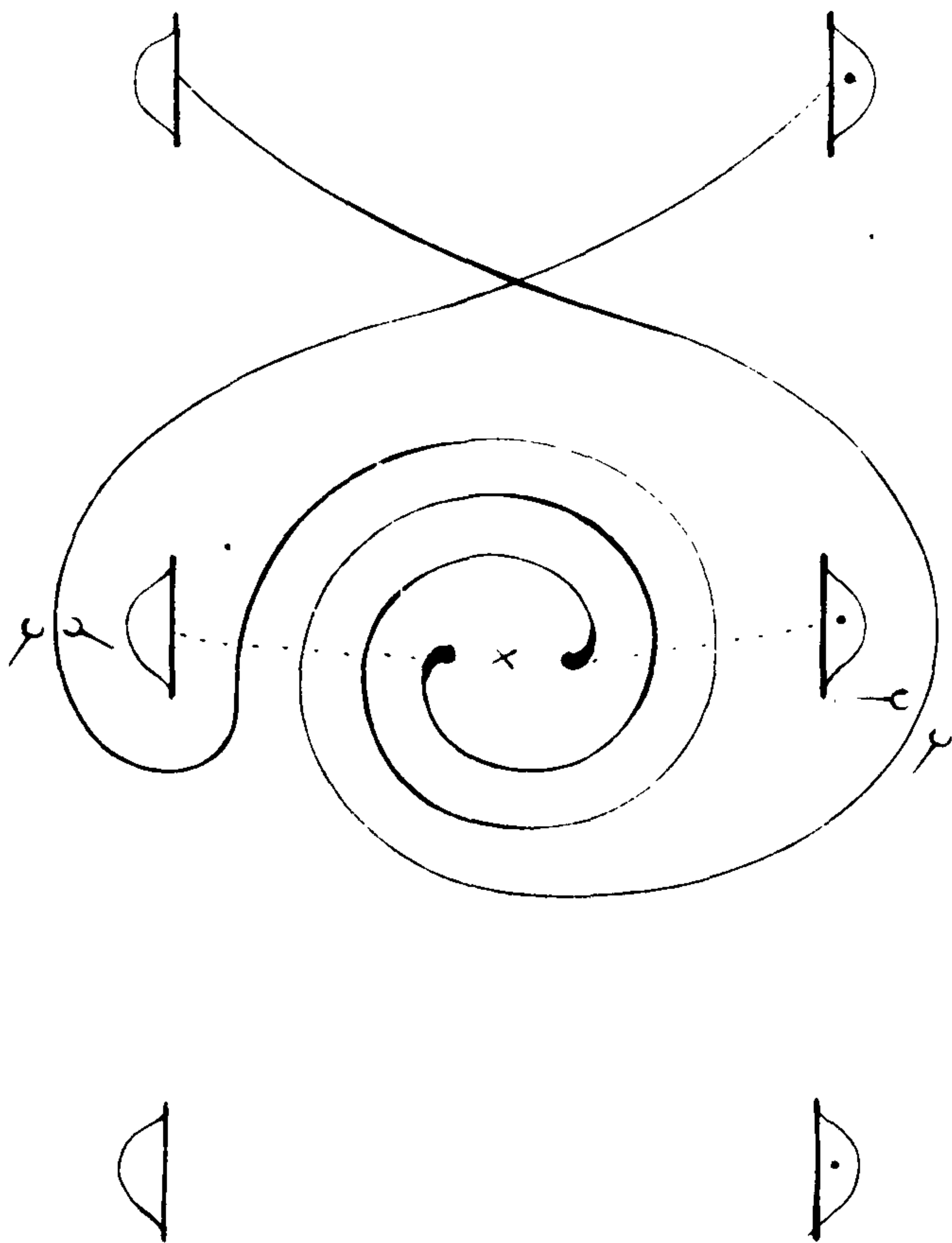
To Cross over two Co:



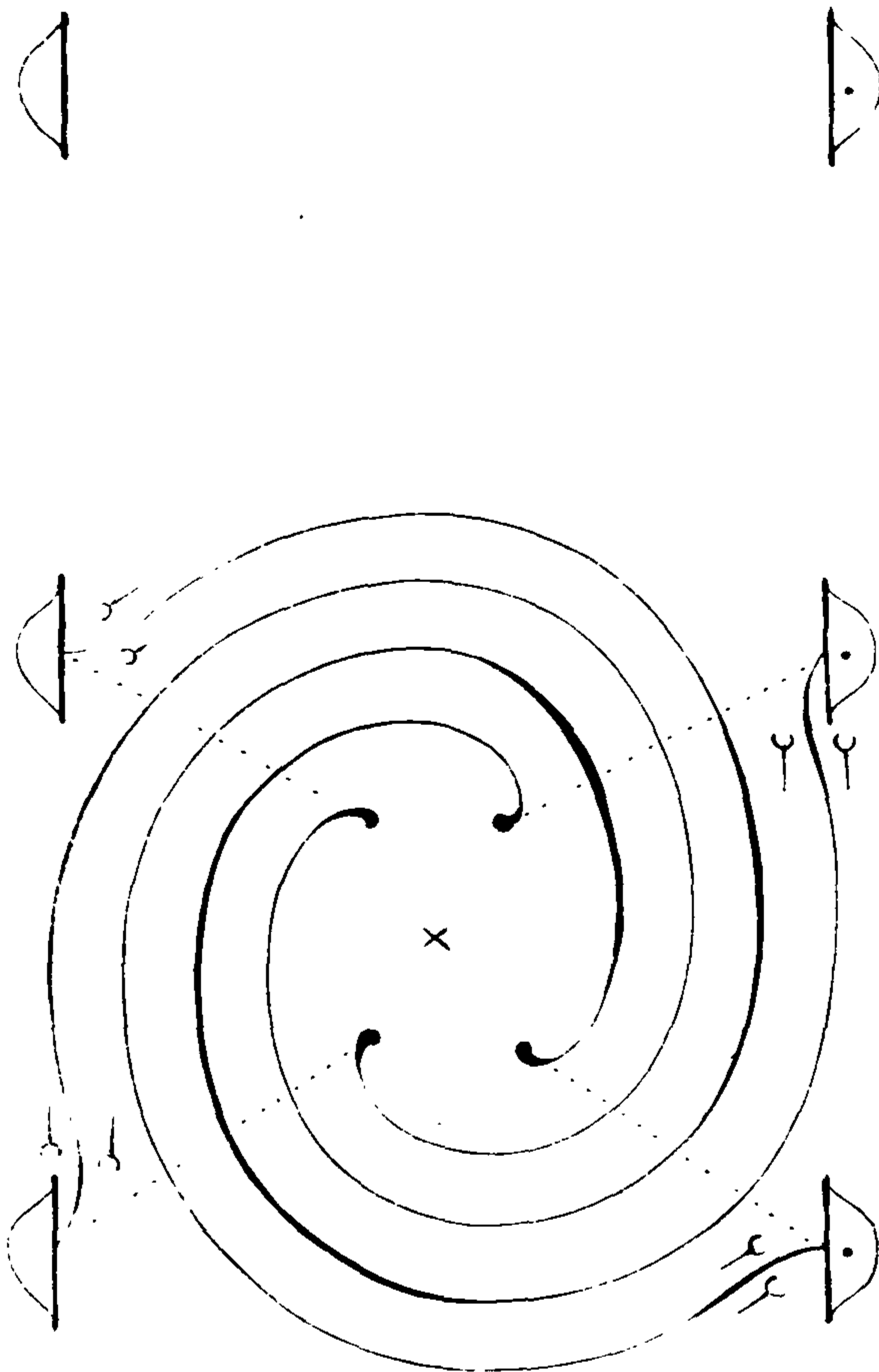
*To lead down, or often times call'd Gallop
down & up again, & Cast of—*



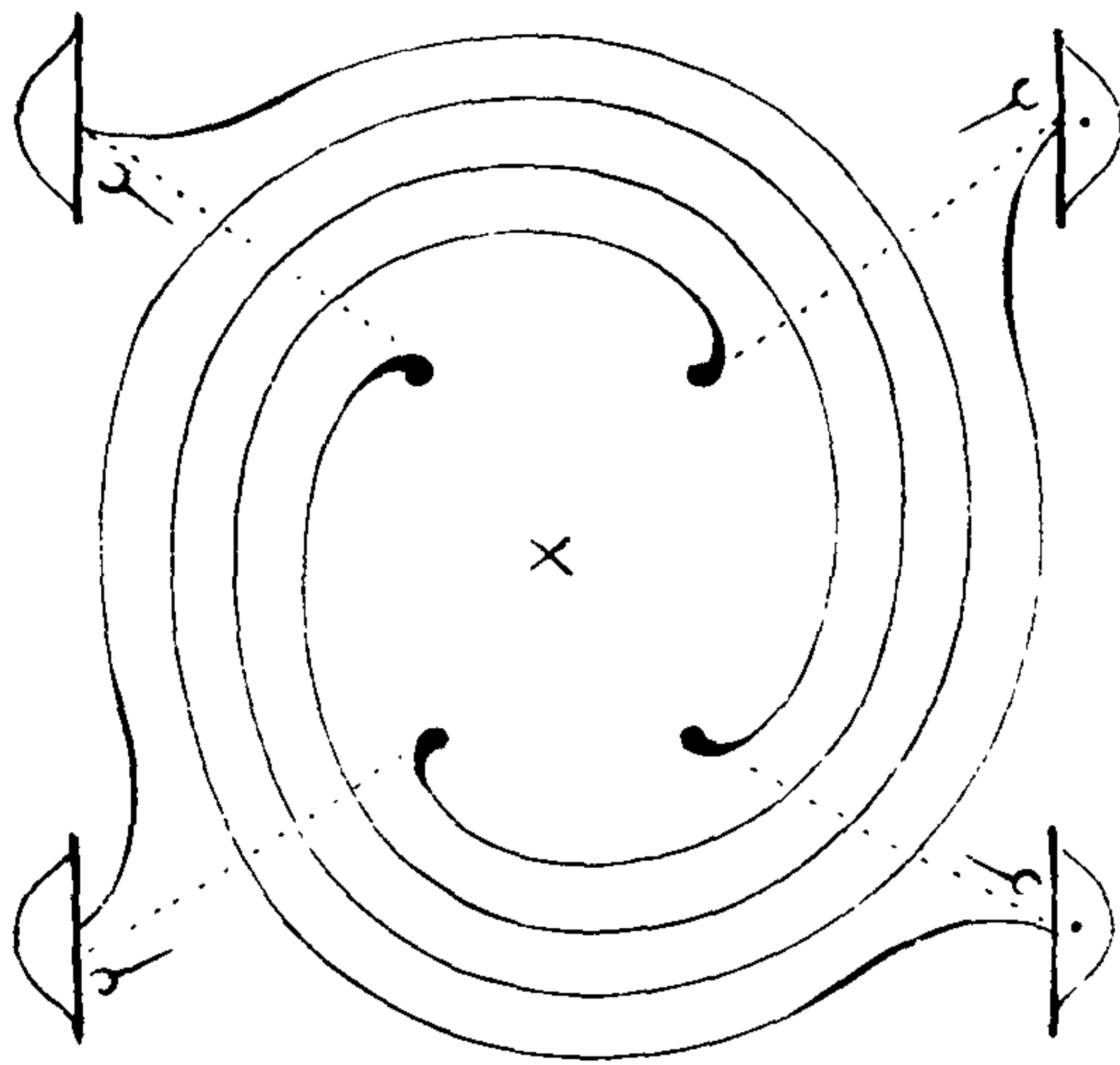
Cross over one Co: & Turn y^e Partner



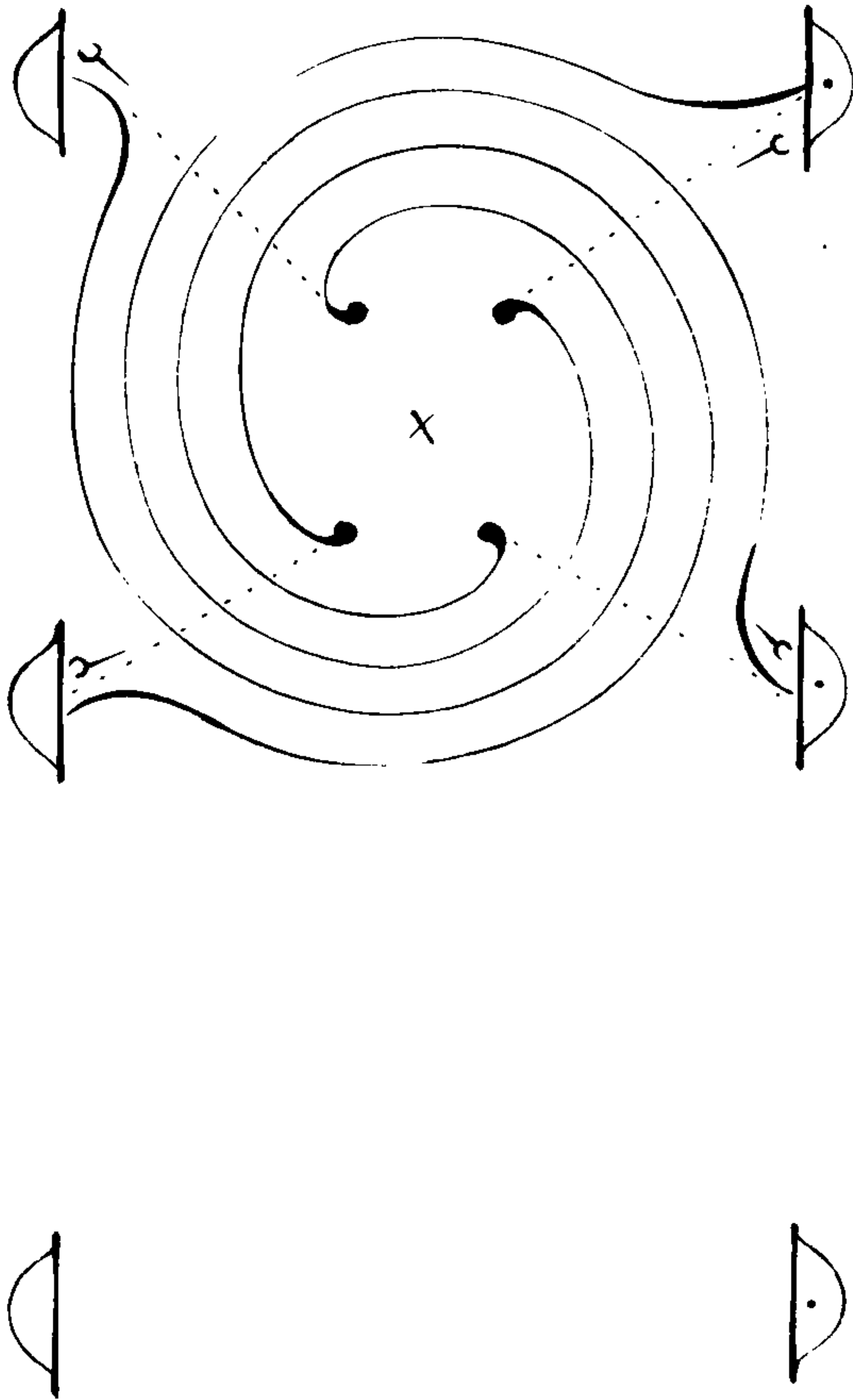
Hands All four round at bottom.



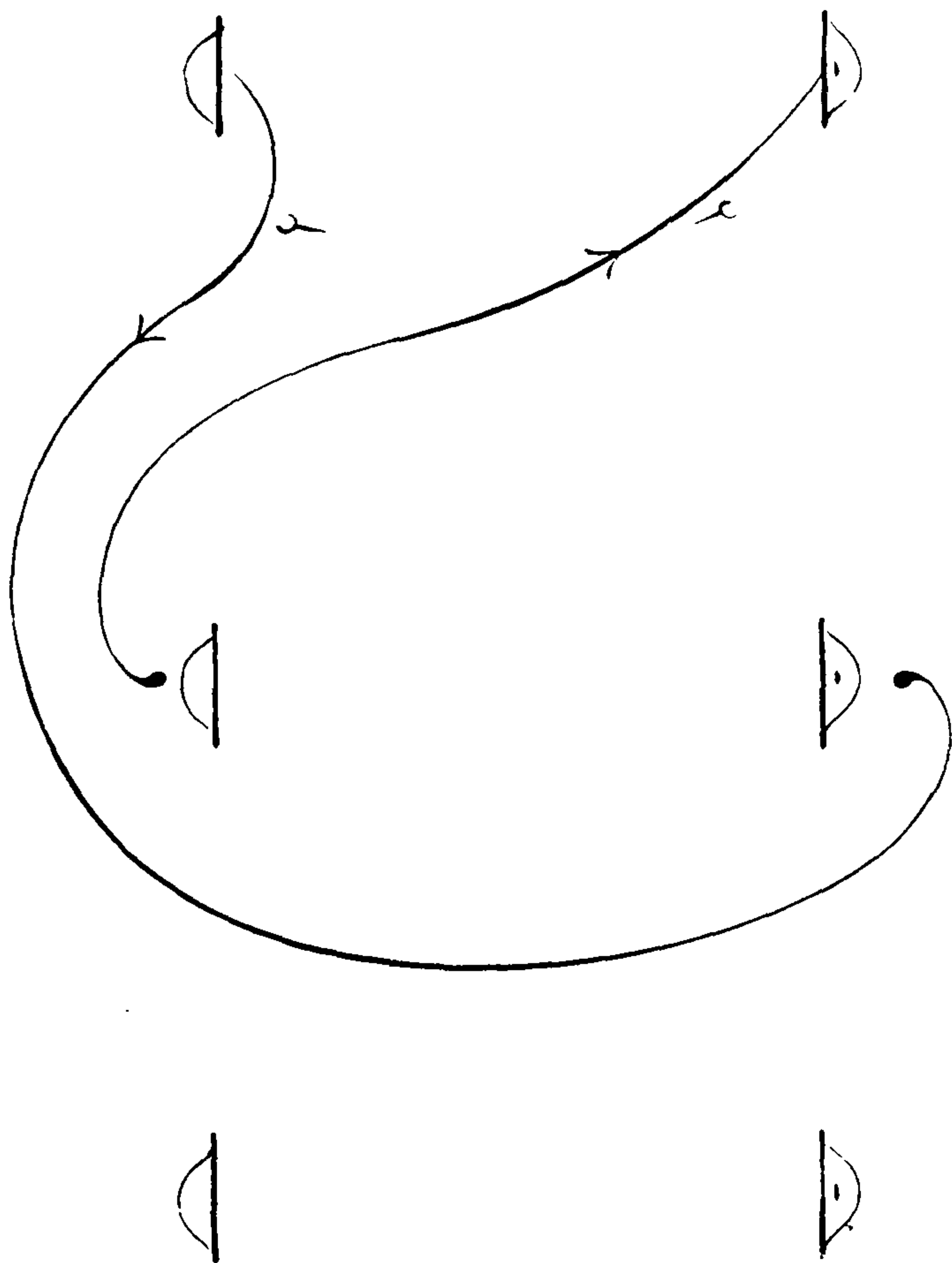
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Right hands across round

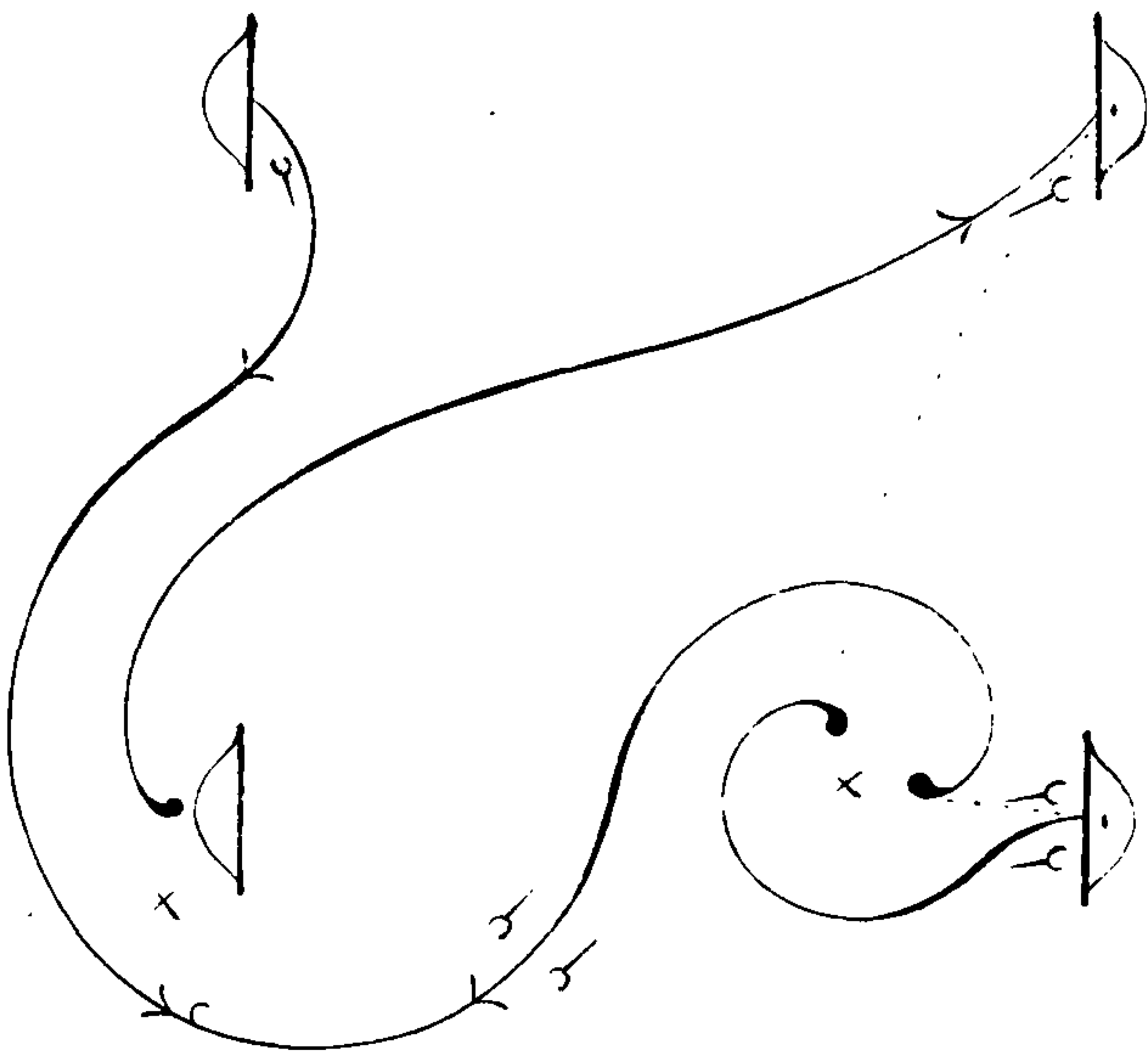
Left hands a cross round



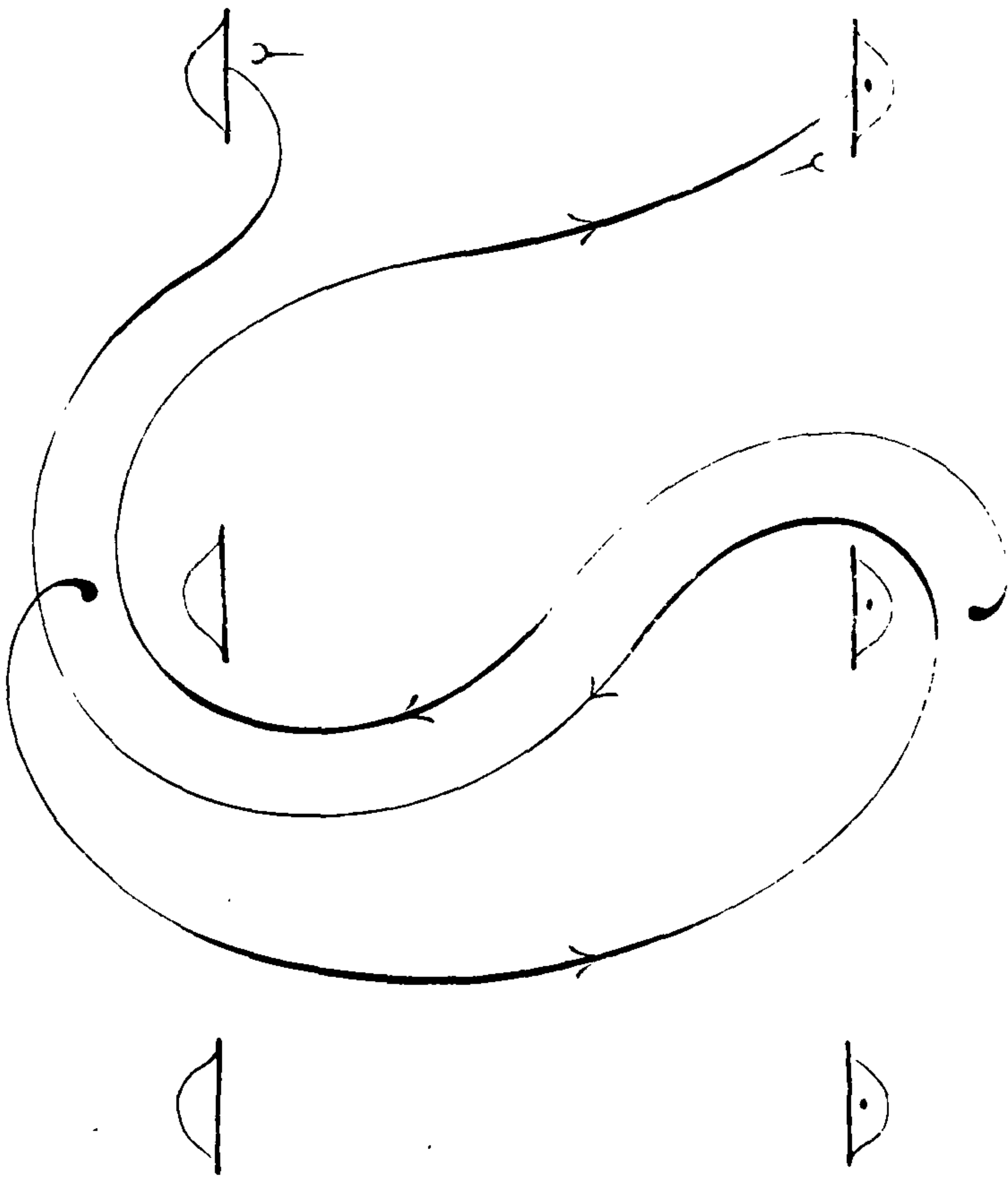
Lead your Partner of into the 2^d Co: place
 improper, the Man with his right hand the
 Wo. with her left hand



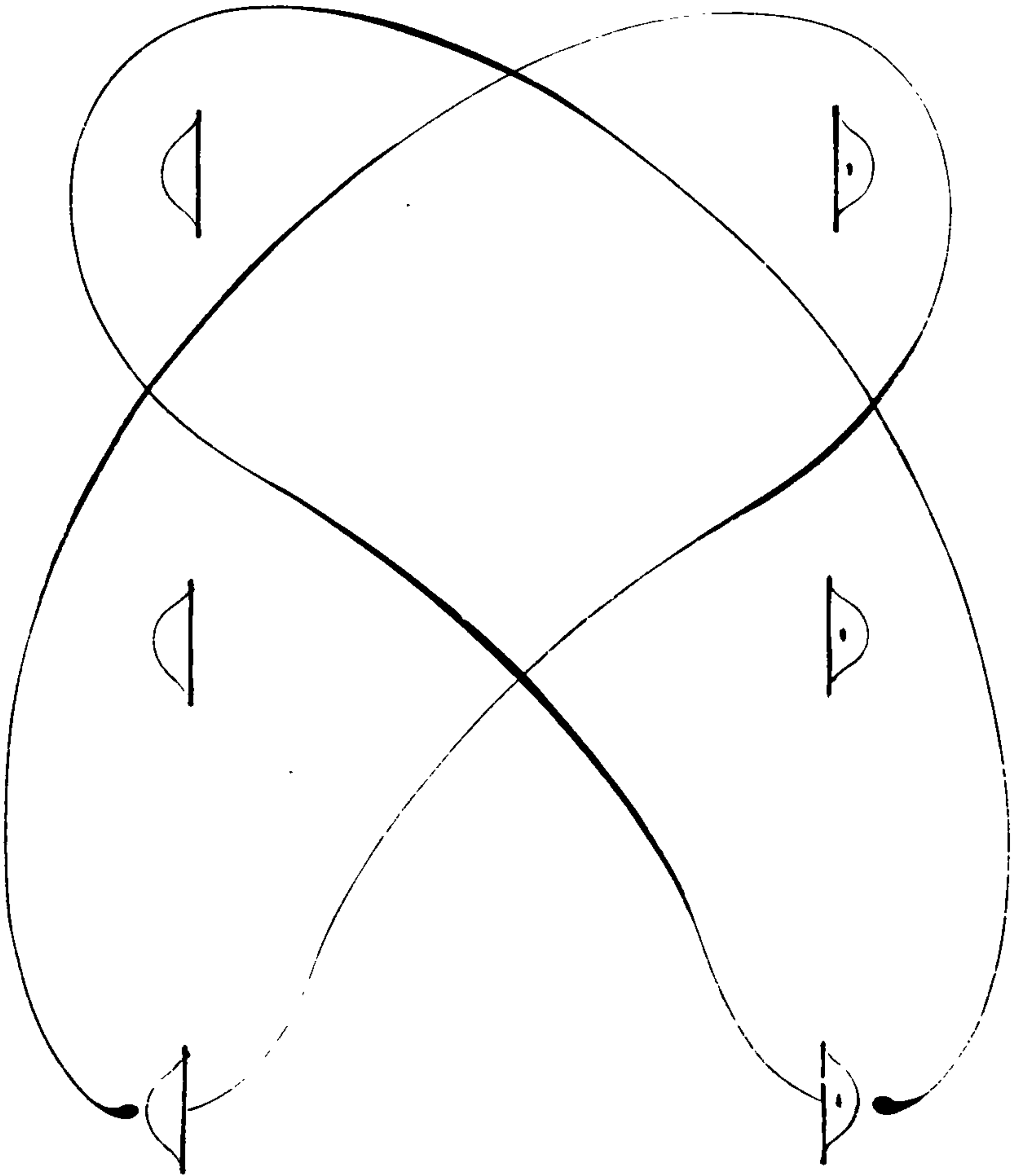
Lead your Partner of below the 2^d Co: and
 leave your Partner improper or of y^e Mans
 side & turn y^e 2^d W^o: & finish in y^e 2^d W^o: place



Lead your Partner round the 3^d Man, & round
 the 2^d W'o, into the 2^d Co. place
 the Man with his right hand, and the W'o.
 with her left.

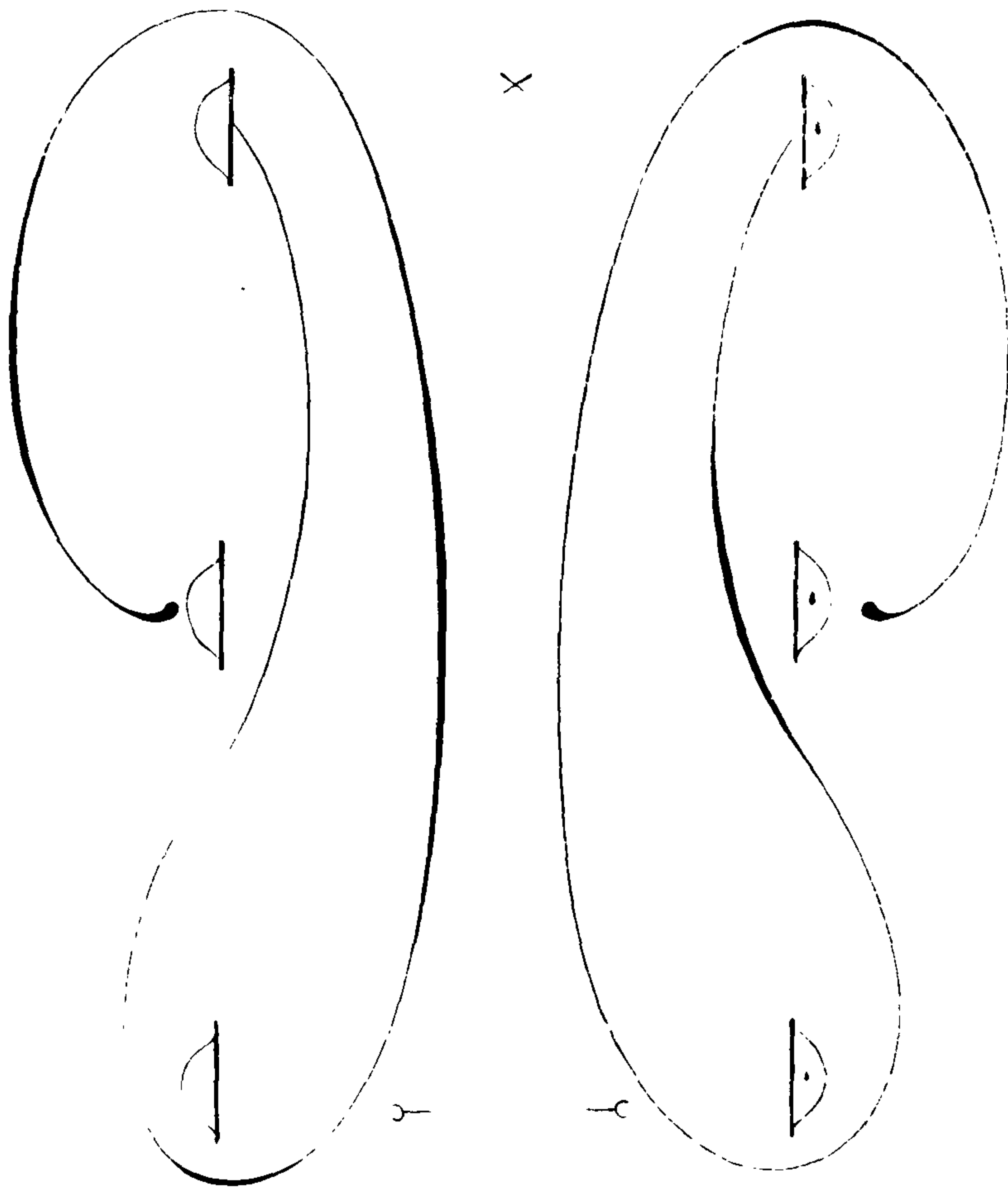


*Half figure up contrary sides, & down
again of your own?*

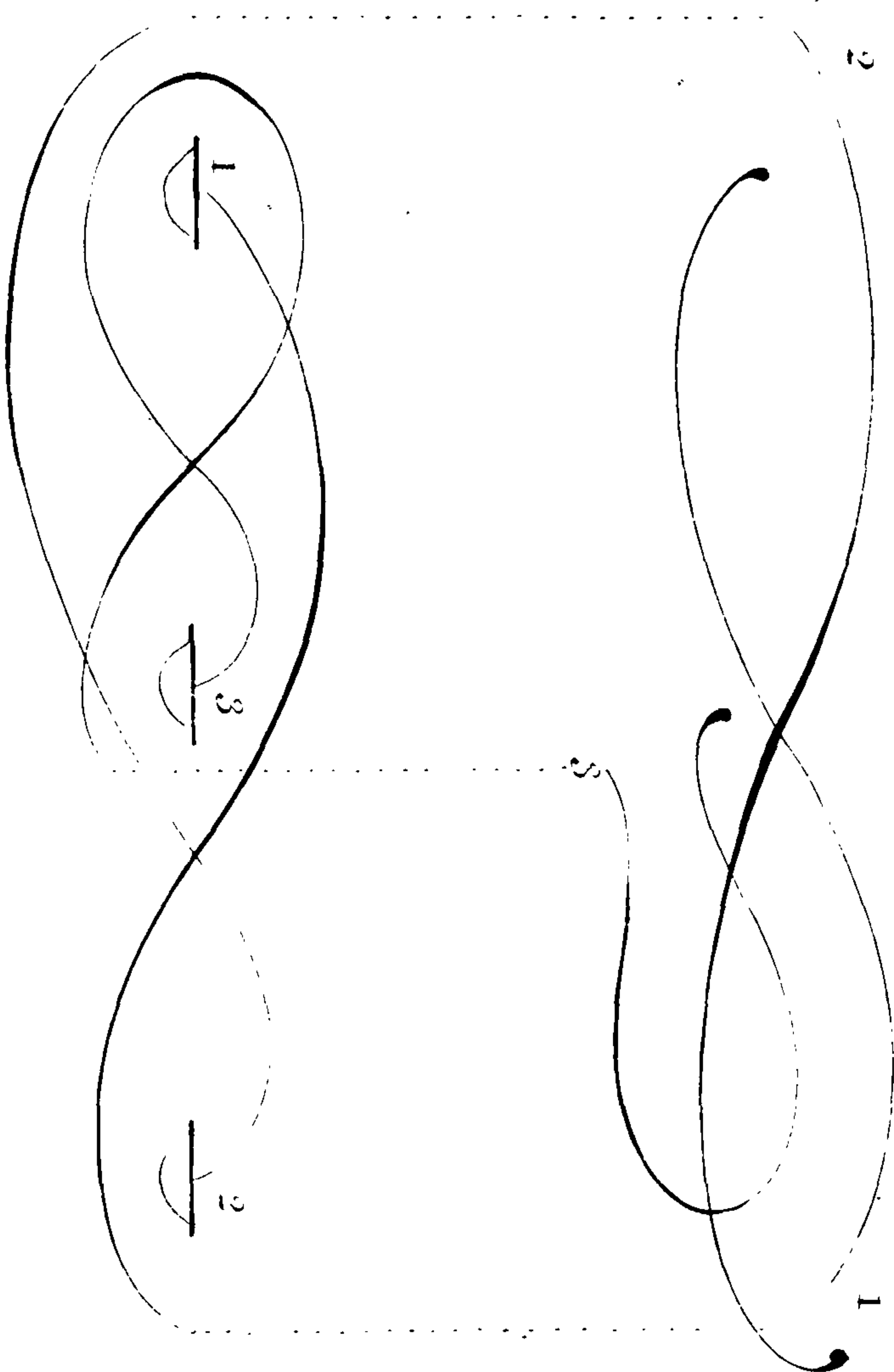


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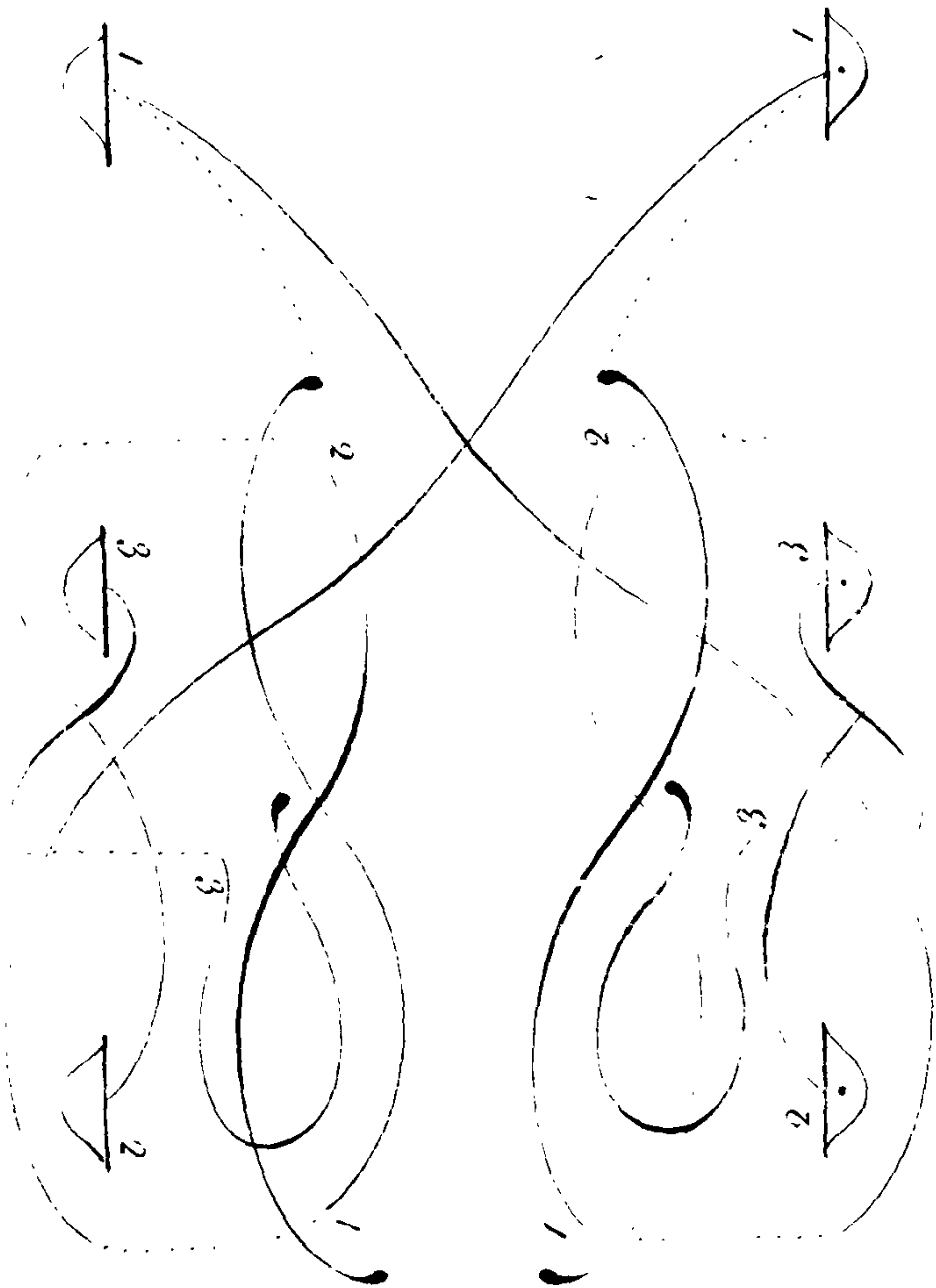
*Half' figure of your own sides, lead up two
Co. and Cast of one Co:*



*To' Hcy you are to observe as the figures
are markt the 1st 2^d or 3^d Persons are to move
according as the figures are markt.*

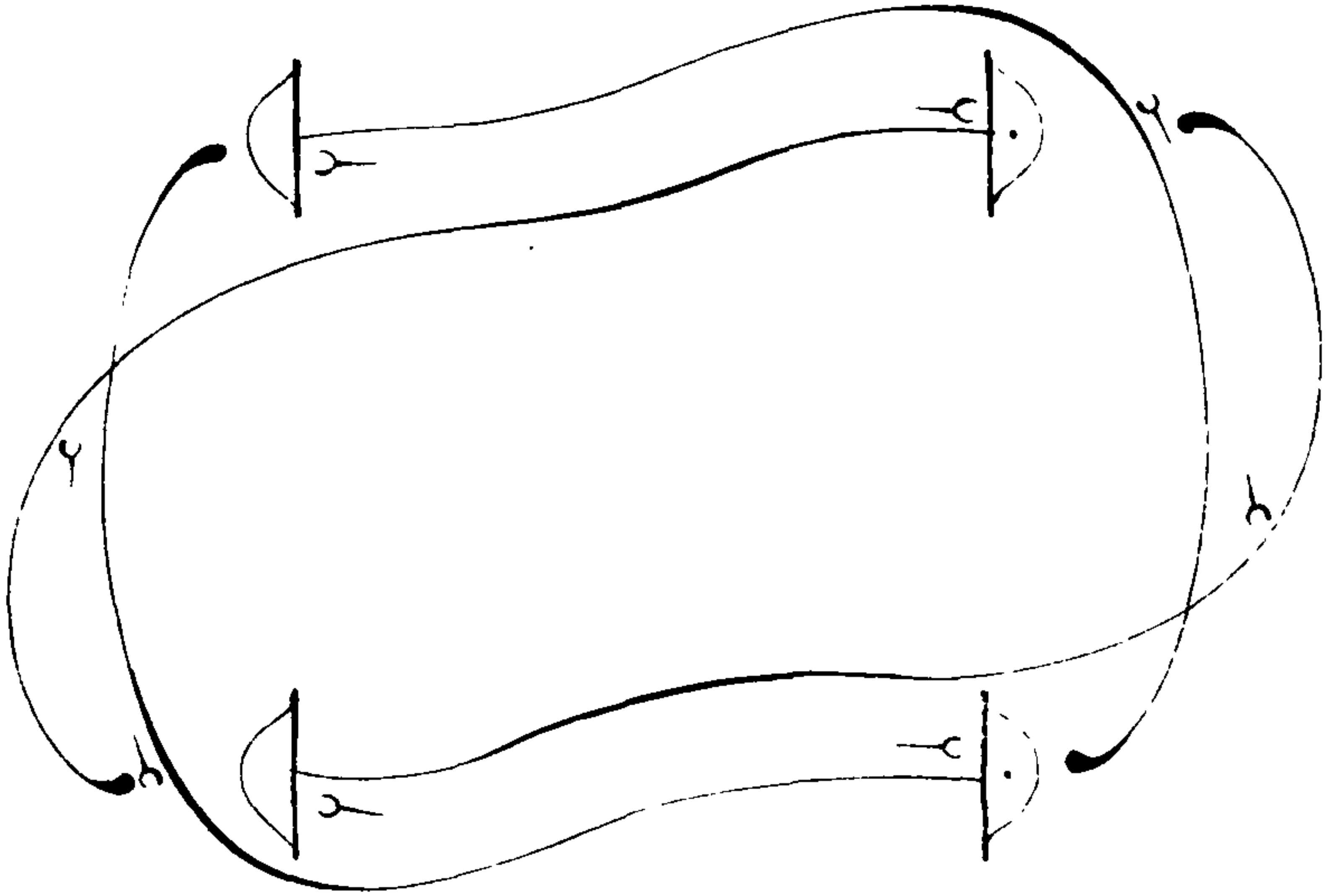


*May Contrary Sides, the Man & Wo: at
the same time*

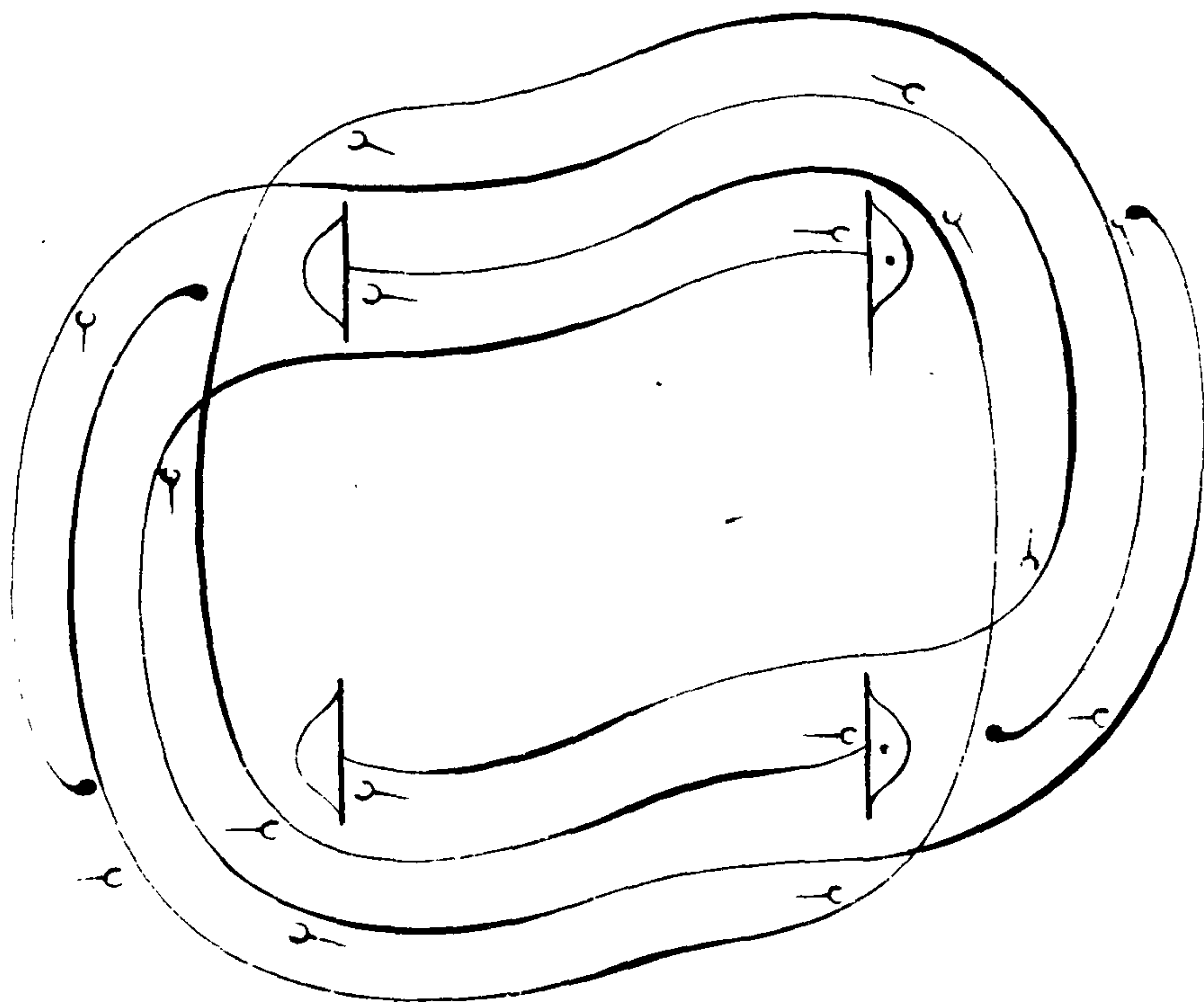


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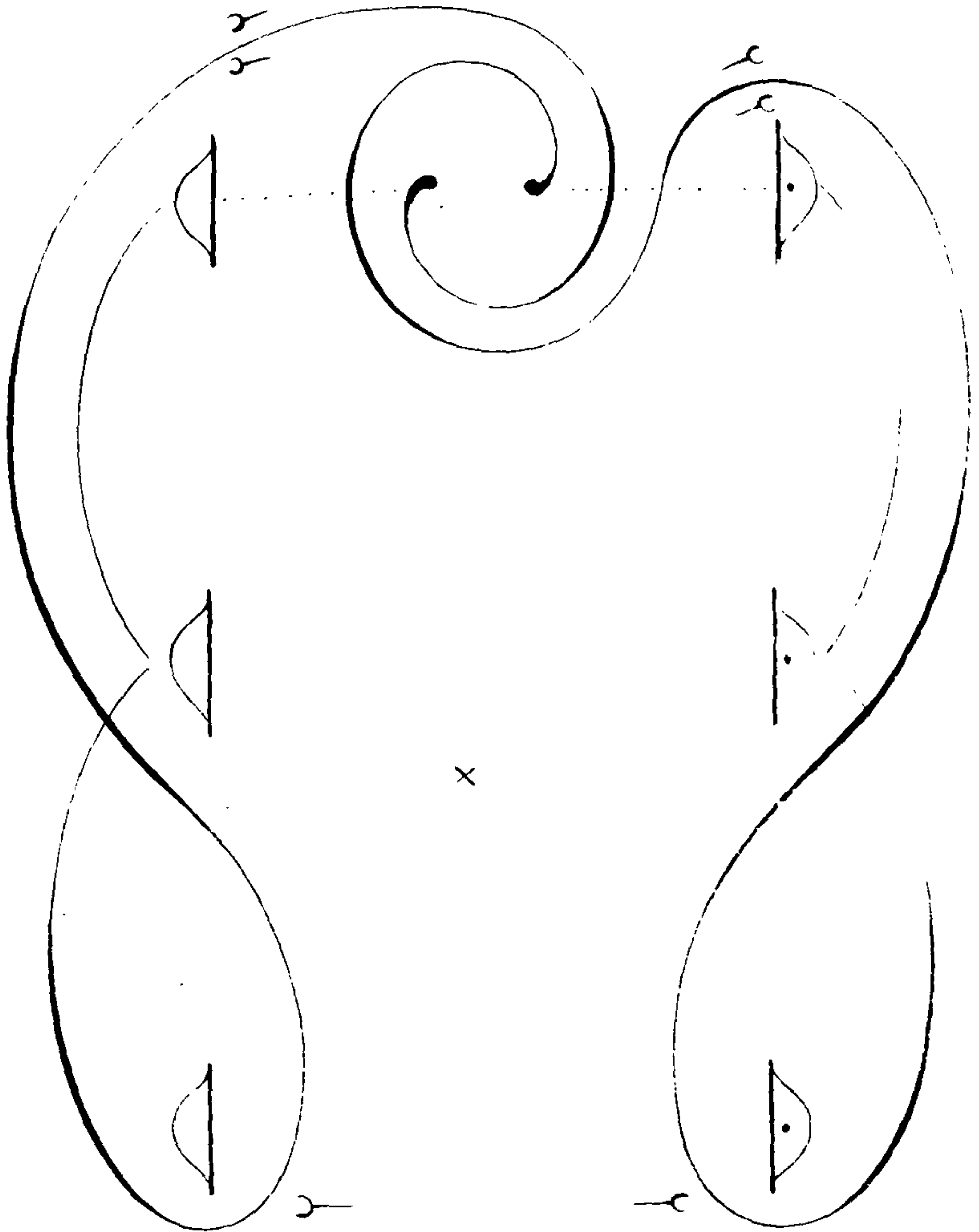
Right and left half'round —



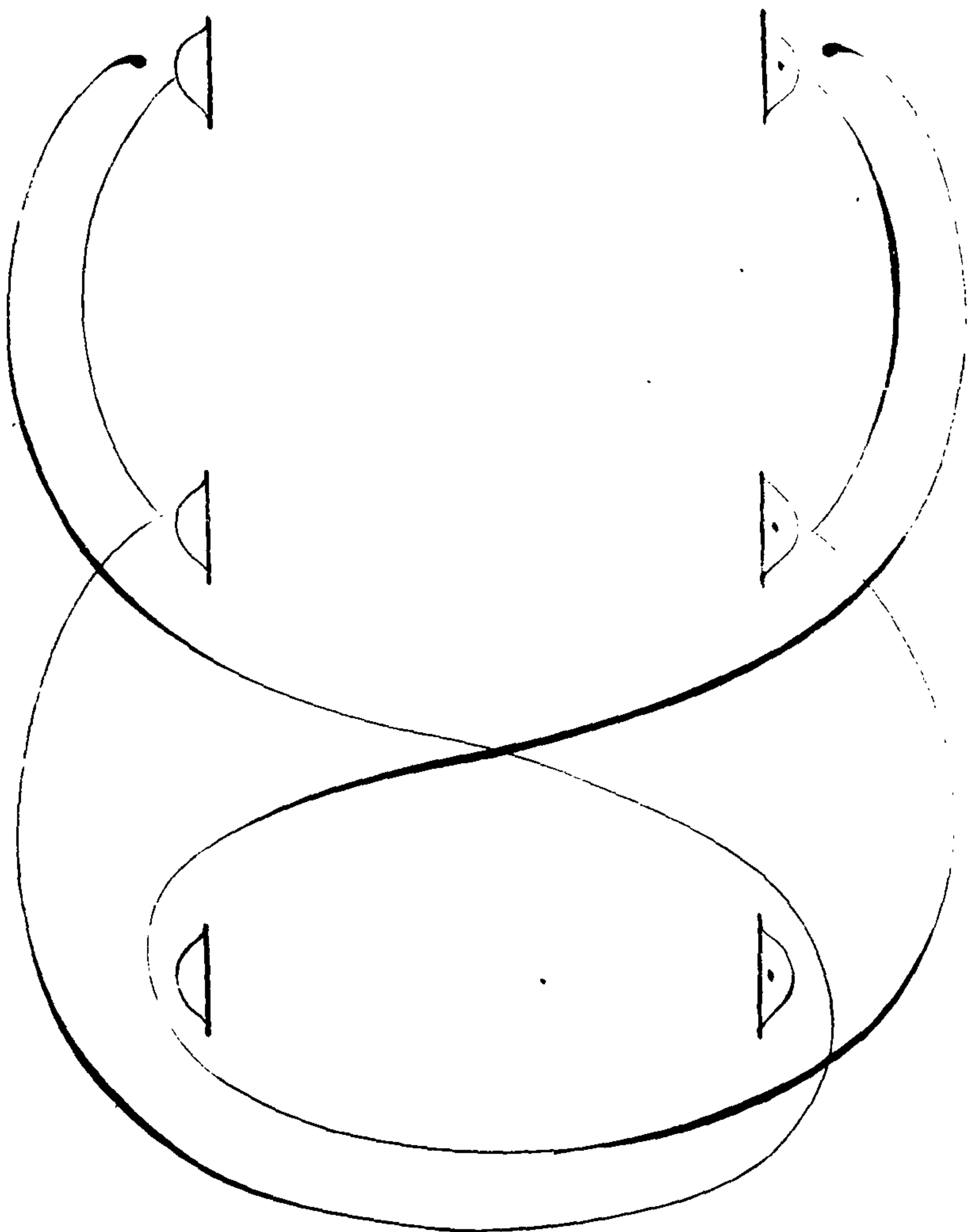
Right and left quite round



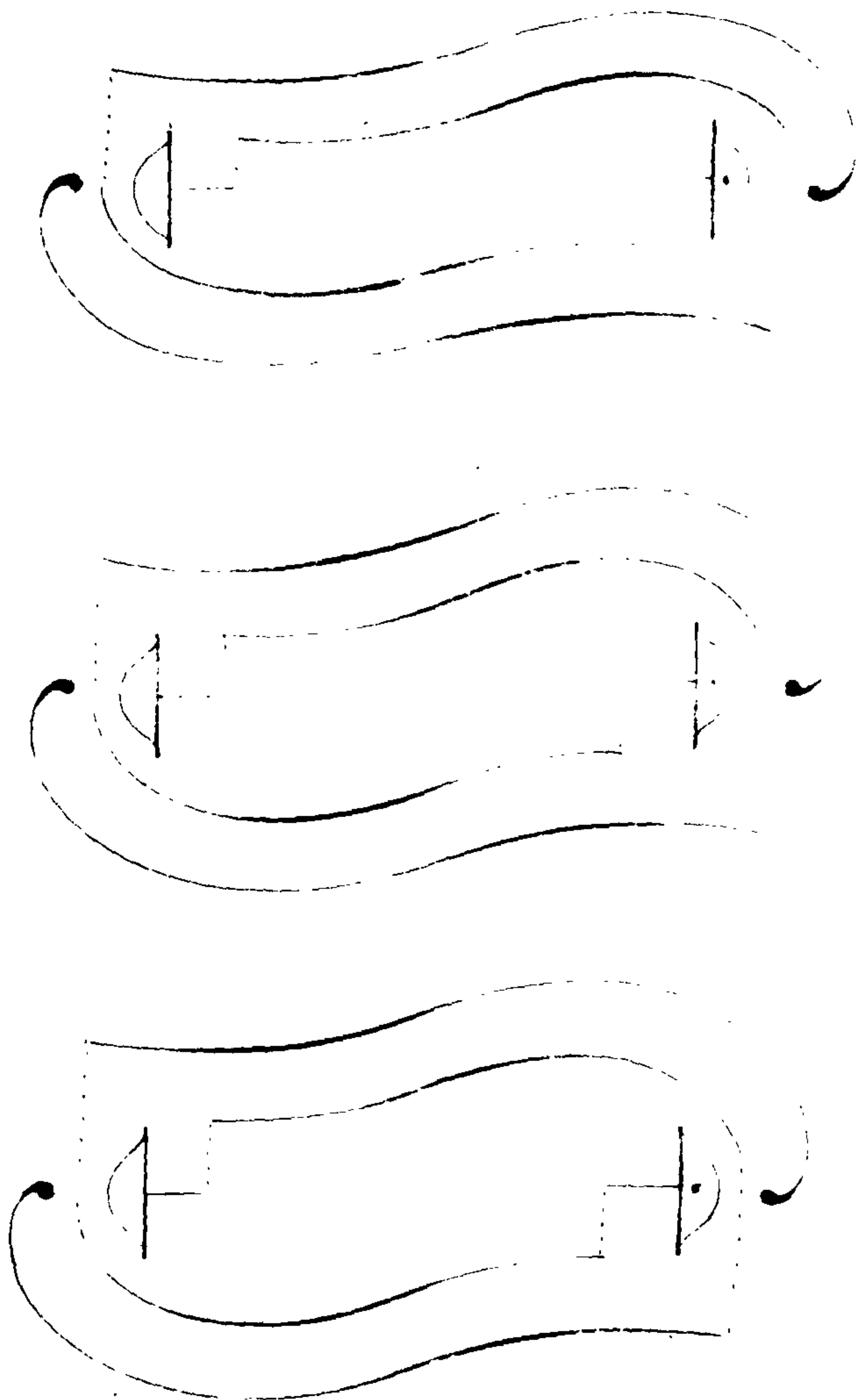
*Cast of two Co. lead up one Co. & outside
your top Co. & turn your Partner at top*



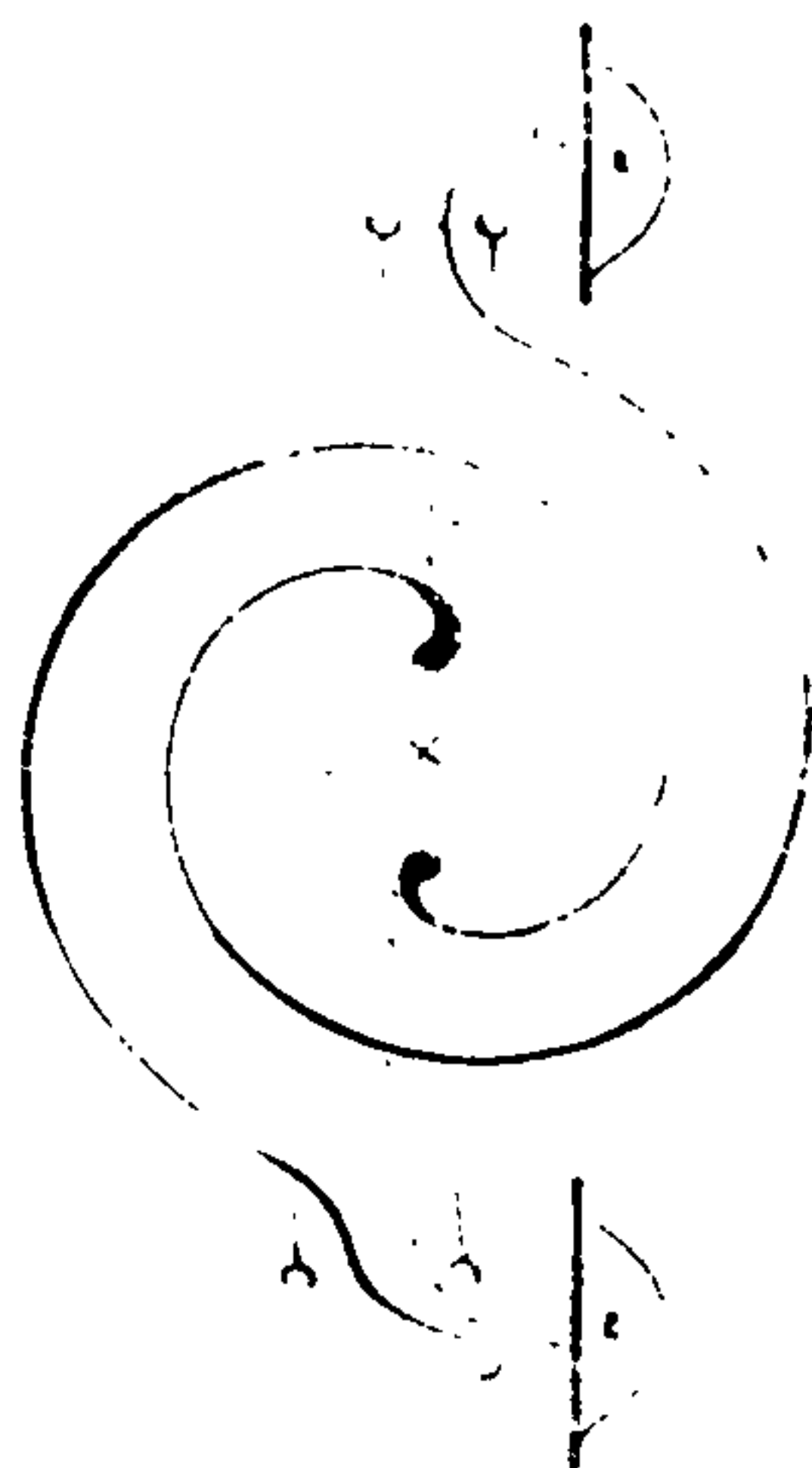
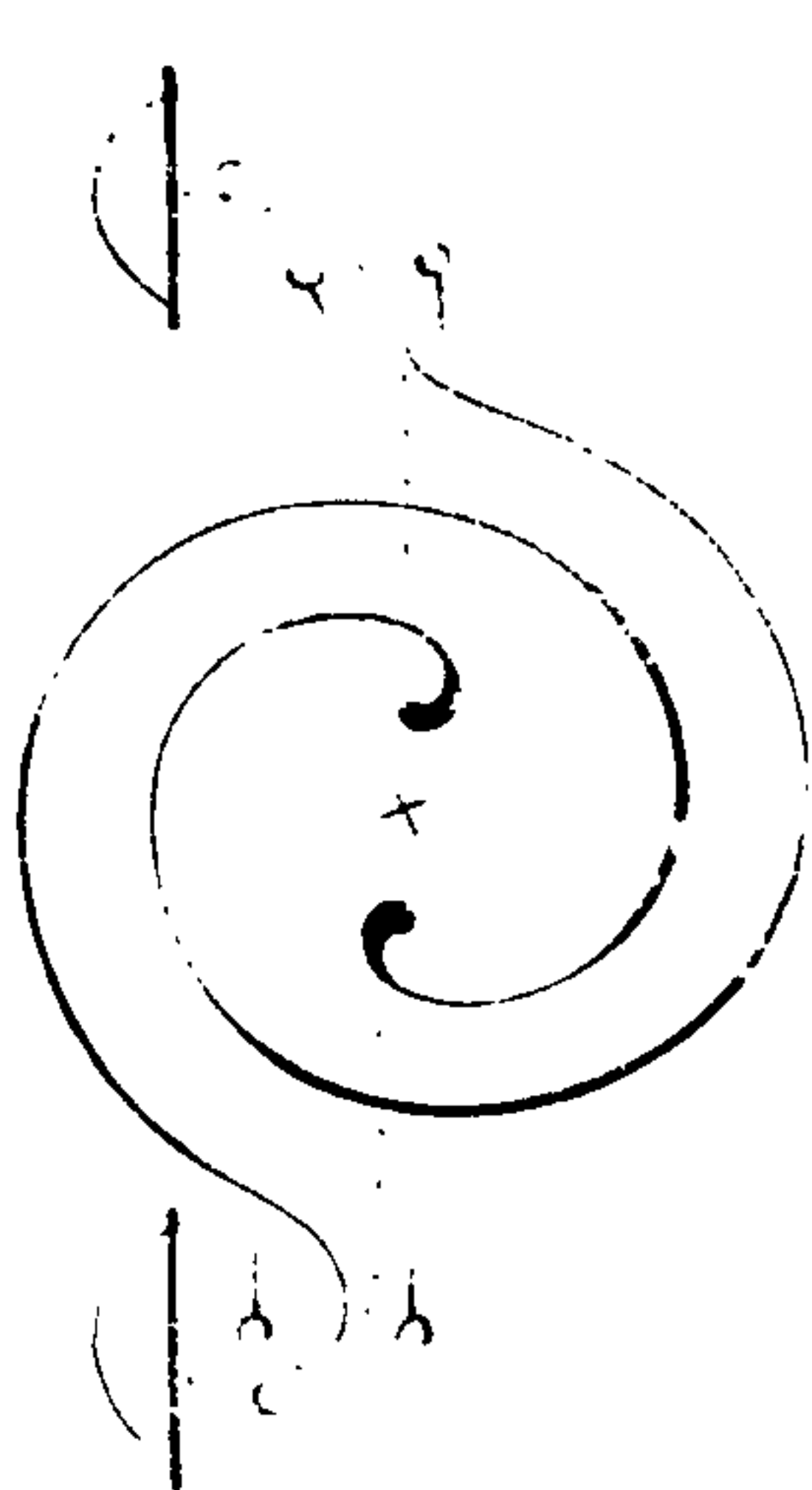
*Cast of two Co: and Crofs up into Couple, &
finish in your own places*



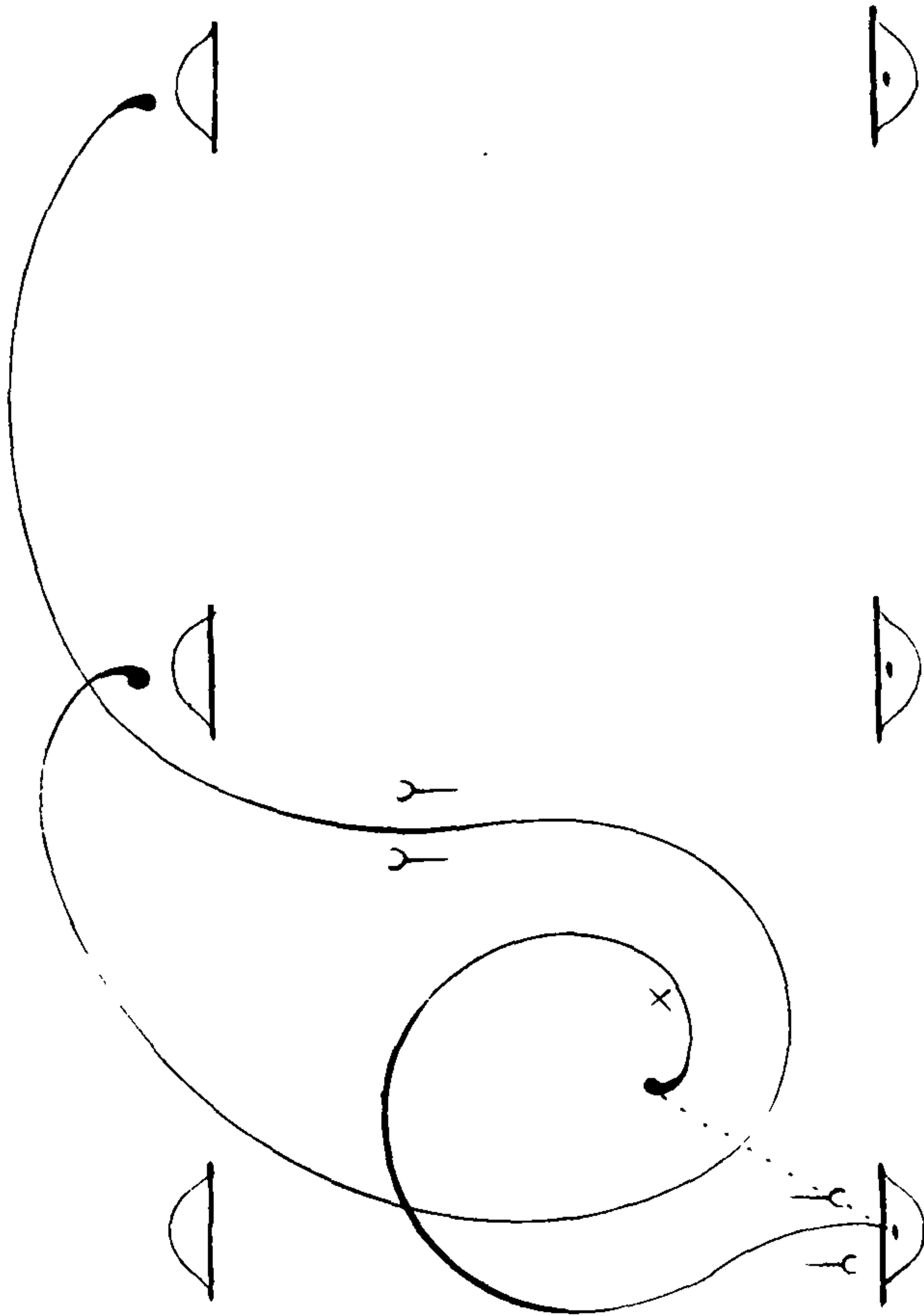
The first 3. Men & 3 Wo set together, &
change over; & the same back again to your
own places



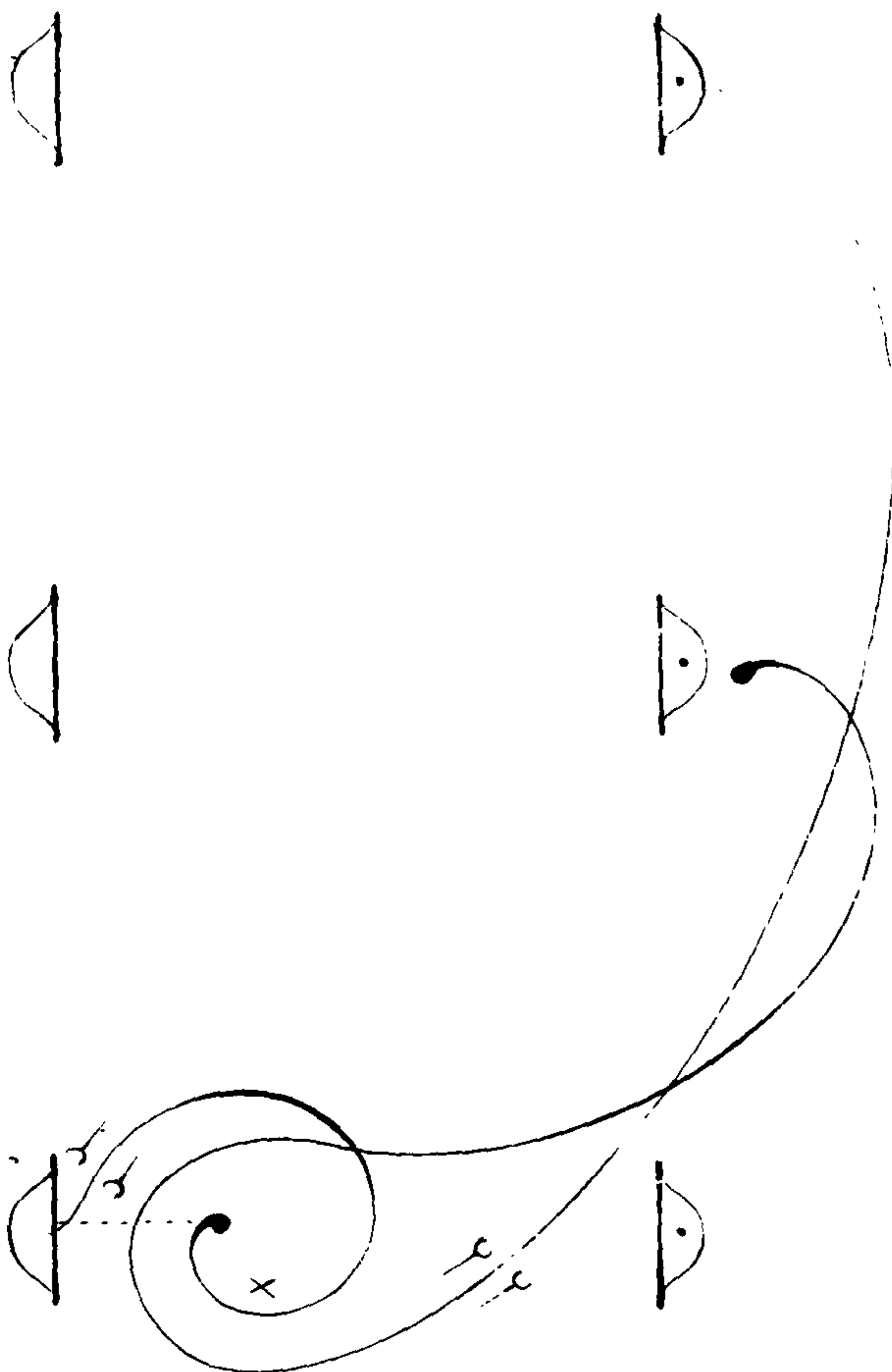
*Foot it sideways and turn, or the in a
first & then & the two first who, foot it, or
set together and turn*



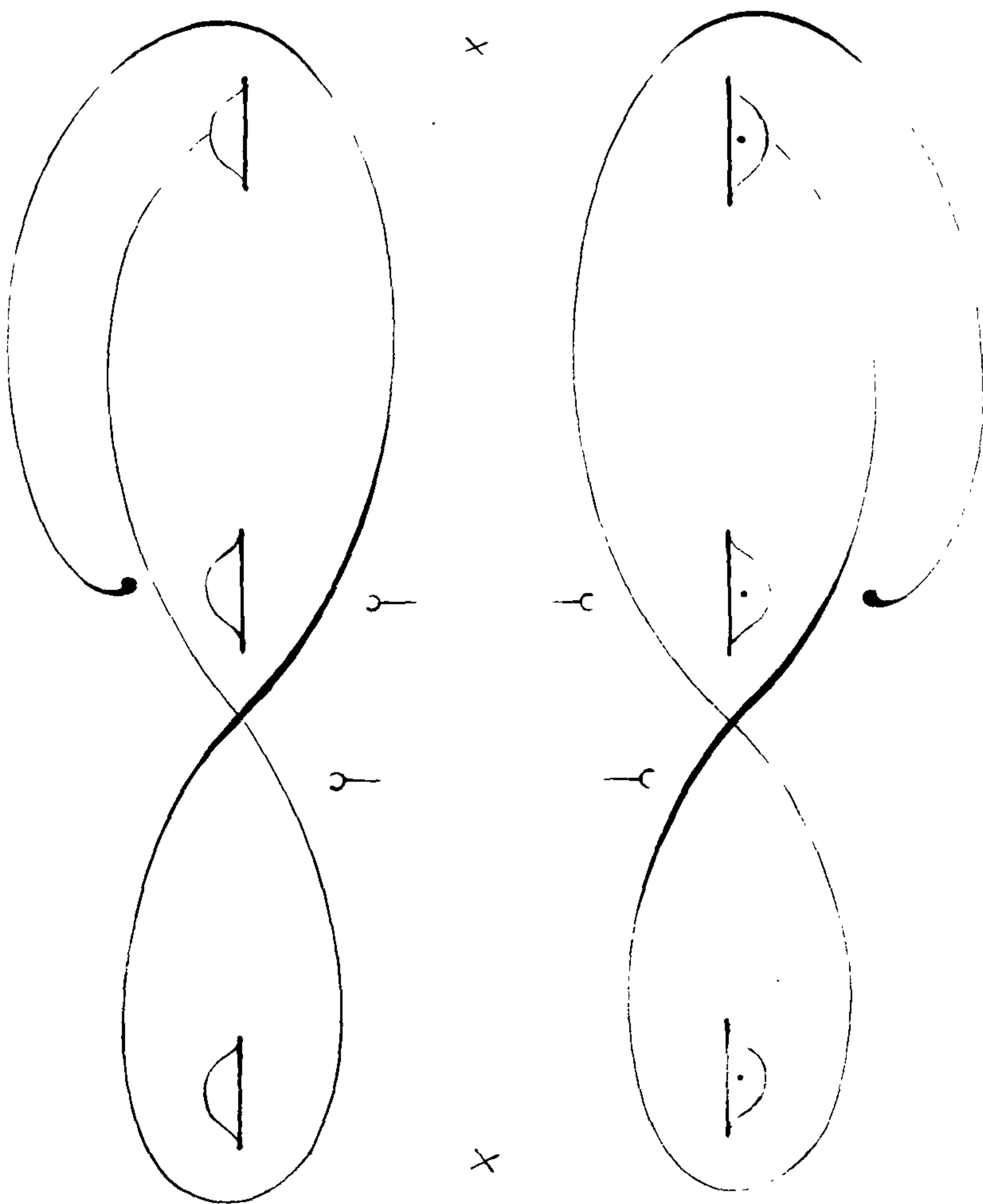
The 1st Man cast of one Co: & turn, the 3^d Wo: and the 1st Man finish in the 2^d Man's place the Wo: stands still at y^e same time



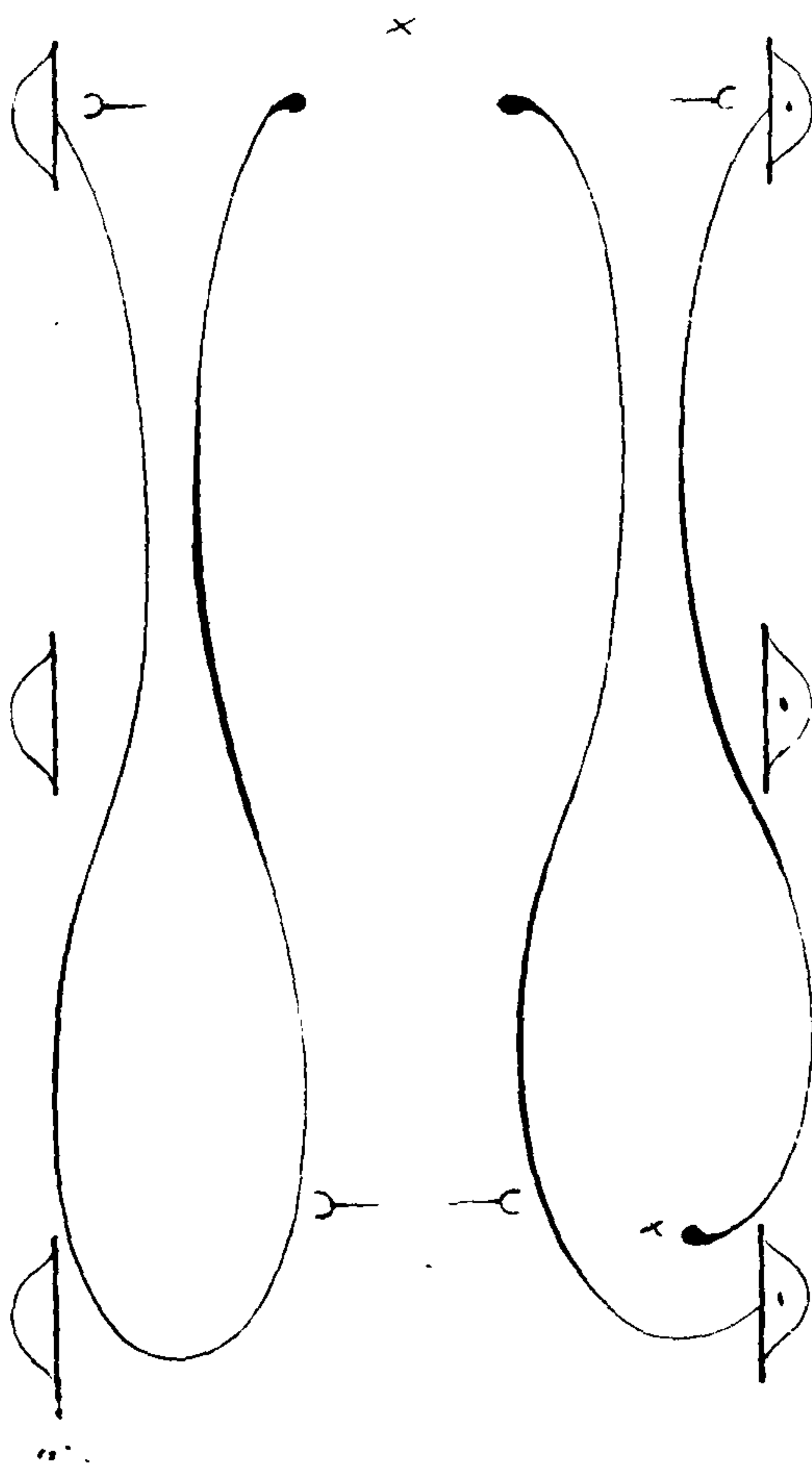
The 1st Wo. Casts of one Co. & turns, y^e 3^d man
and the 1st Wo. finishes in the 2^d Wo. place: the
Man stands still at the same time



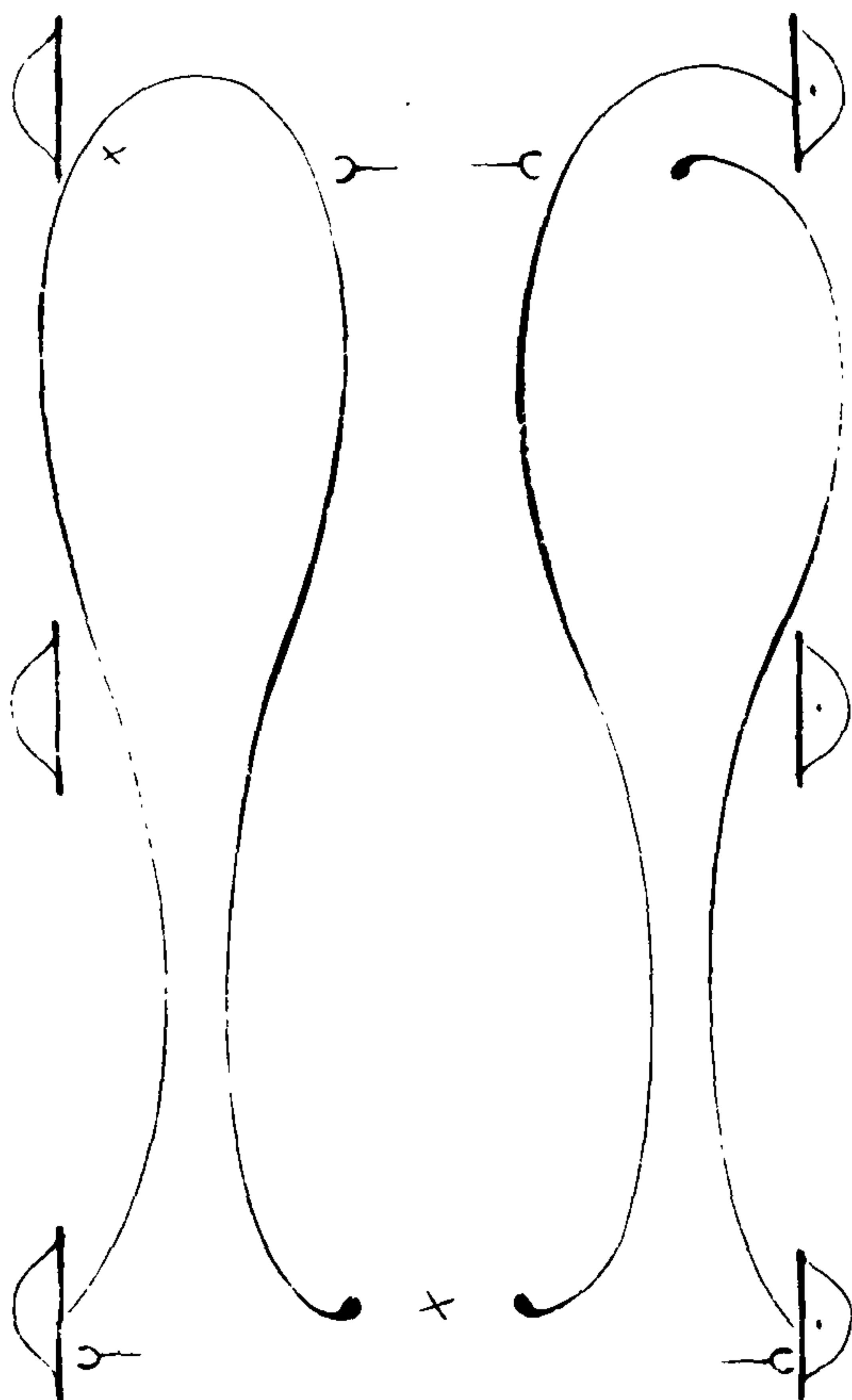
*Cast of one Co. & lead thro' the bottom, and
Cast up one Co. lead thro' the top, & cast of*



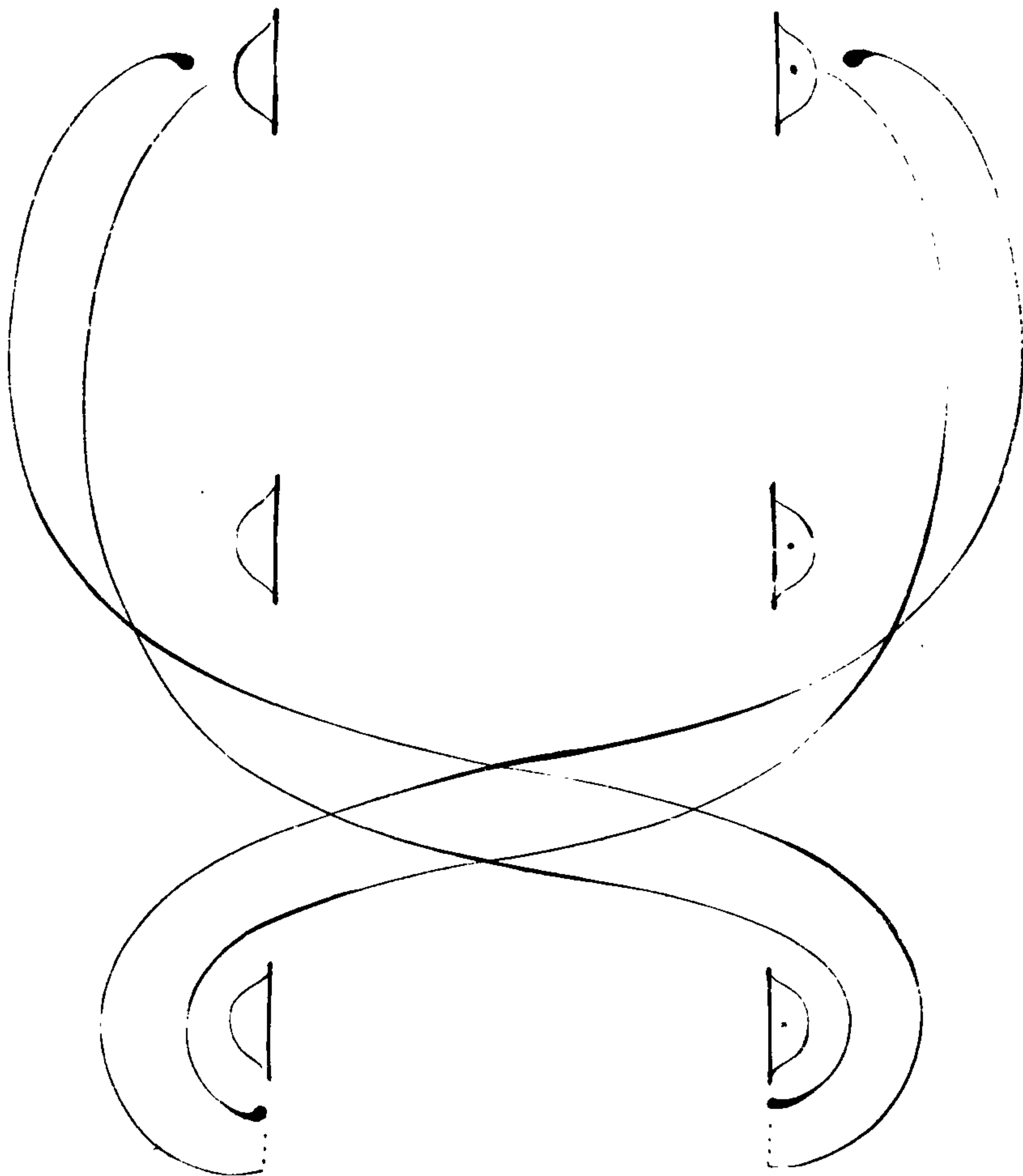
The 1st Man leads his Partner down to y^e 3^d Wo: place, leaves her there and brings up the 3^d Wo. to the top.



The 3^d Man leads up the 1st Wo: which is in the 3^d Wo: place & leaves her at top and brings his Partner back to her own place.

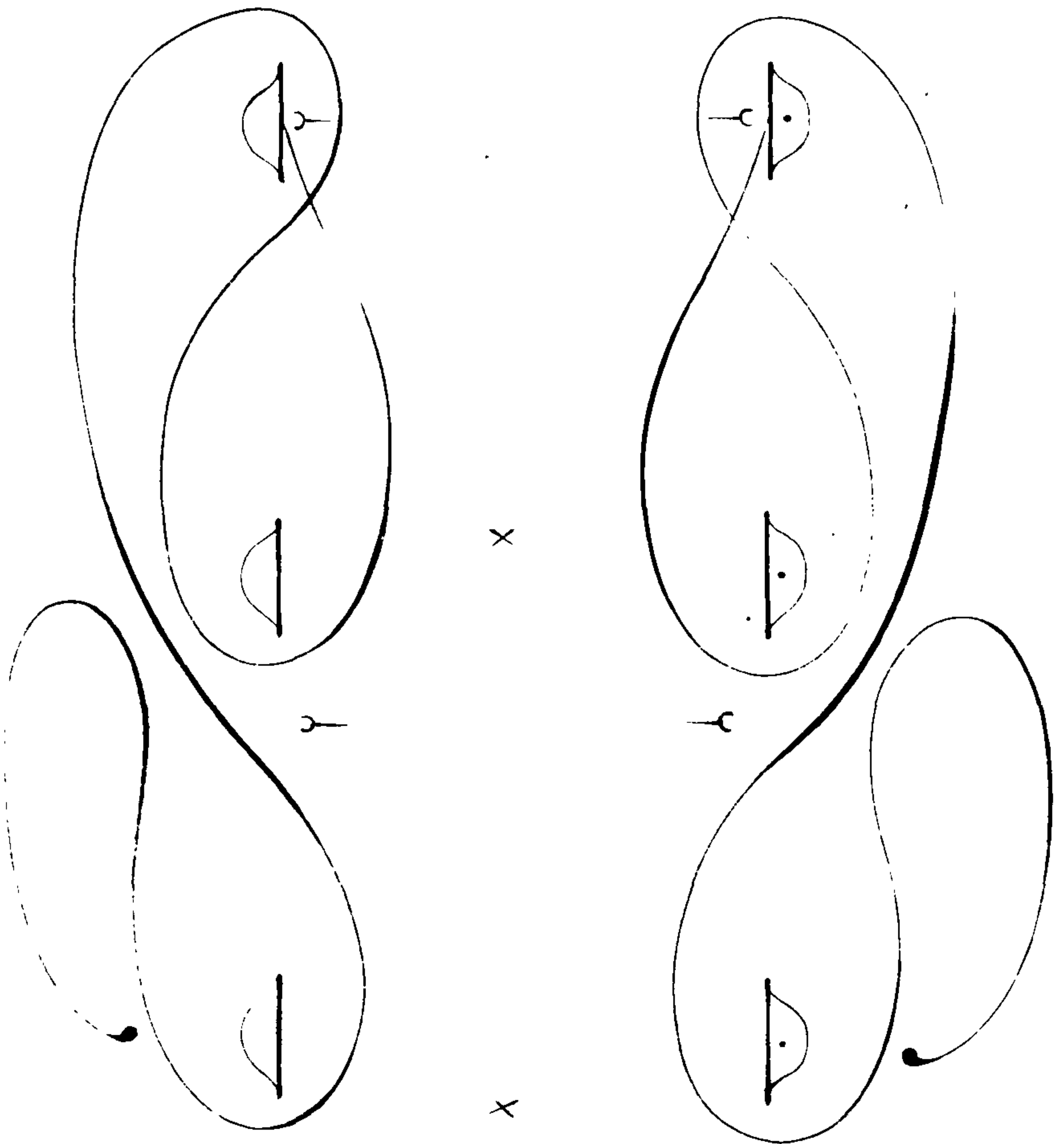


*Cast of one Co. and Cross over the 3^d Co. then
cast up again & Cross over to y^e own Places*

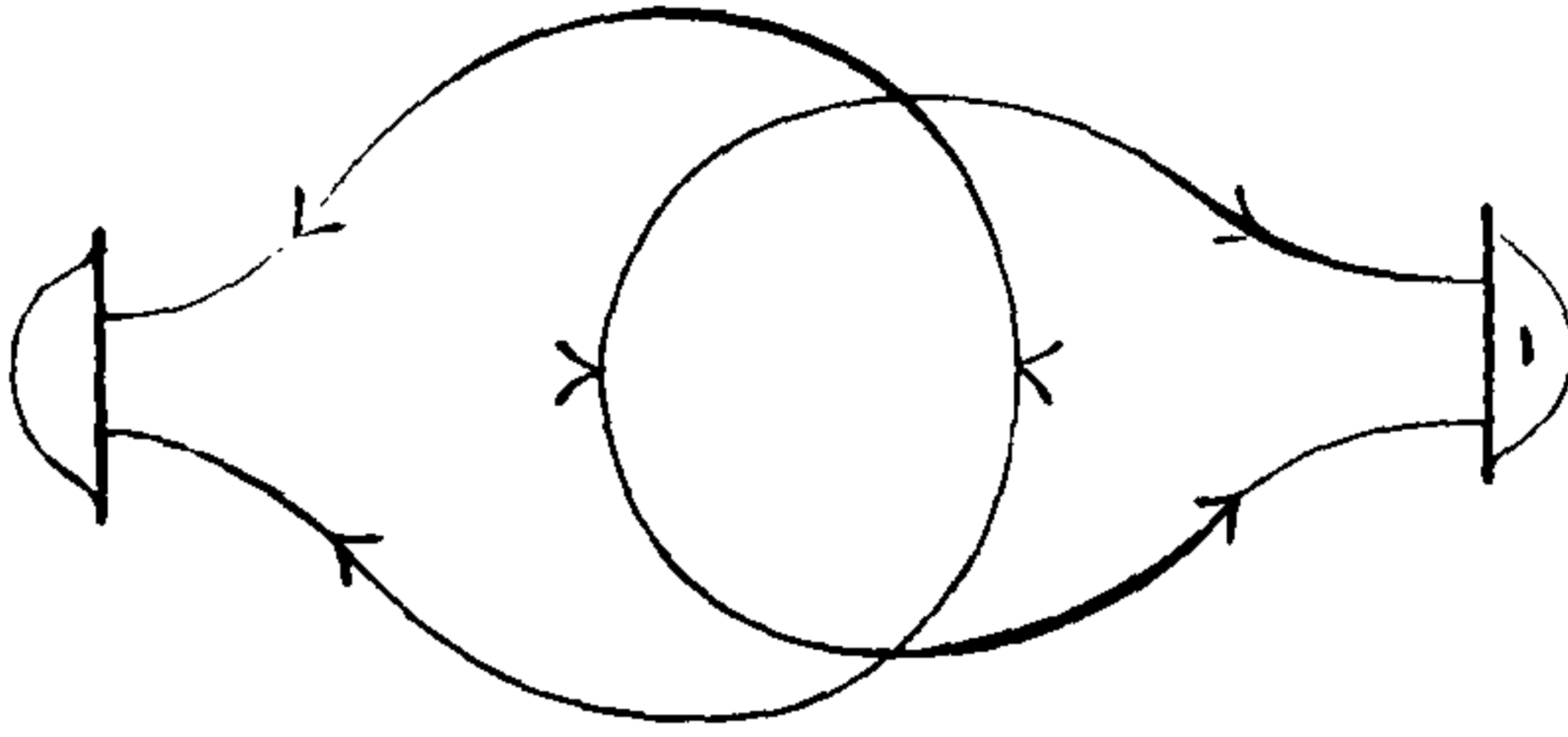


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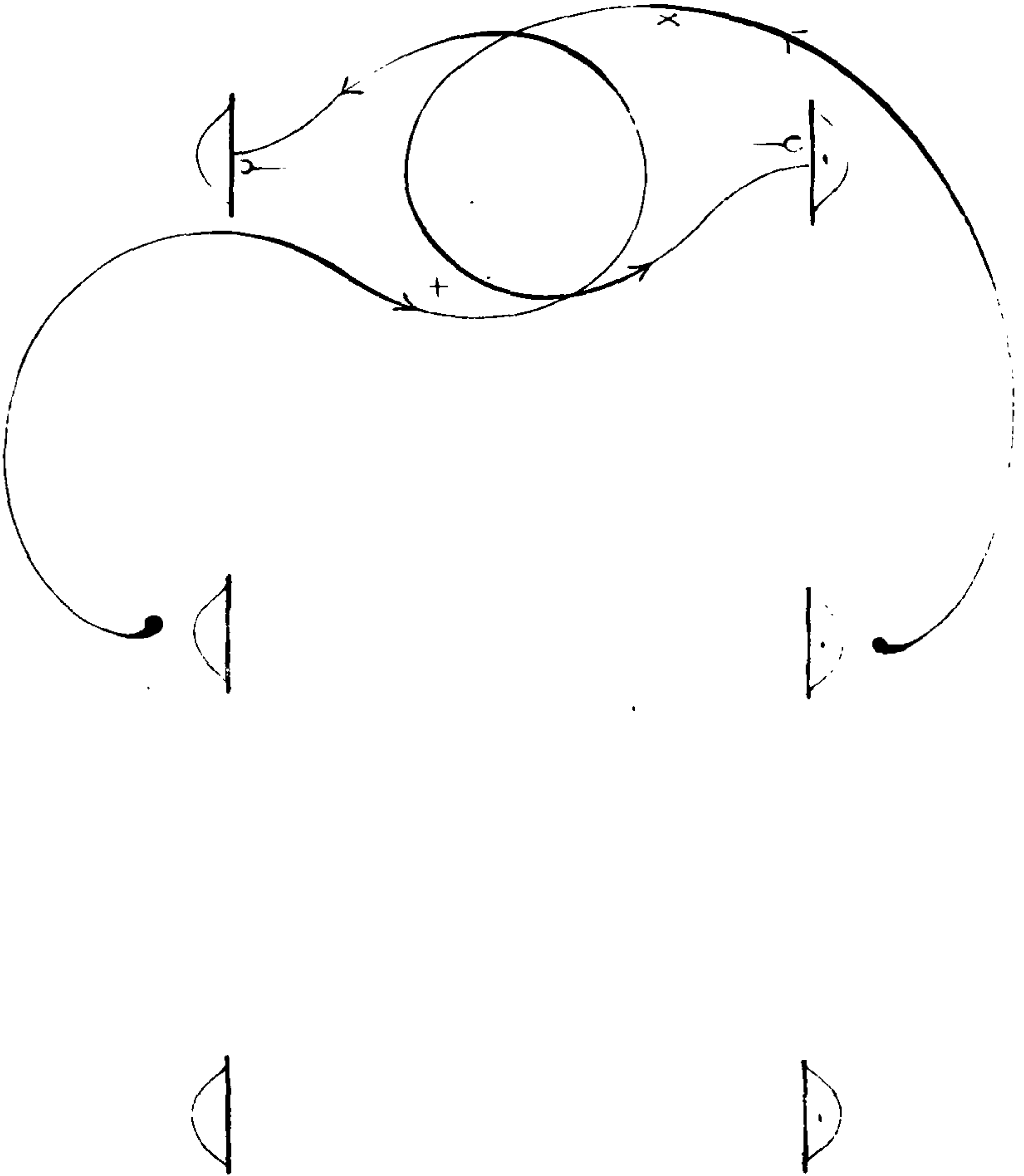
*Lead thro' the 2^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of, &
lead thro' the 3^d Co. & Cast up and Cast of*



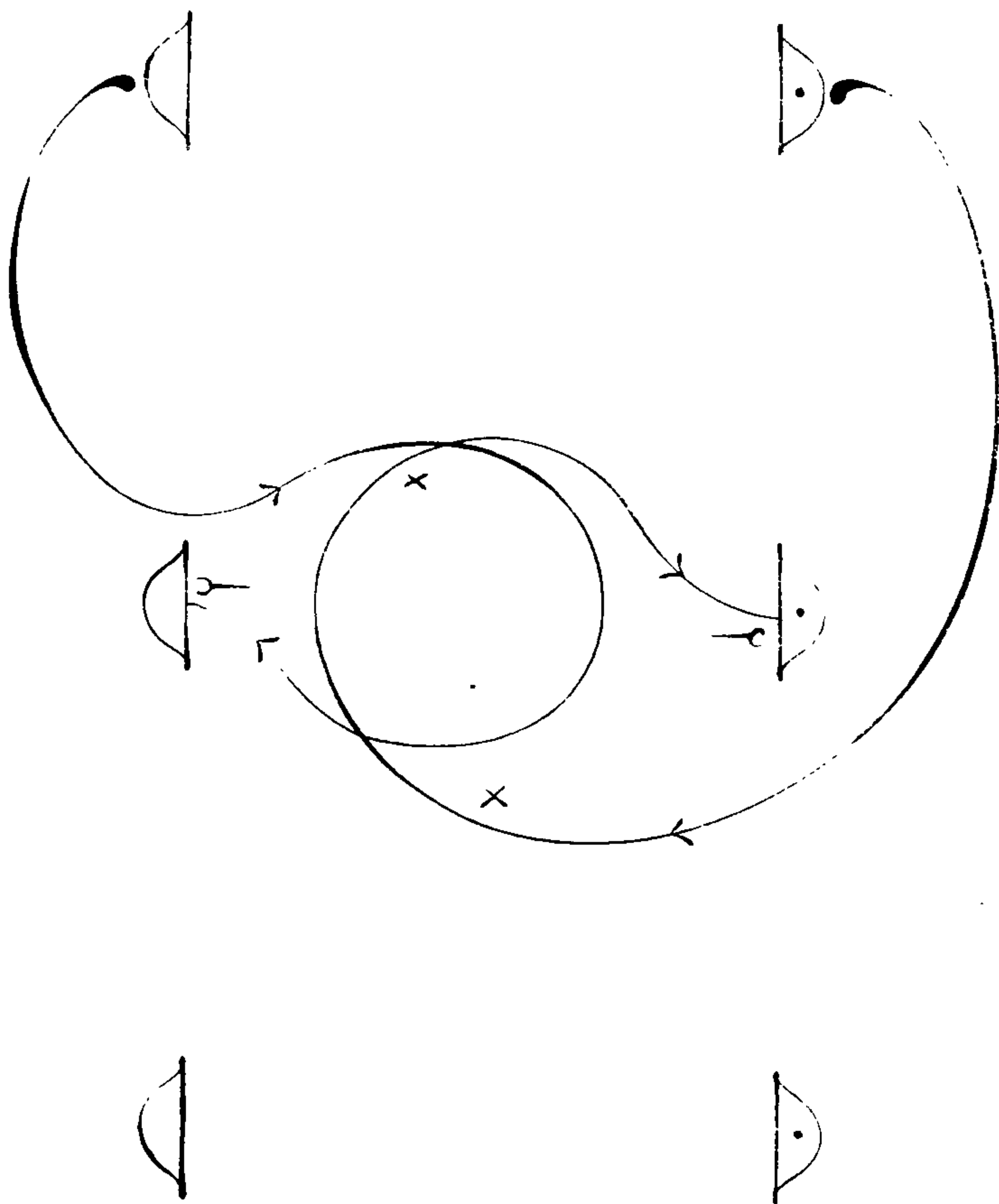
Back to Back with your Partner



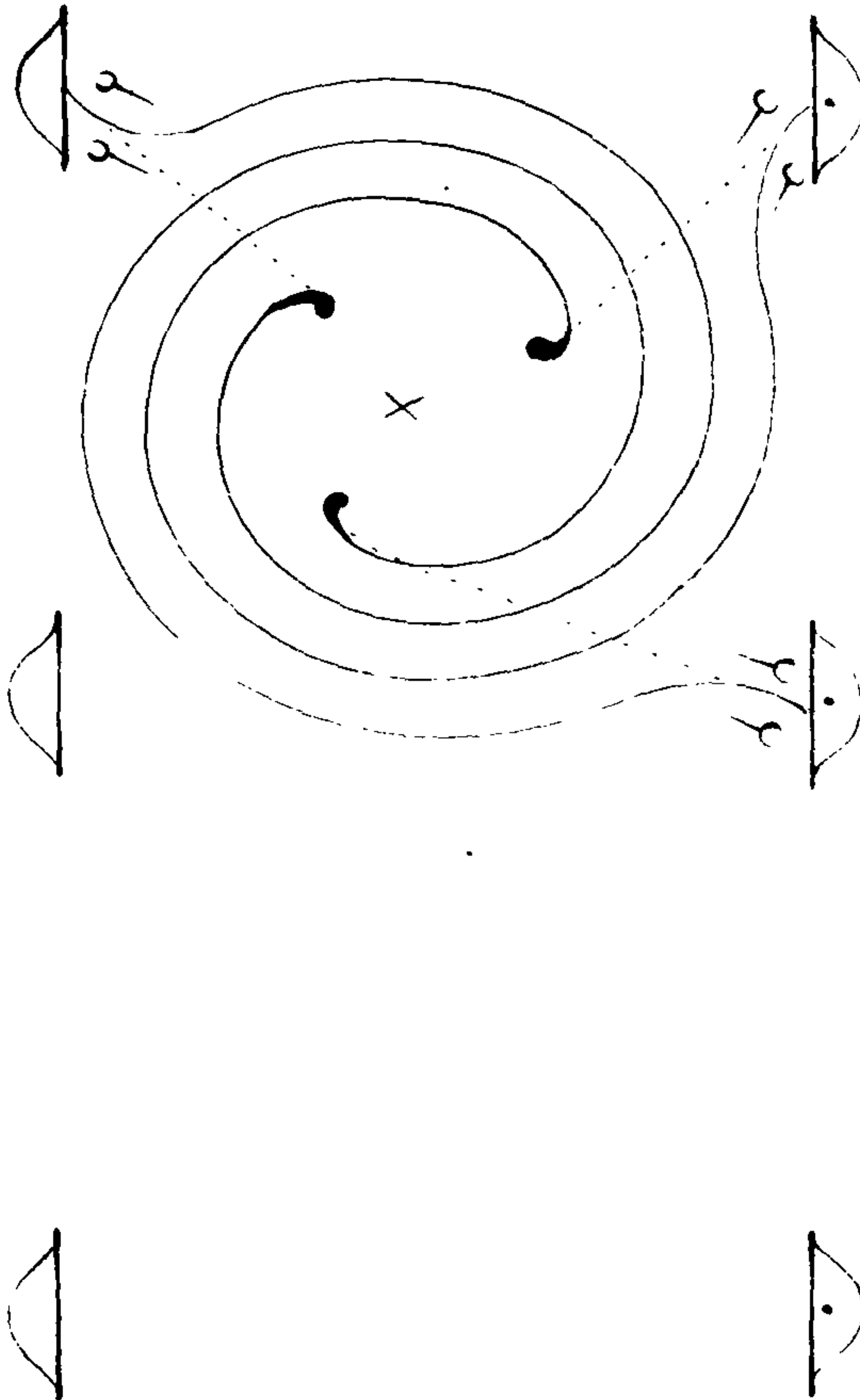
*The 1st Man turns his Partner with his
right hand, and both Cast of one Co:*



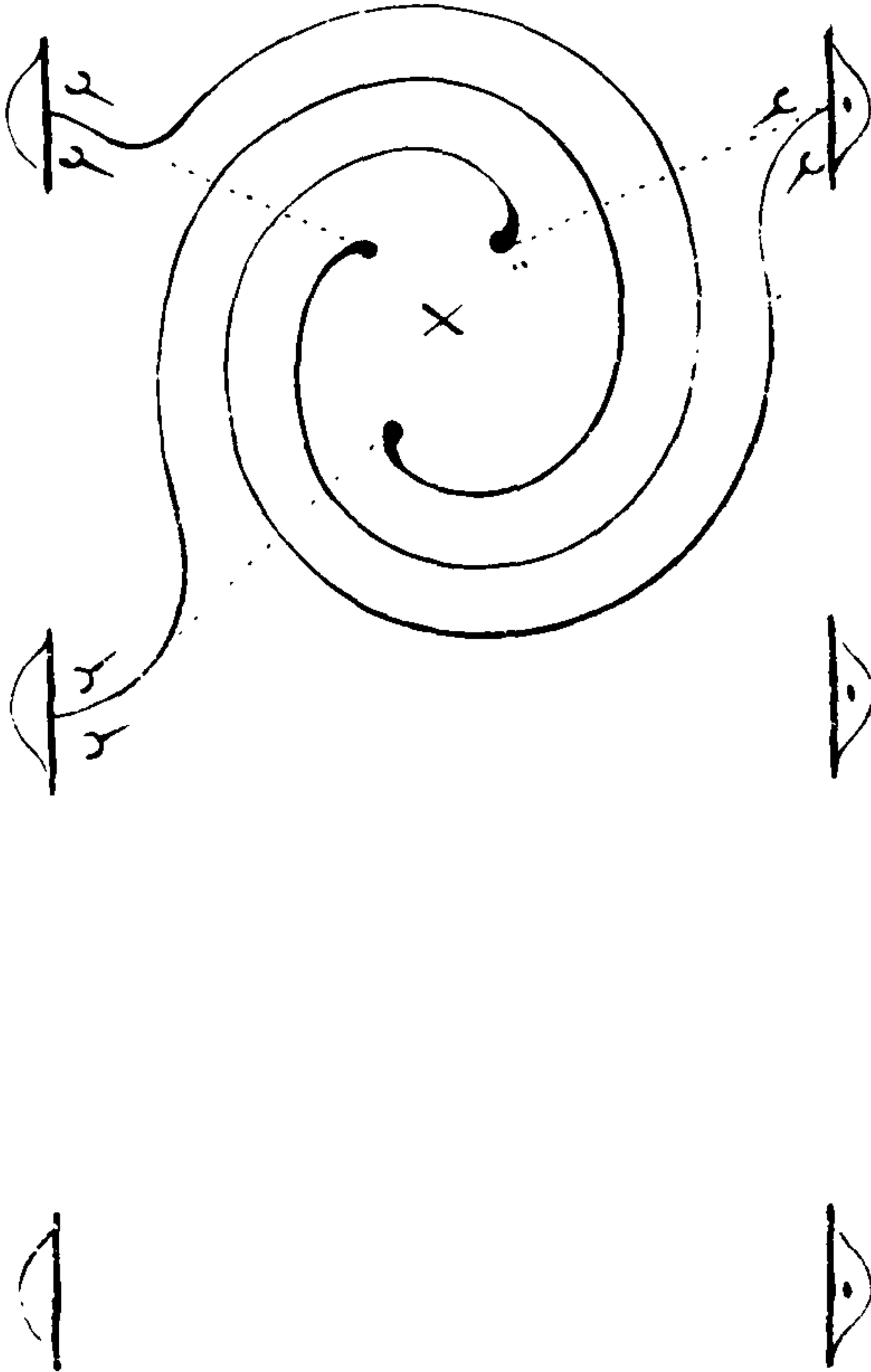
The 1st Man now which is in the 2^d Mans
Place turns his Partner with his left hand
and both Cast-up again.



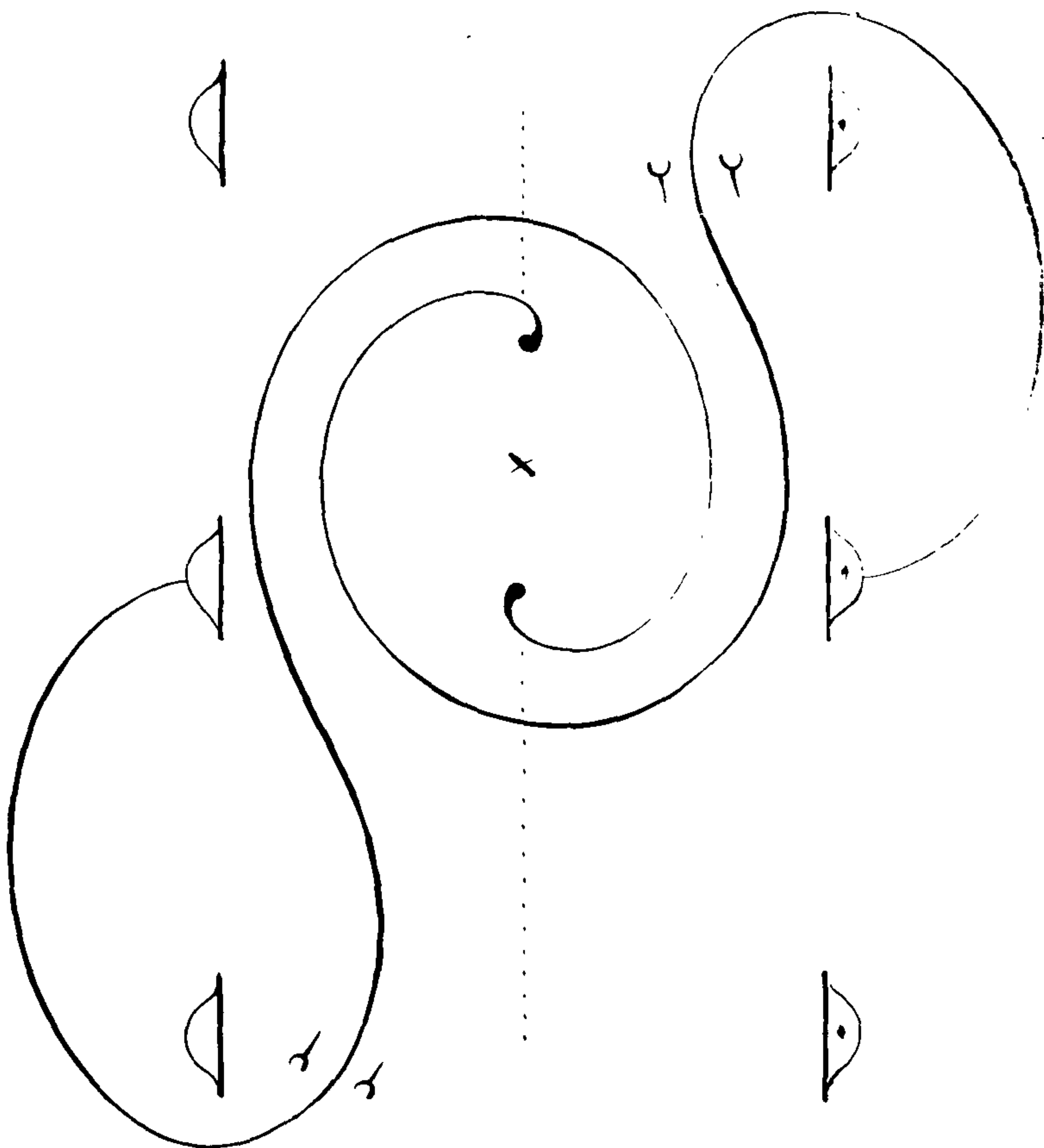
*The 1st Man & Wo. sets to the 2^d Wo. and
hands all three round to their own places*



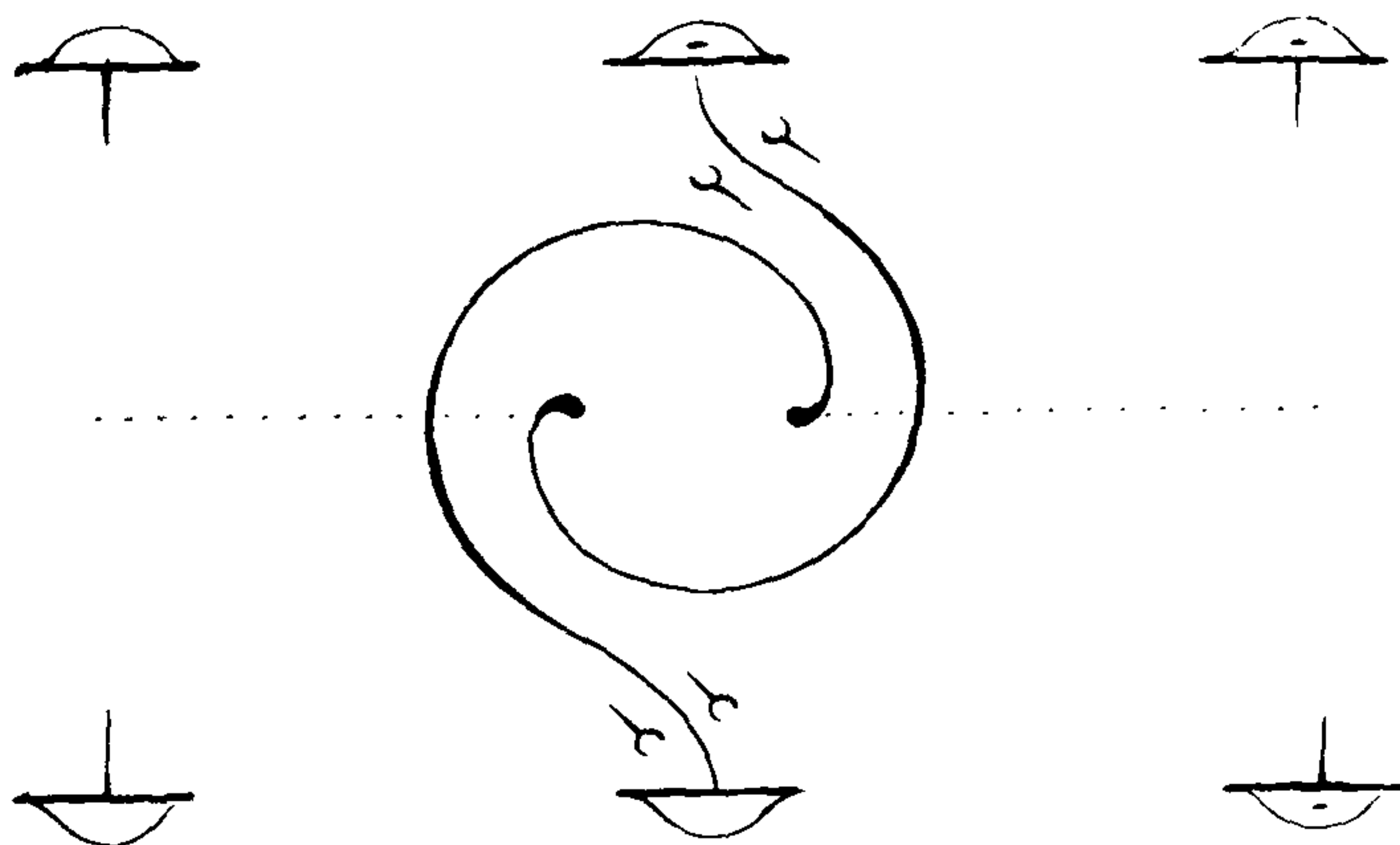
*The 1st man and wo takes hands & sits to
the 2^d man, and all three round to their own
places*



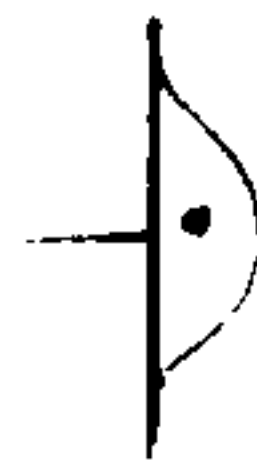
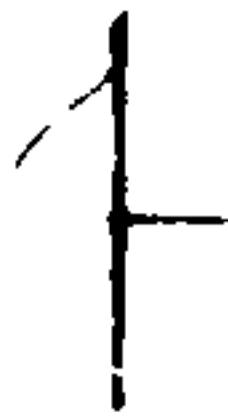
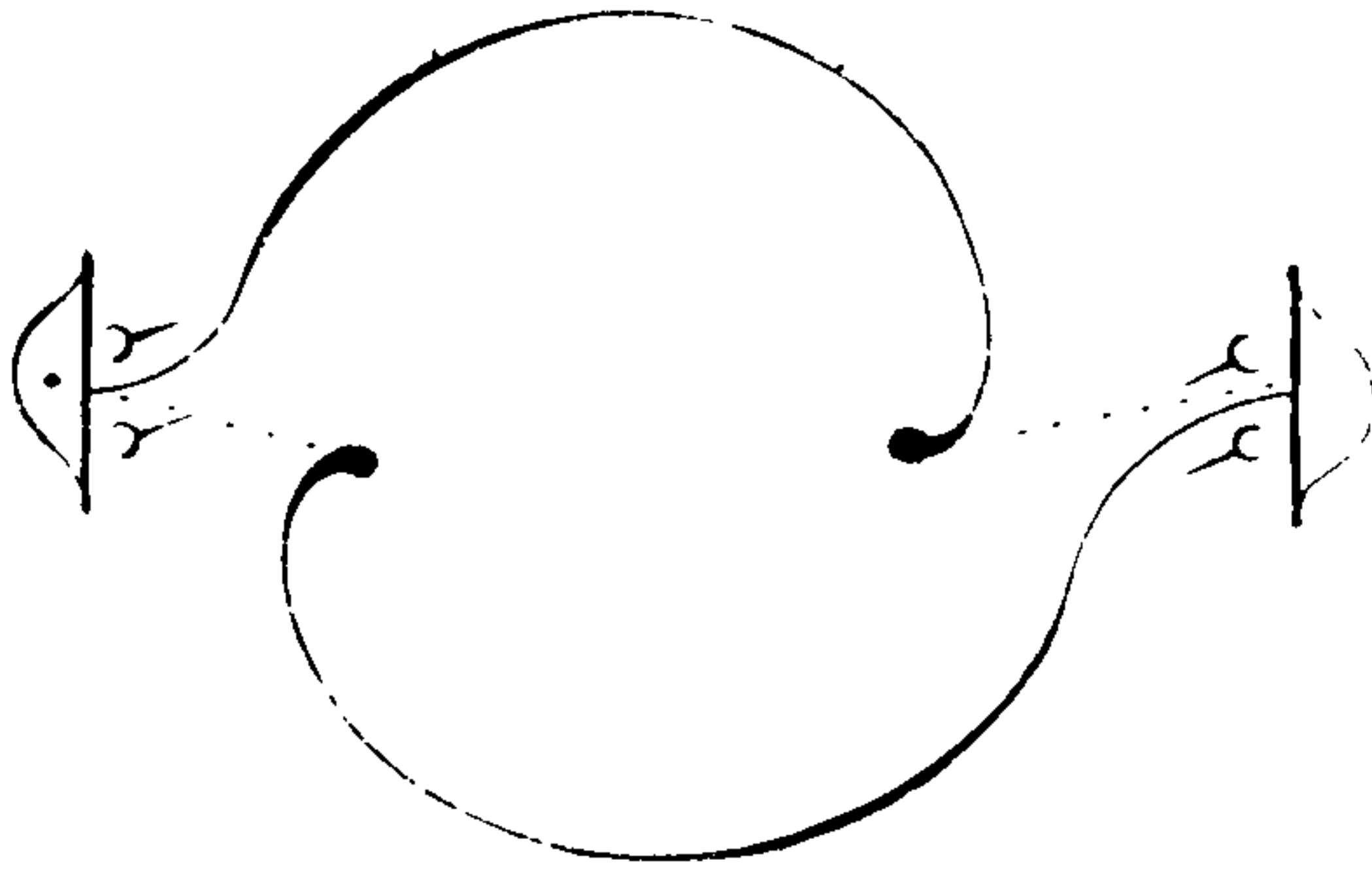
The 2^d man casts of below the 3^d man, & the
 2^d wo at the same time casts up round the 1st wo.
 and meet partners in the middle and turns;
 and the man finishes in the middle at bottom,
 and the wo. in the middle at top.



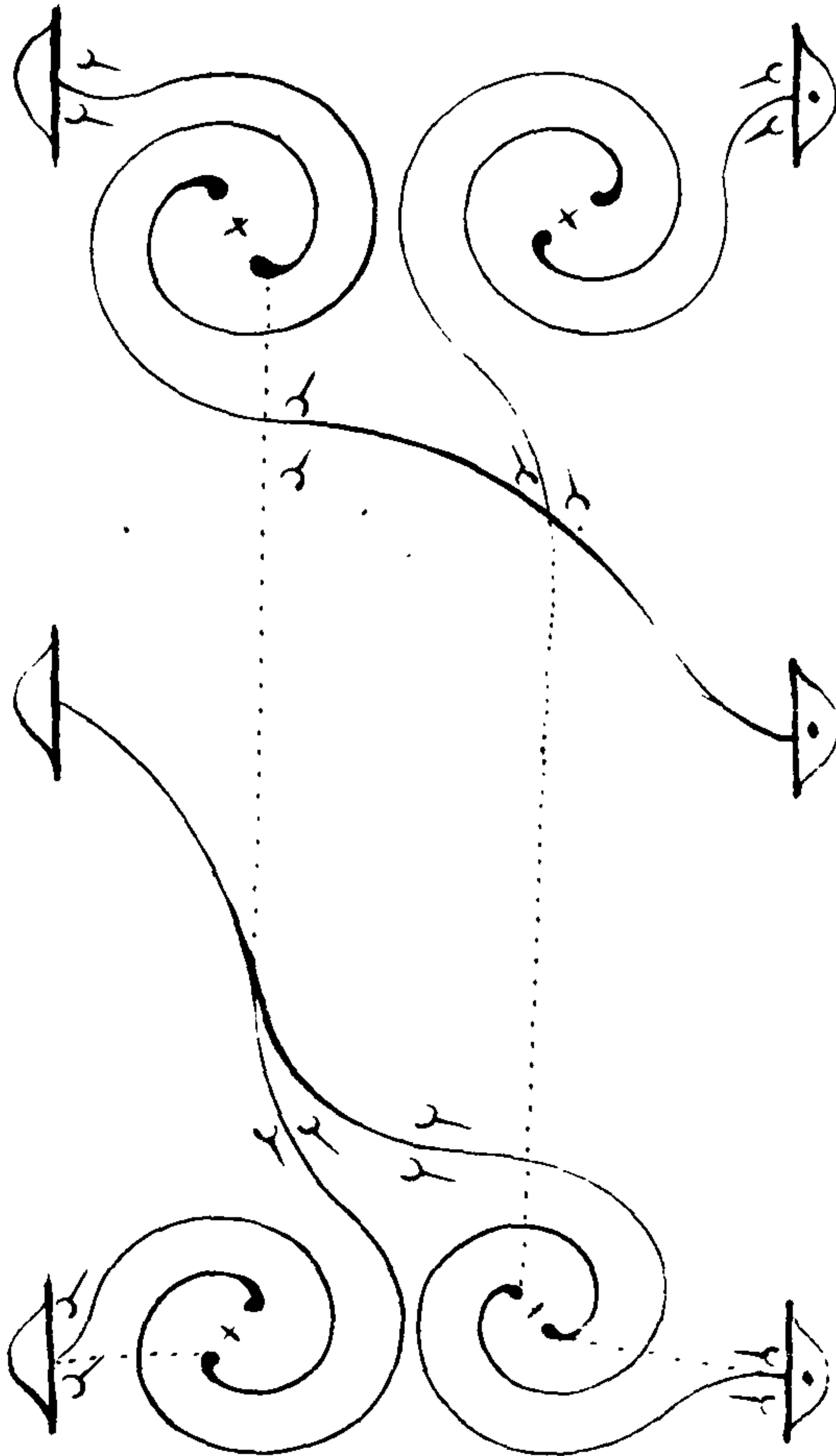
*Set 3 & 3, & the middle. Man & Wo: turns -
hands; & the. Man finishes in the middle of the
Wo: side, & the Wo: in the middle of y. Mans side.*



*Set 3 & 3 again, & the middle. Man & Wo:
turns hands, & finishes of their own sides.*

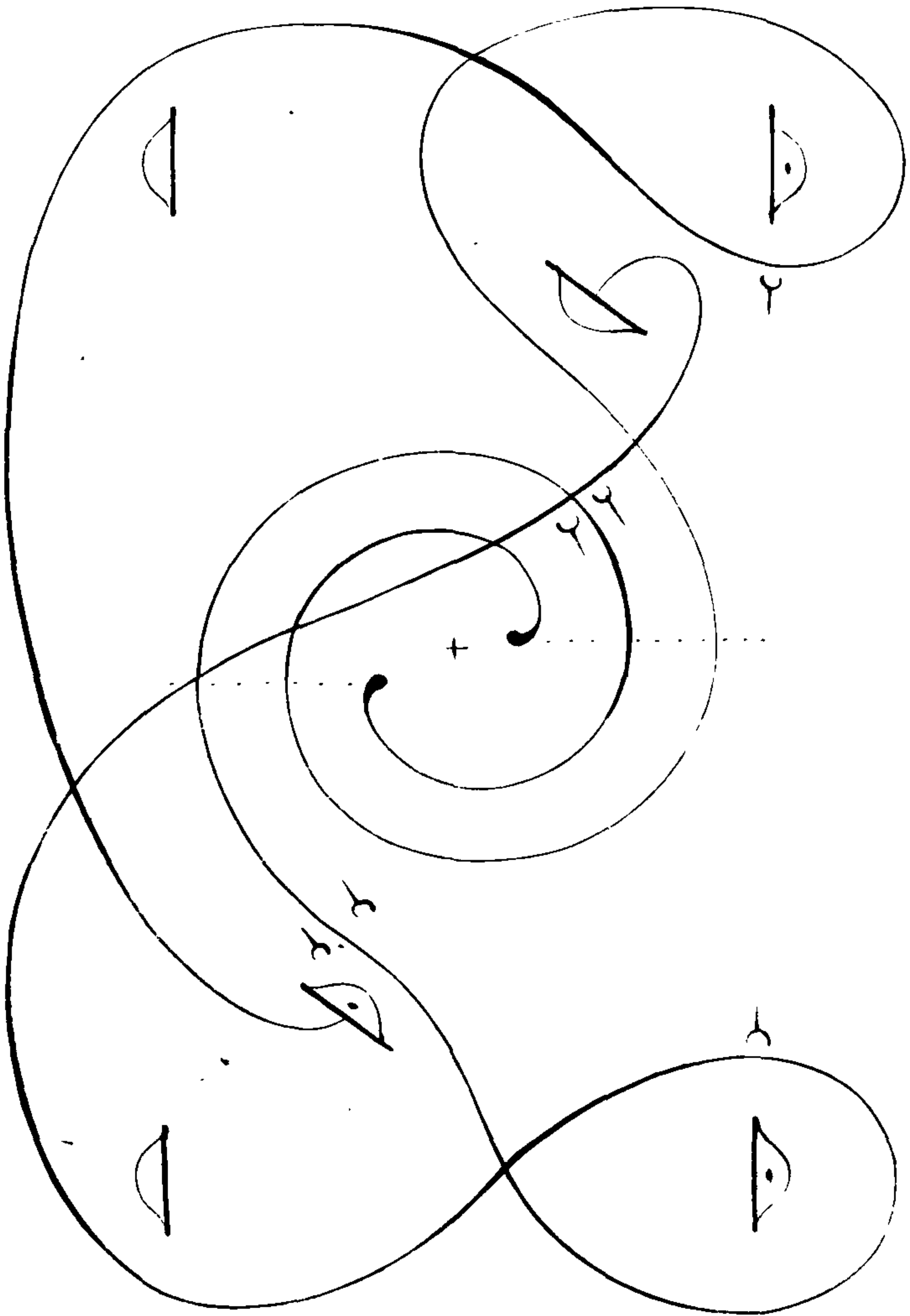


The 2^d man & two Side Corners & turn hands



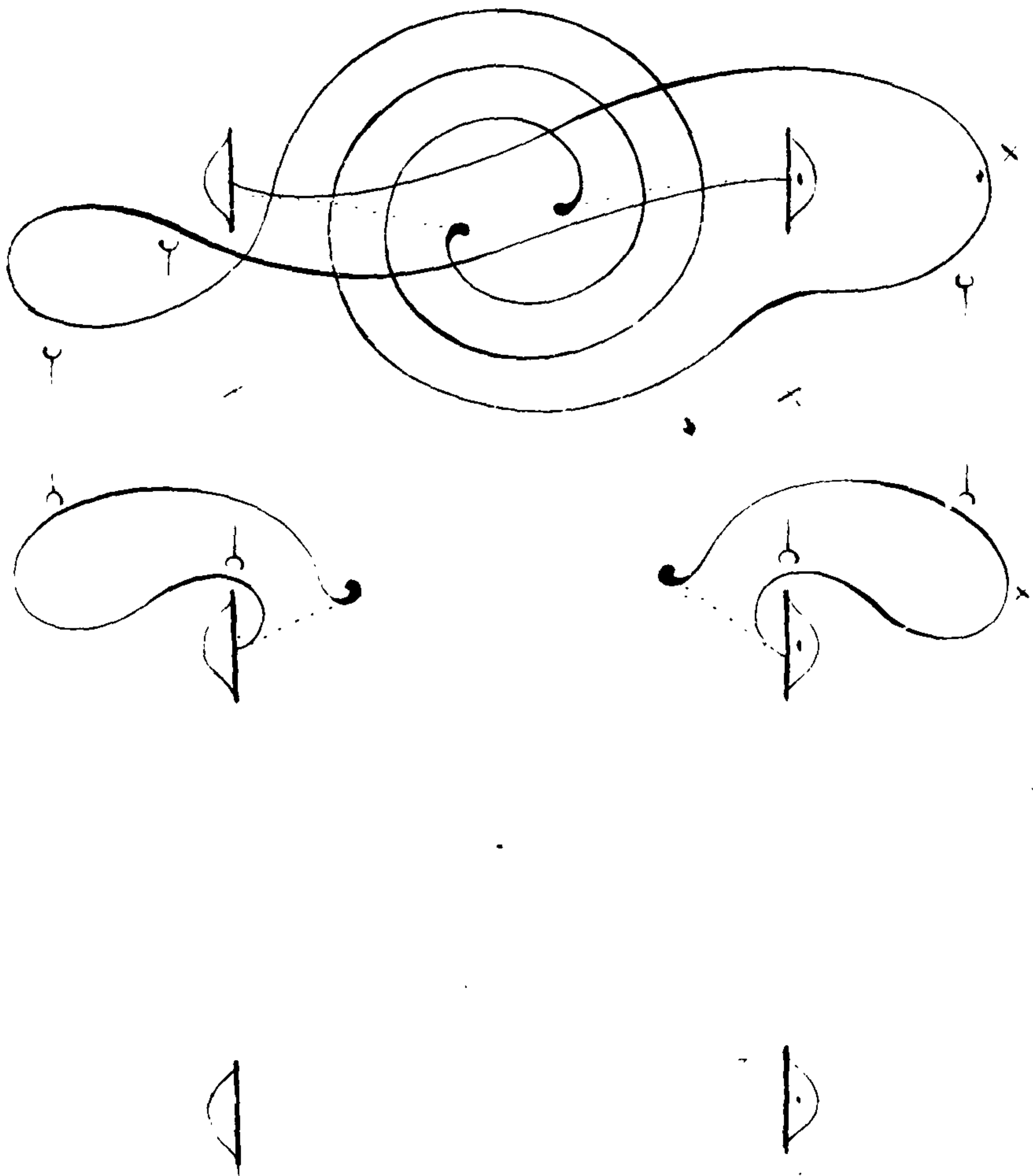
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*Lead out Sides and turn in the middle;
the man and we to begin where they left of
on the other Side*

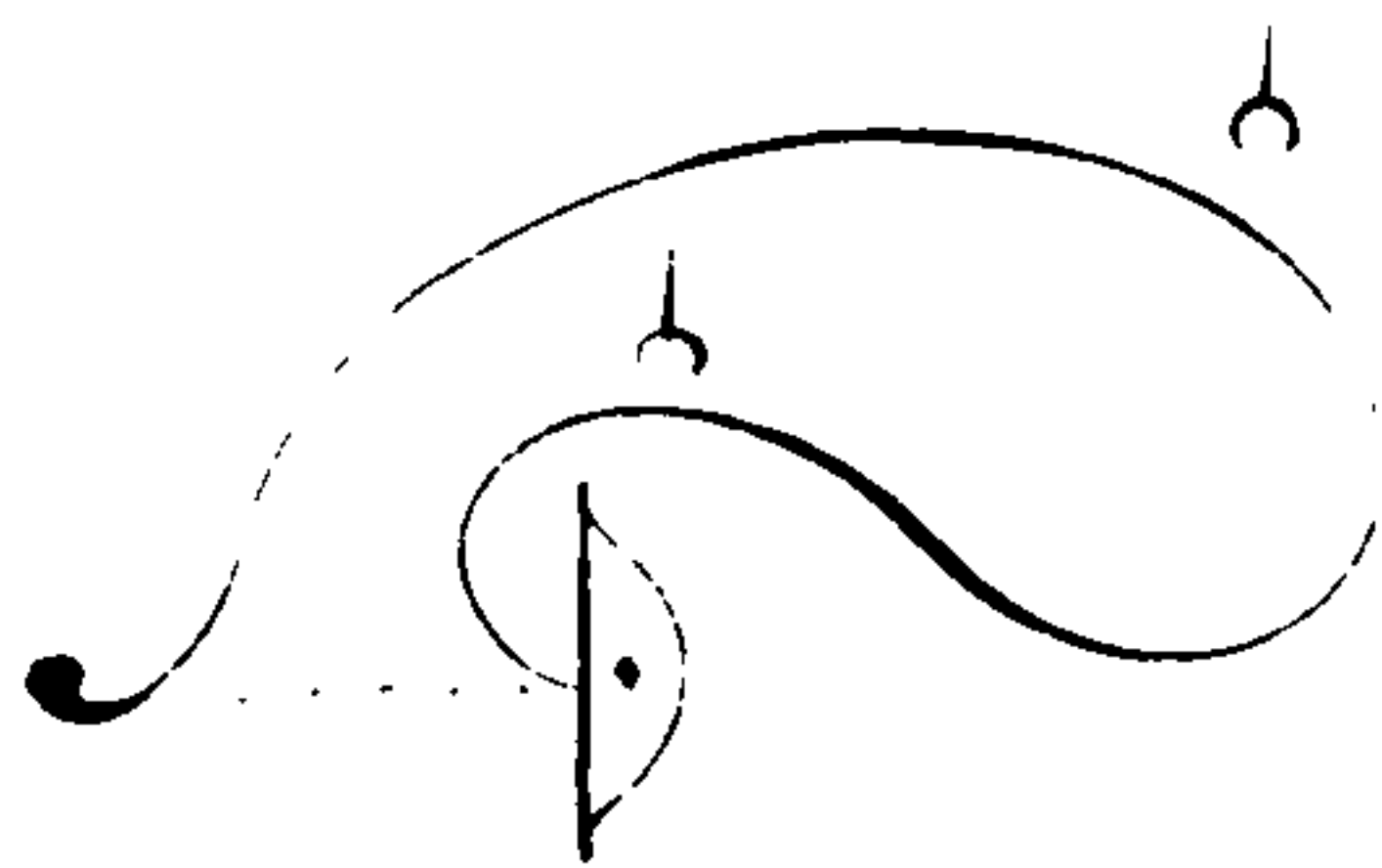
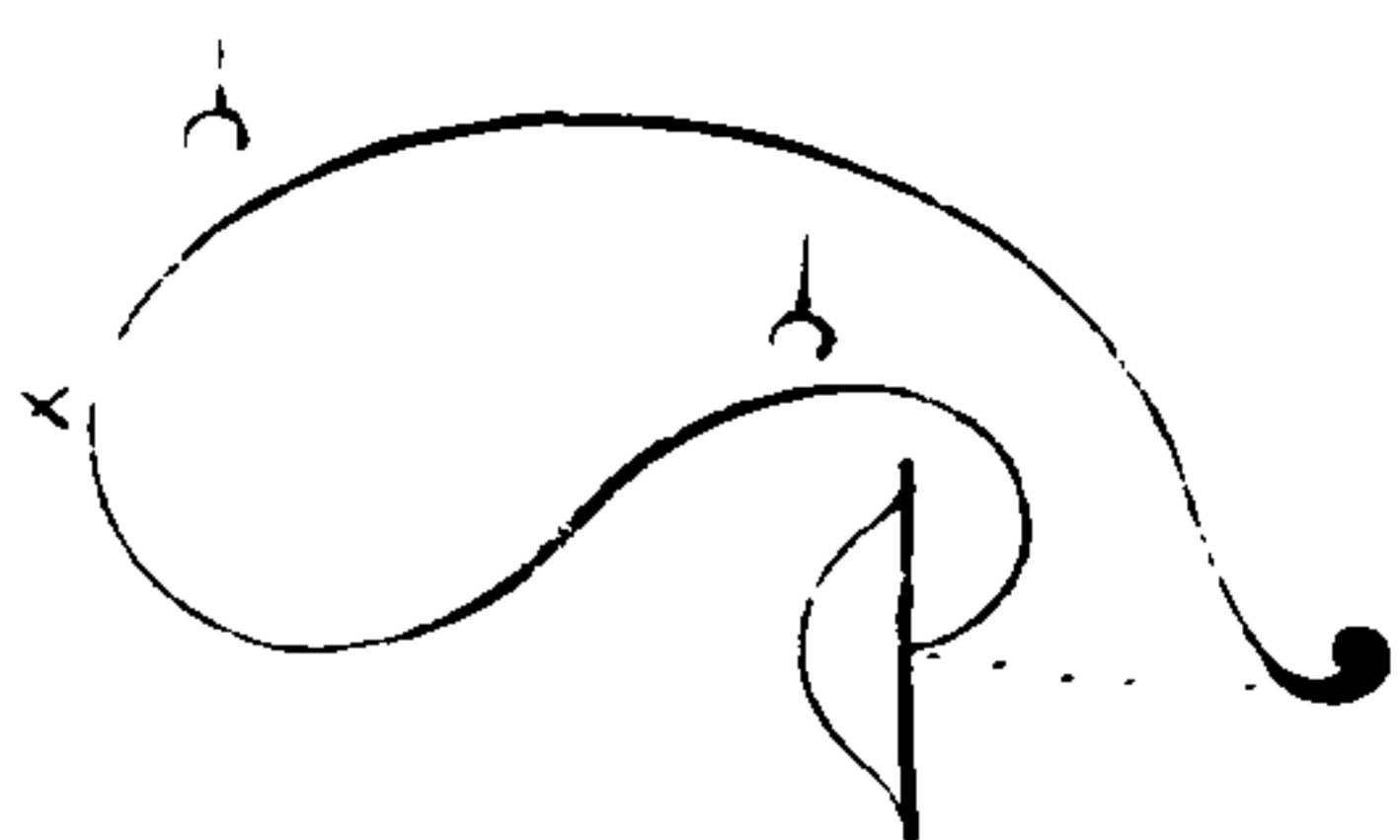
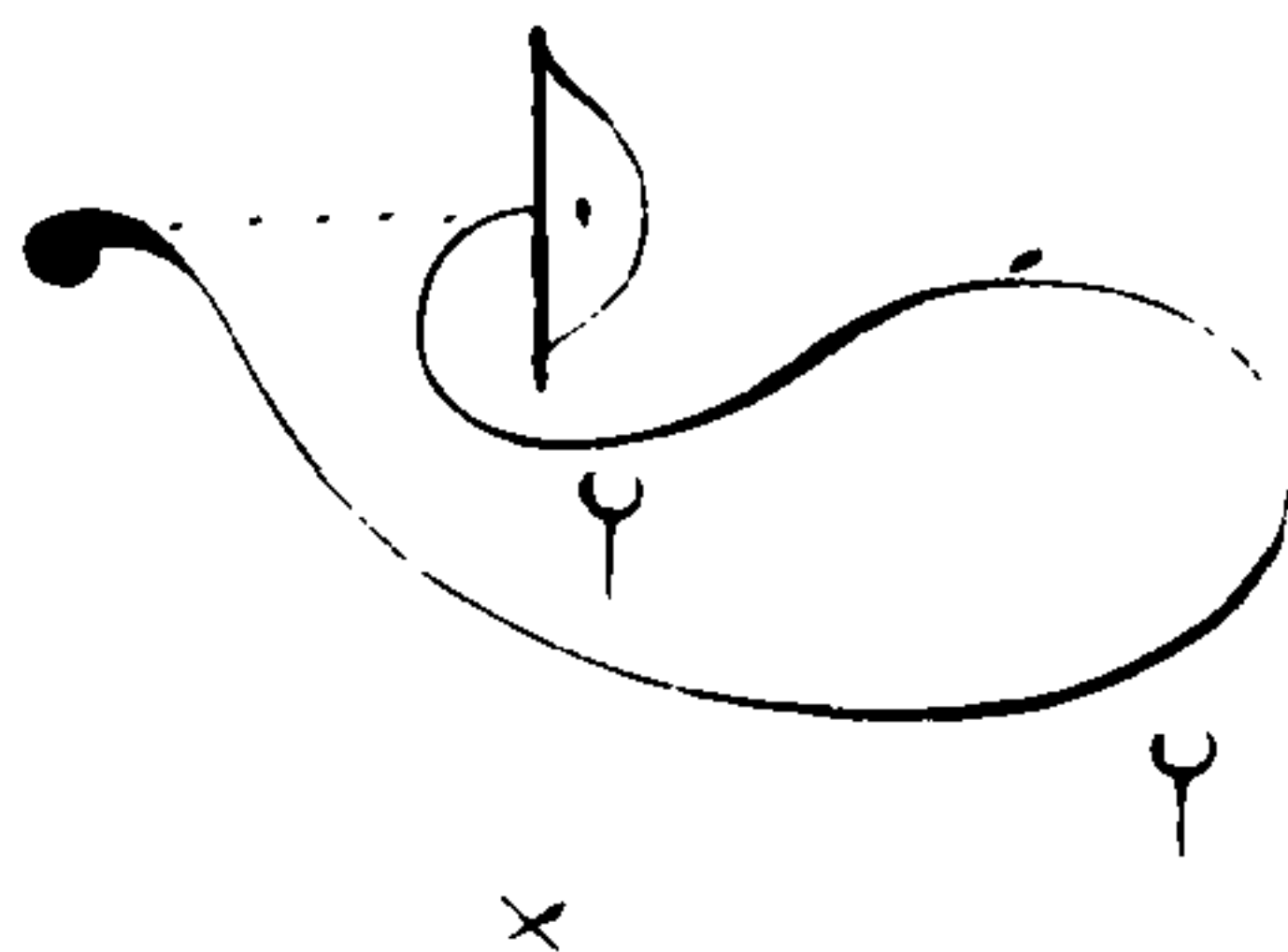
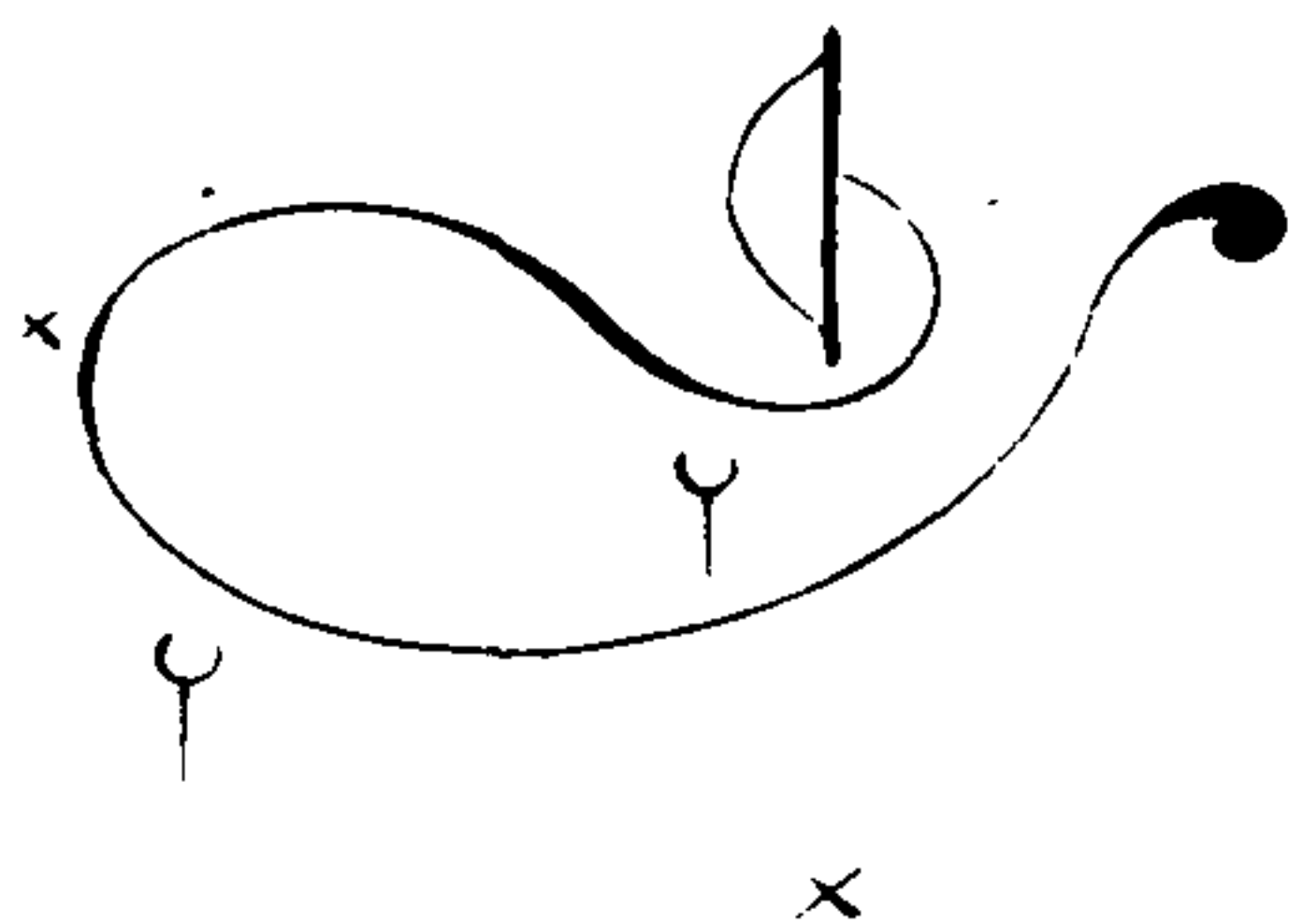


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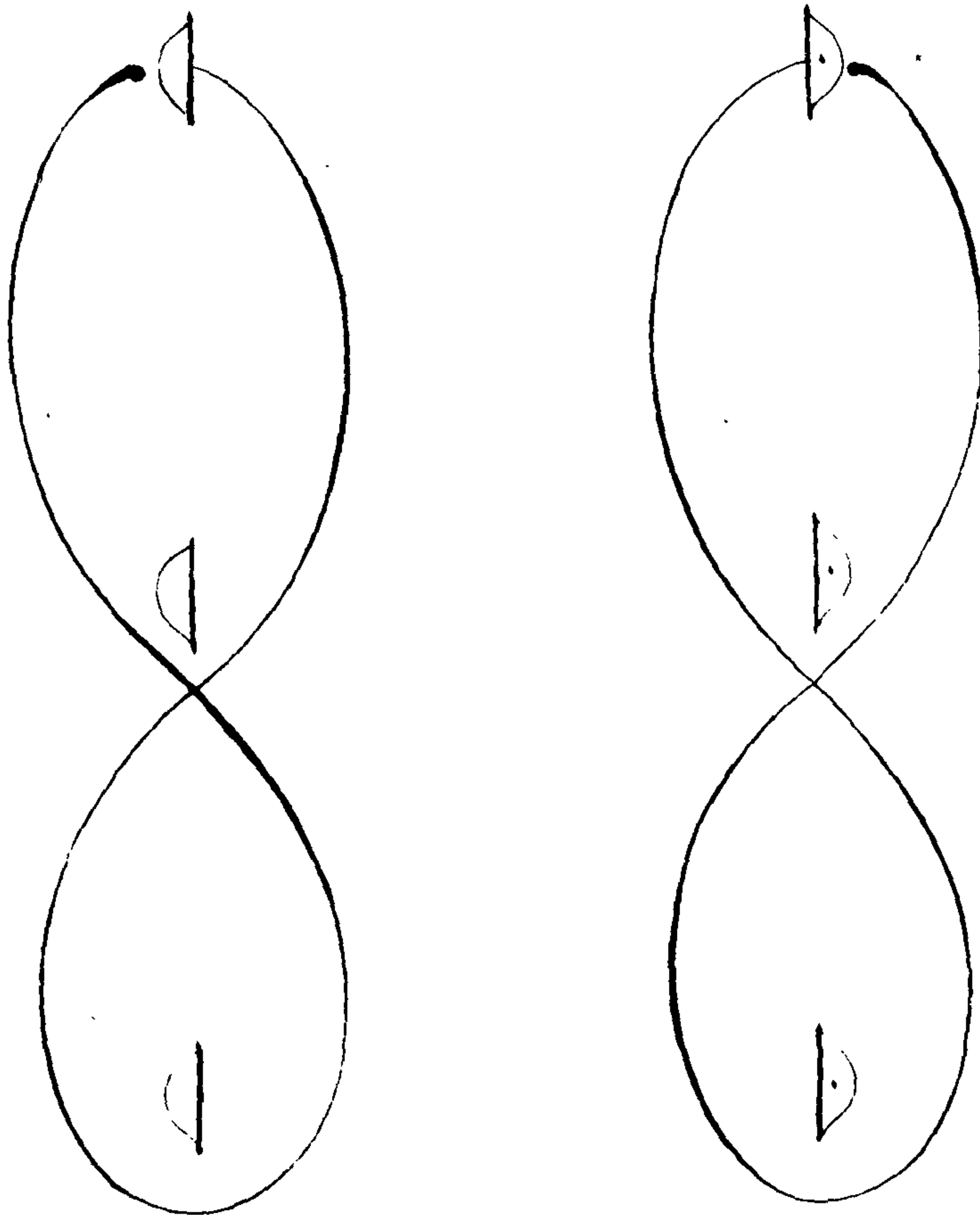
*The 1st Man leads the 2^d W^o: outside & turns -
Inwards again the 1st W^o: does the same with y^e
2^d Man & then turns Partners & finish in their
own places .*



*Lead out sides Sin again the two first. Then S;
the two first W's: S; finish in their own places*

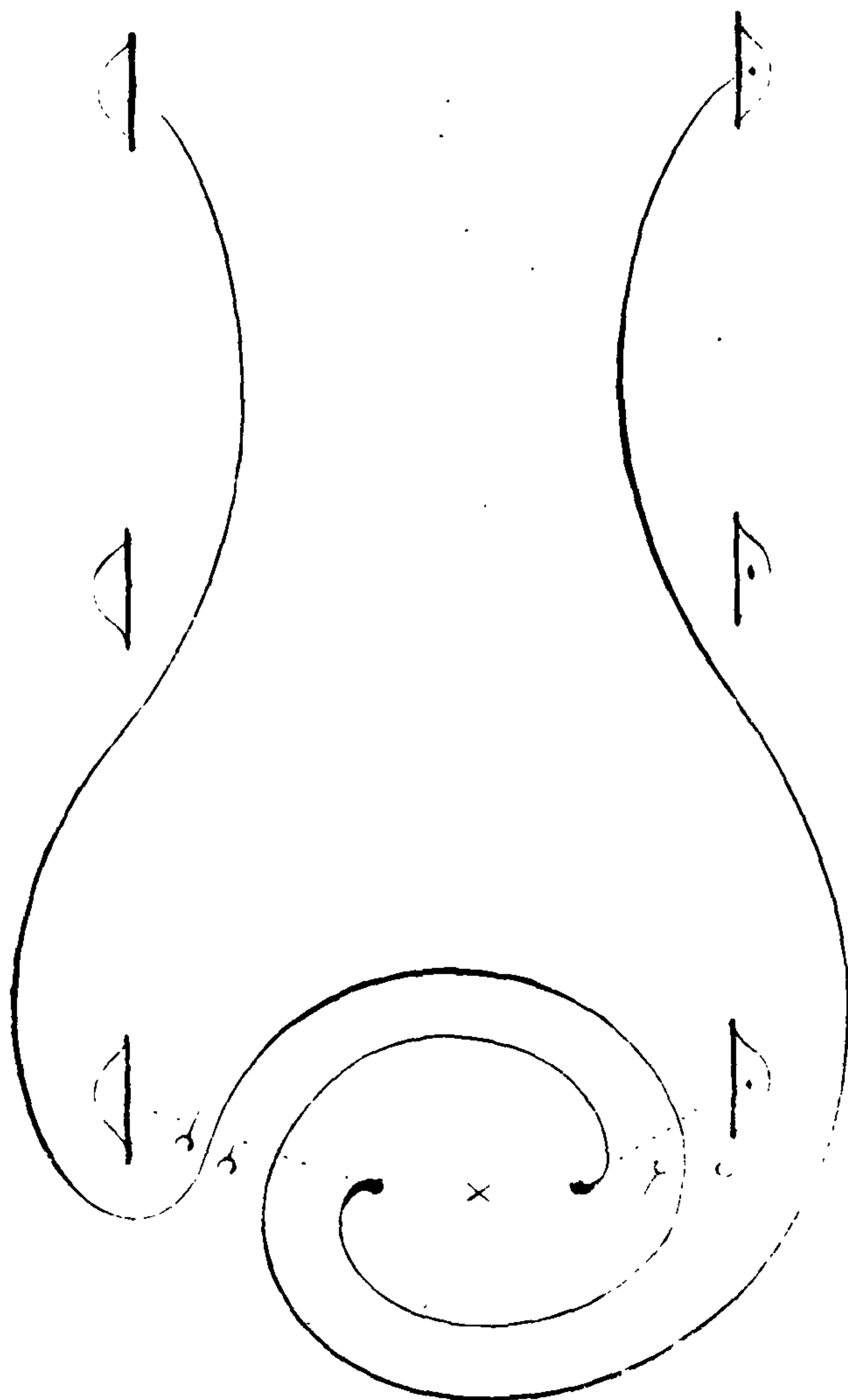


*The 1st Man & Woman whole figures on their
own sides.*



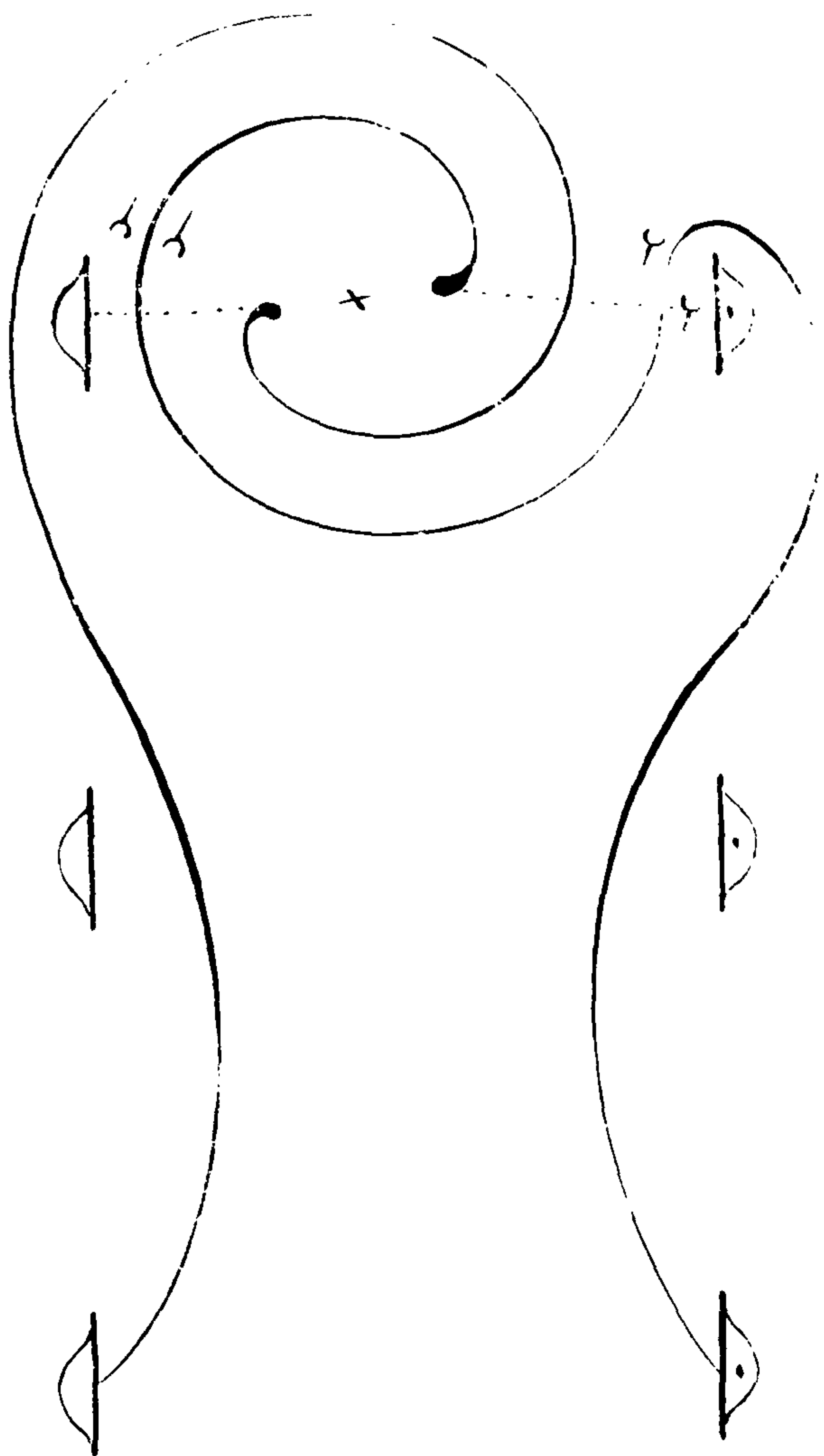
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*The 1.st Man & Wo: half figures down of their
own sides, & turn hands at bottem*



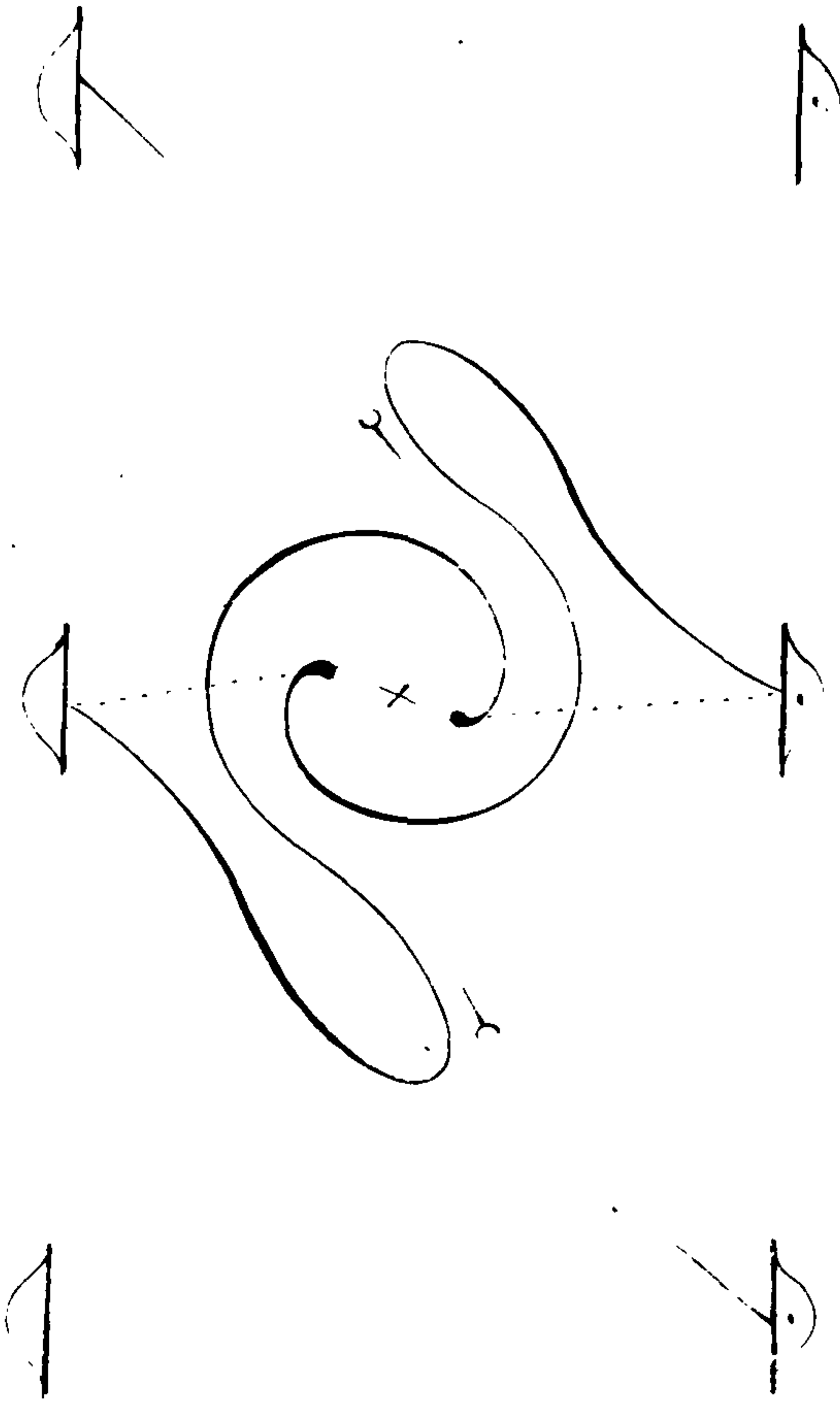
Published according to Act of Parliament April 23 1752. Nicholas Dukes

*The 3^d. Man & W^c: half figures up of their
own sides and turn hands at top*

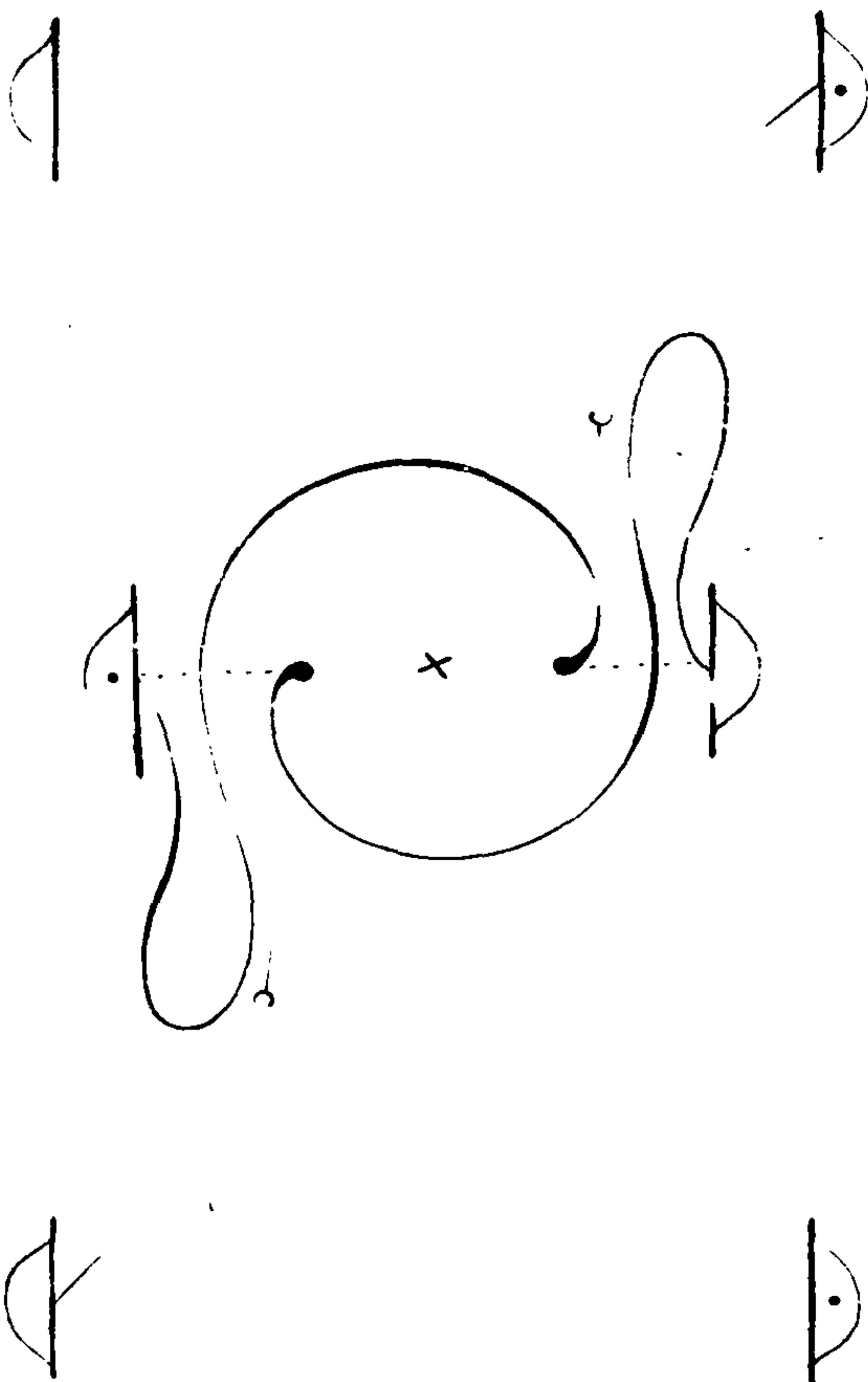


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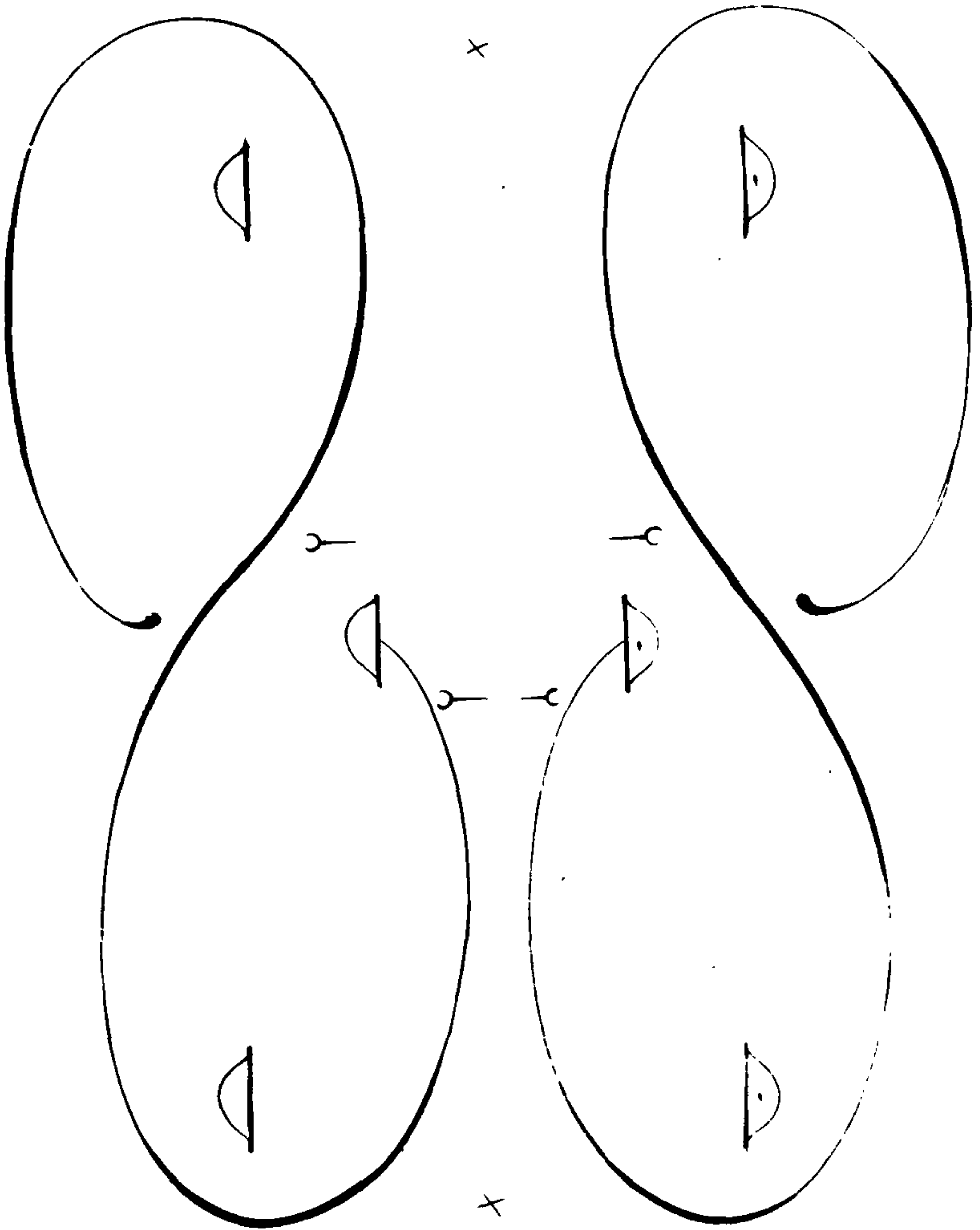
*Set Corners, & buckle them, & turn y^e Partner;
that is, the 2^d Man sets to the 3^d W^m: & not turn
her, but turn Inwards from her, & turn right
hands with your Partner; & the 2^d Woman does y^e
same with the top. Man*



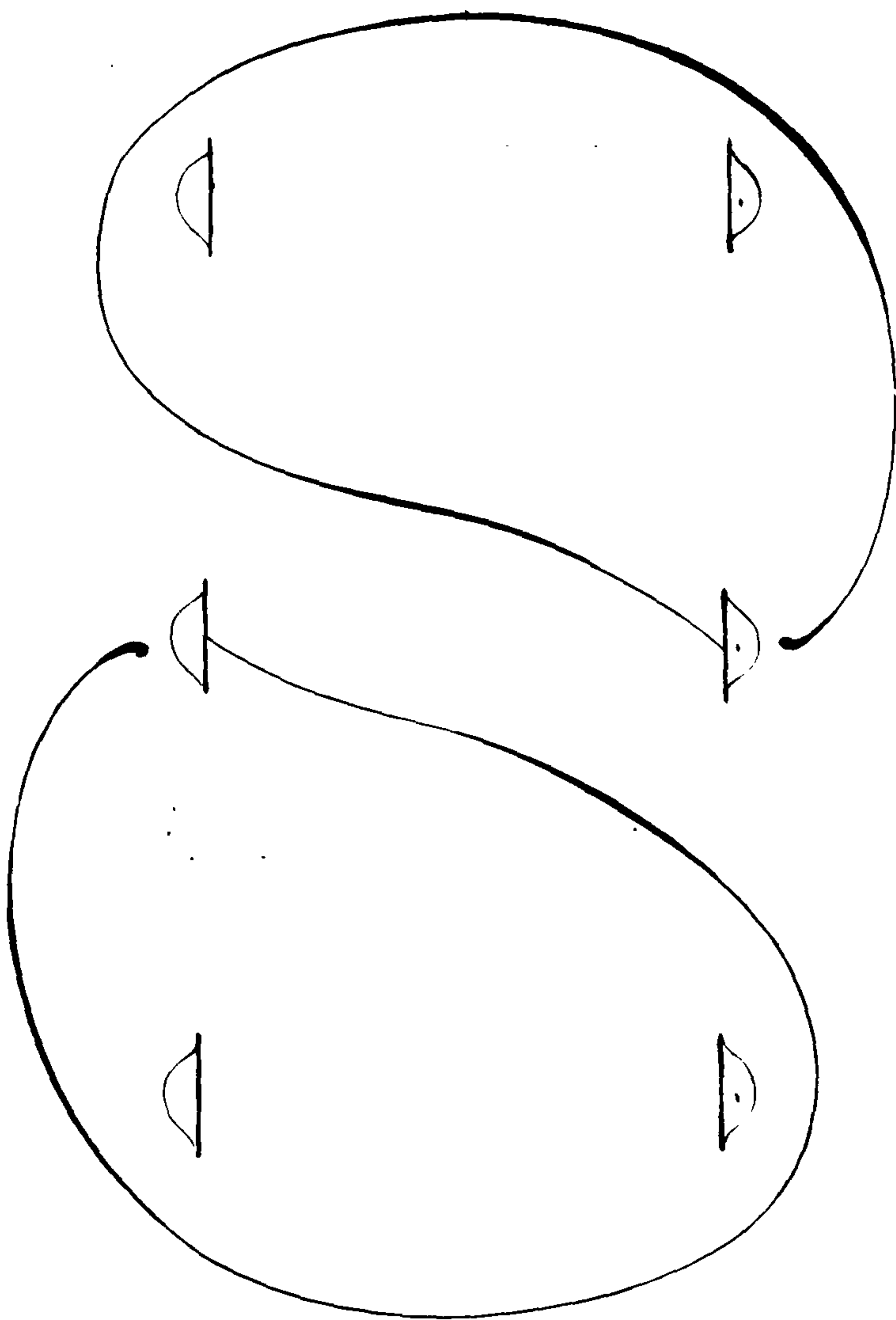
The man and wo: to begin from where they left
 of on the other side, and now the man sets to the
 top wo: and baulks her as before, and turns
 his part with his right hand as before the wo:
 does y^e same, at y^e same time with the bottom man



*The middle man & two leads thro' the bottom, &
Casts up, & lead thro' the top and Cast of*

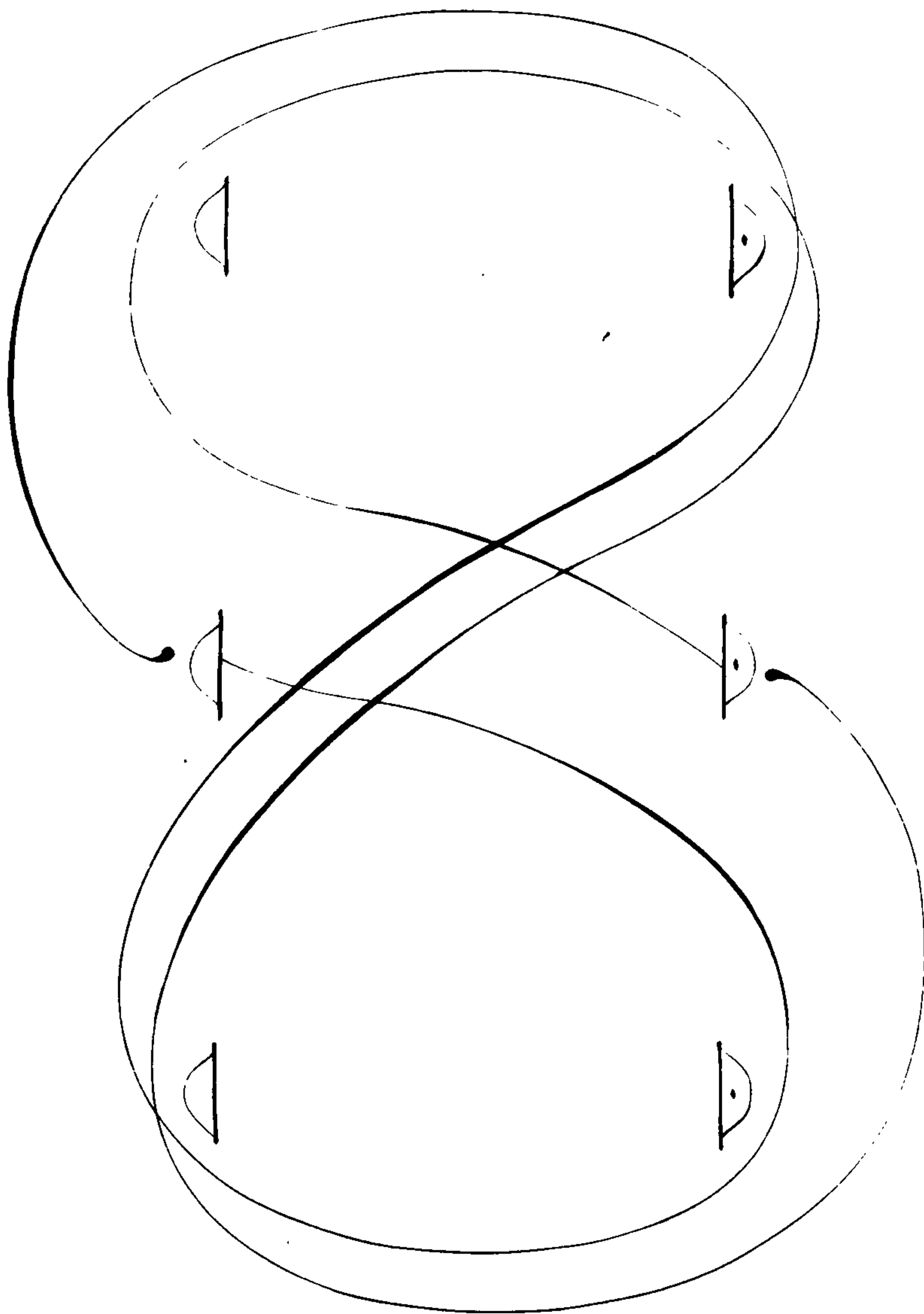


The 2^d man and 2 wo Cross Corners half round



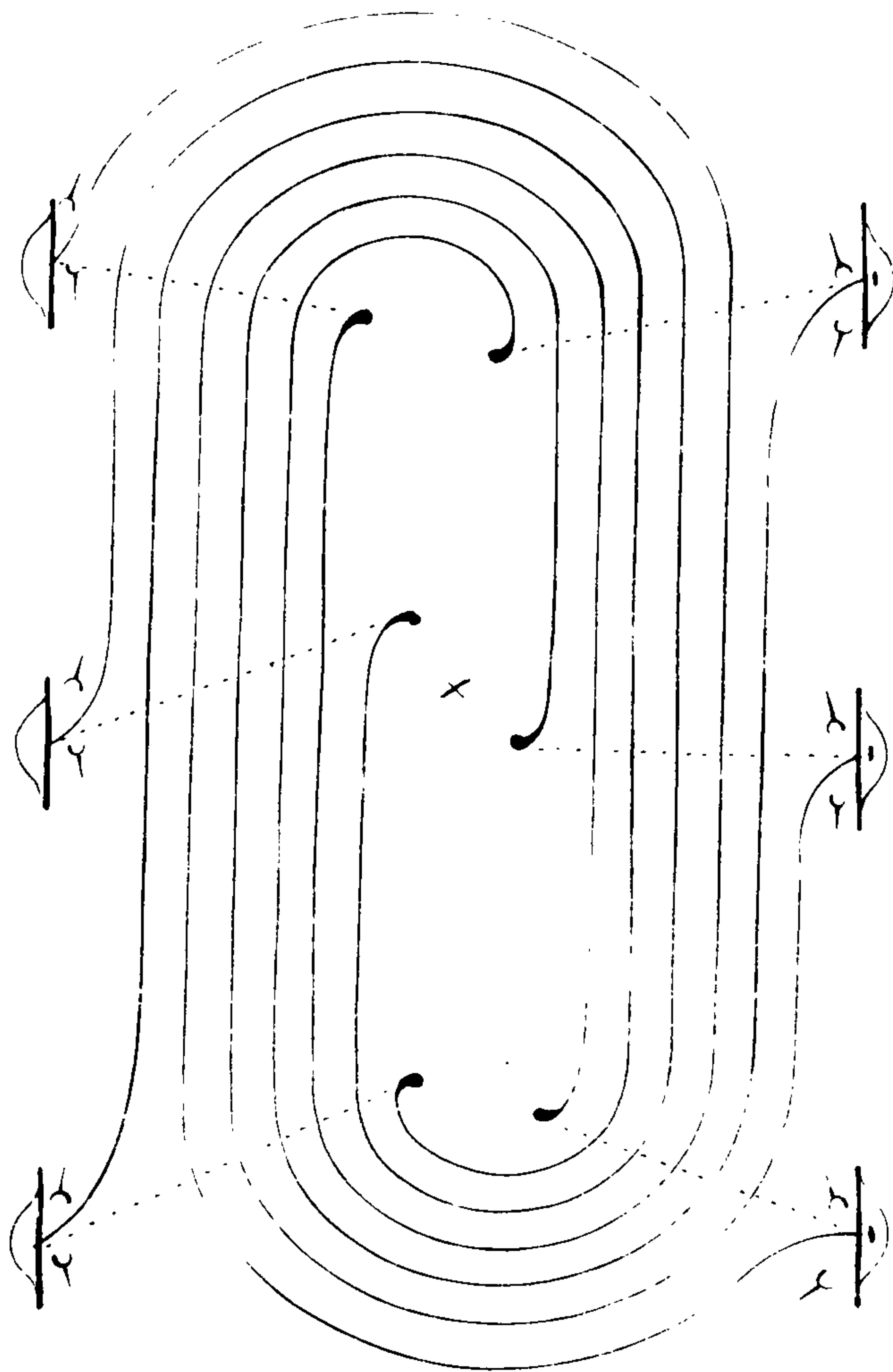
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*The 2^d man and 2^d no Cross Corners quite
round, or double Corners*

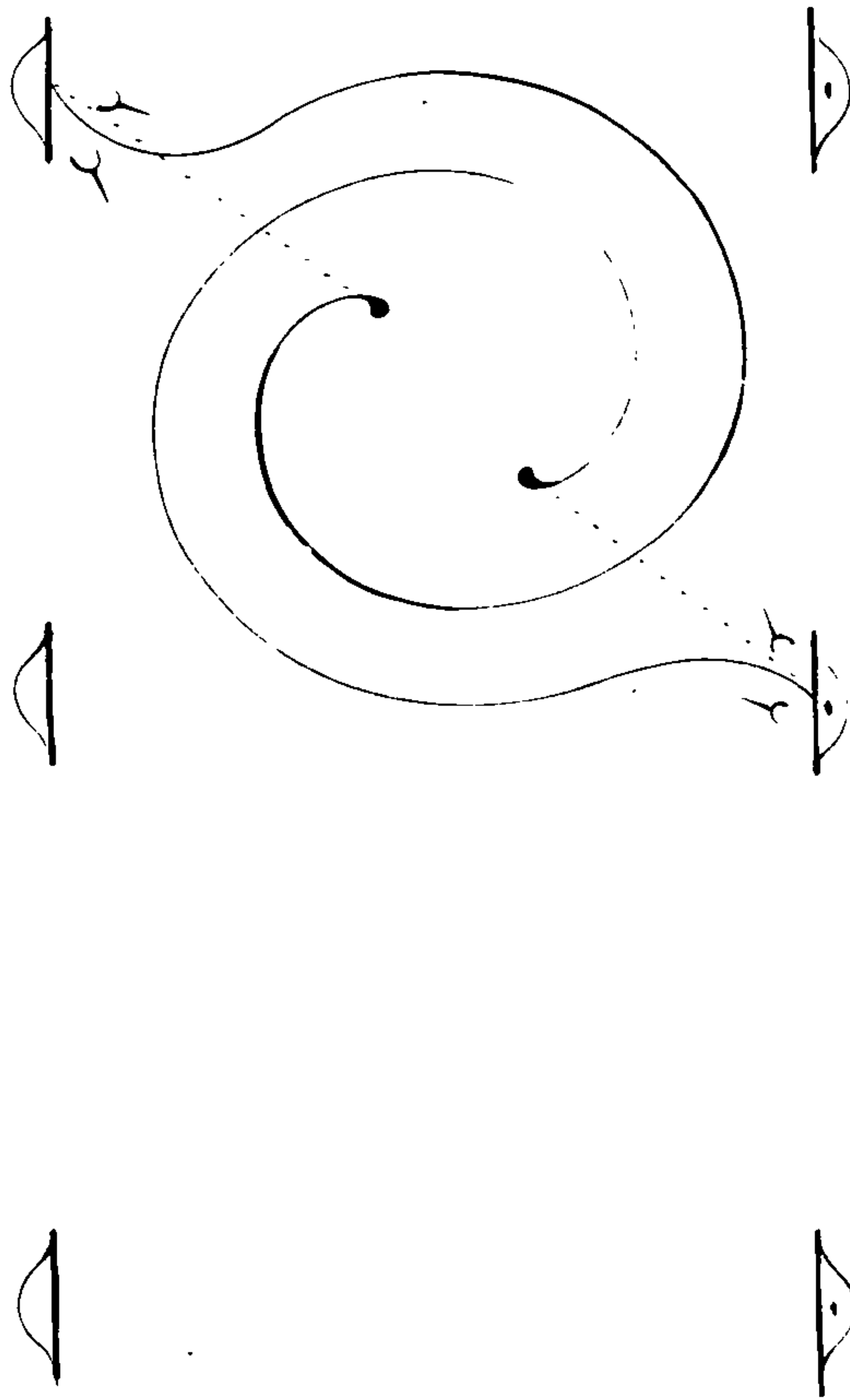


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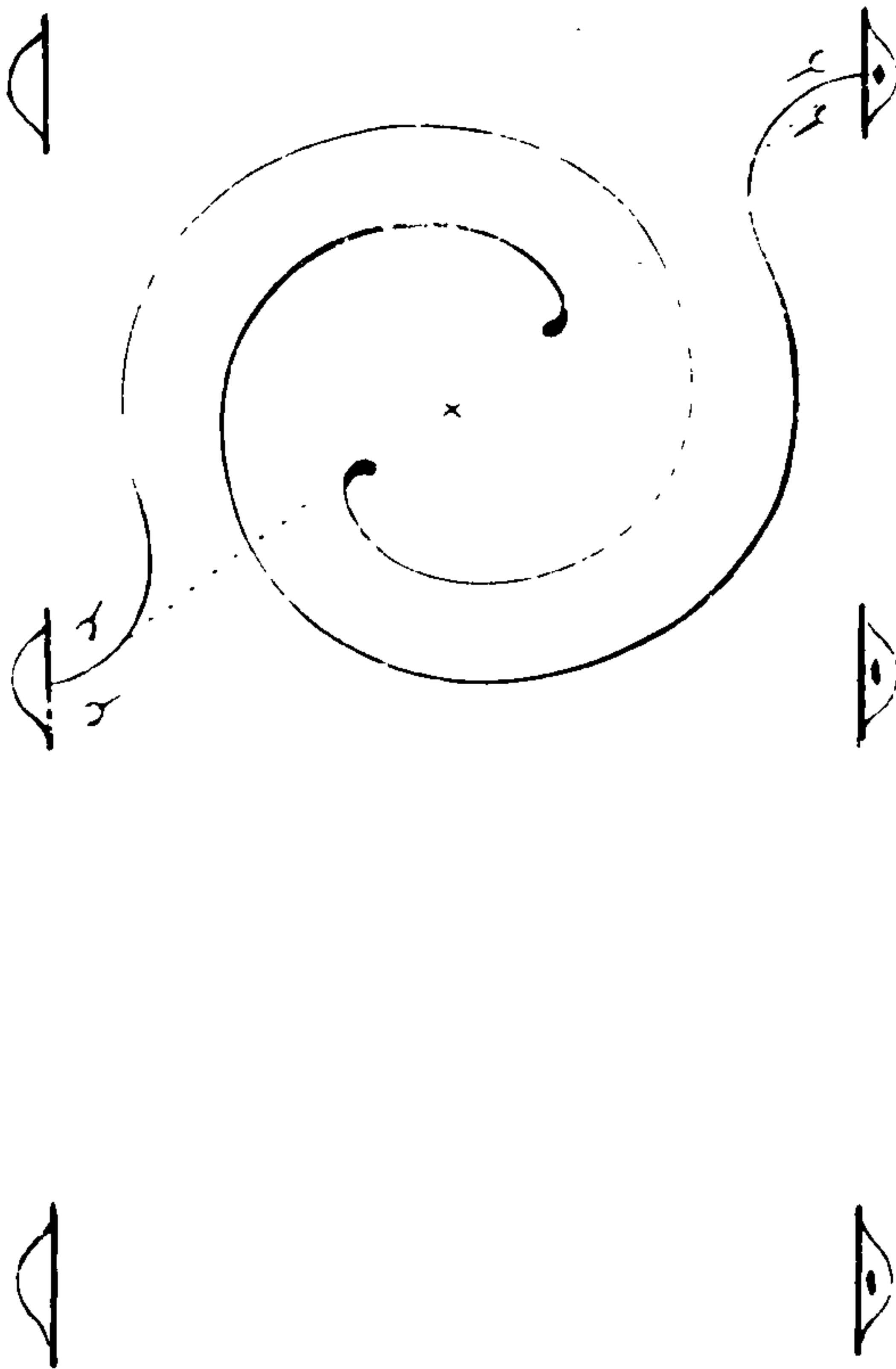
Hands all six round to their own places



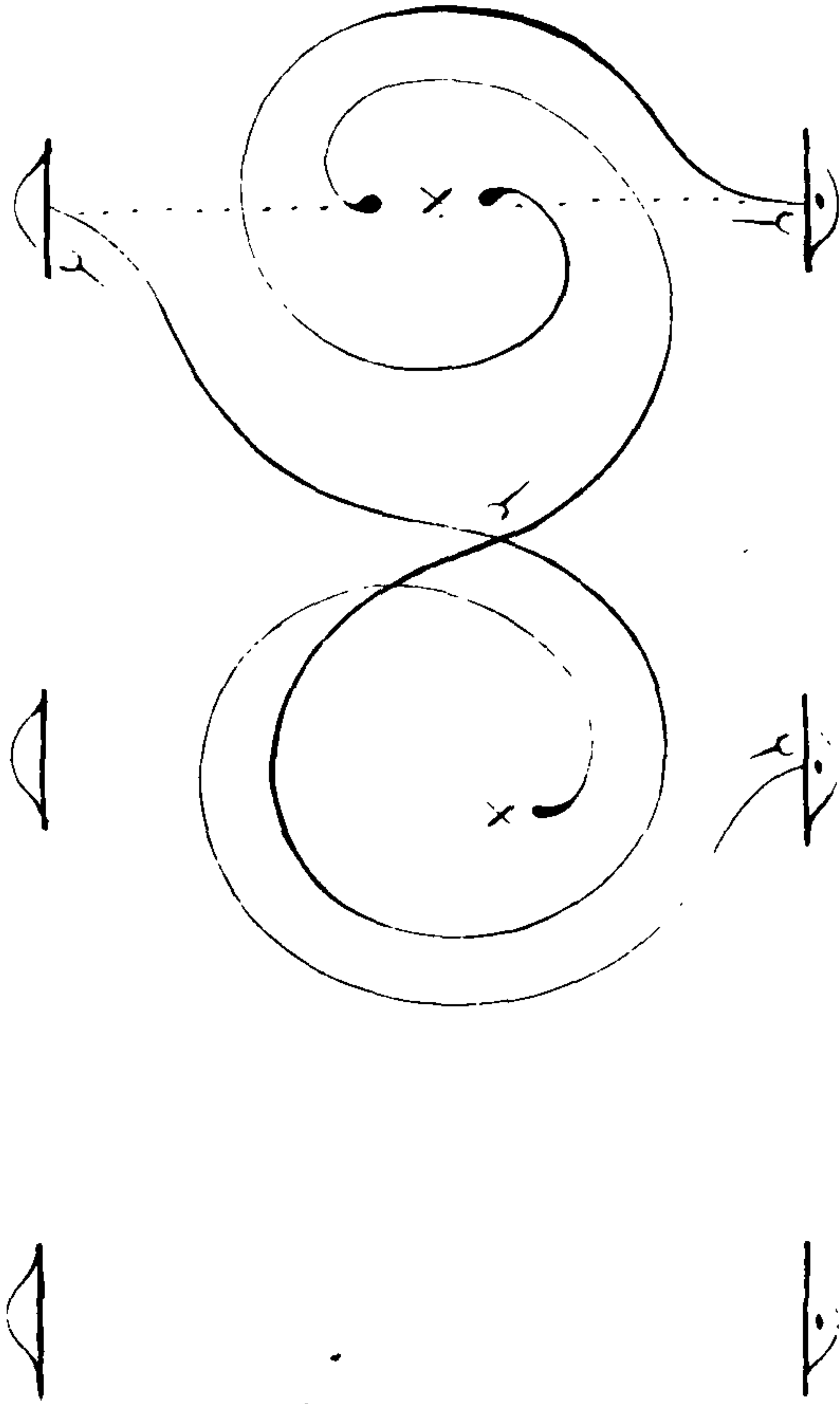
The 1st man sets to the 2^d wo and turns her



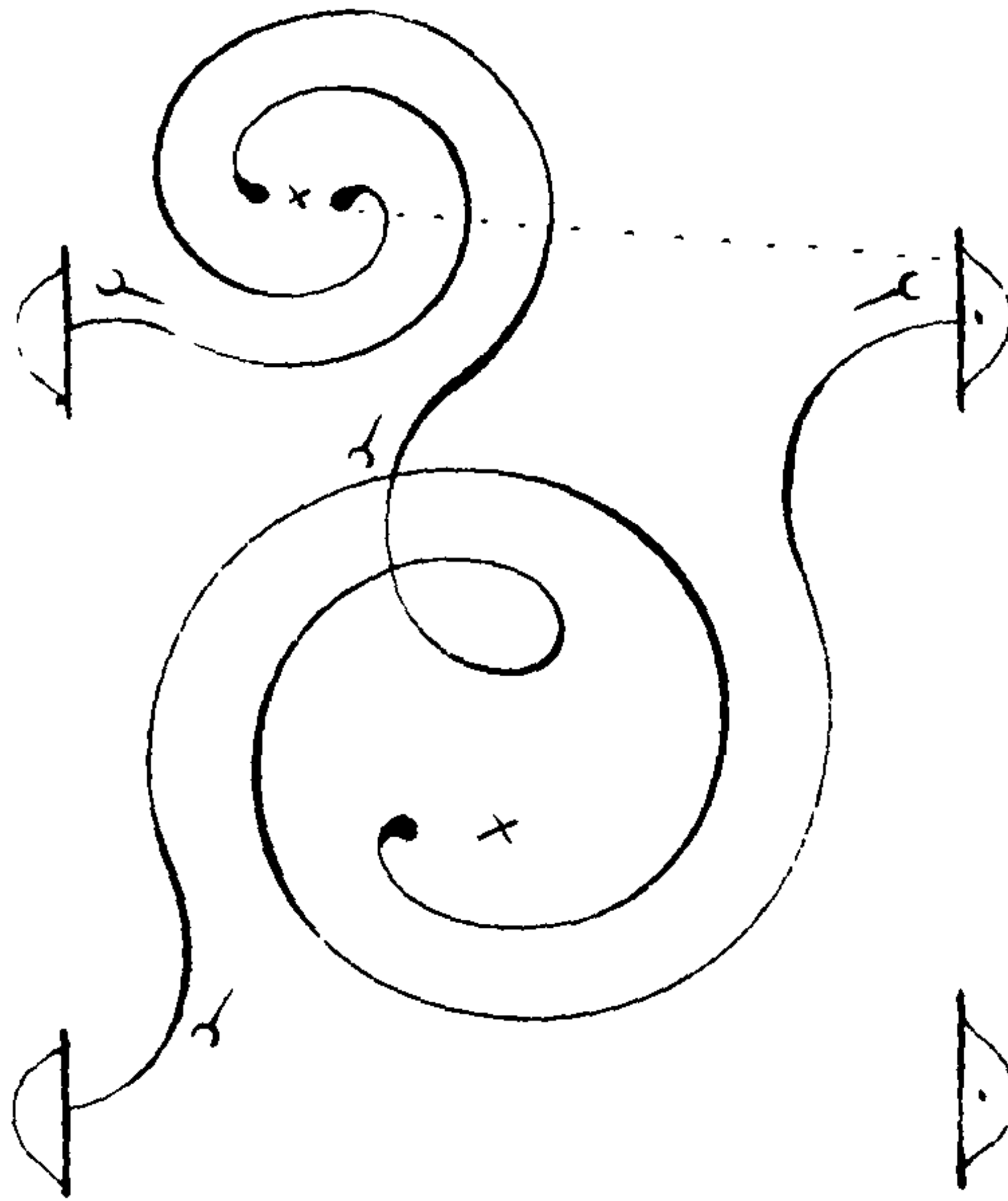
The 1st wo: sets to the 2^d man and turns him



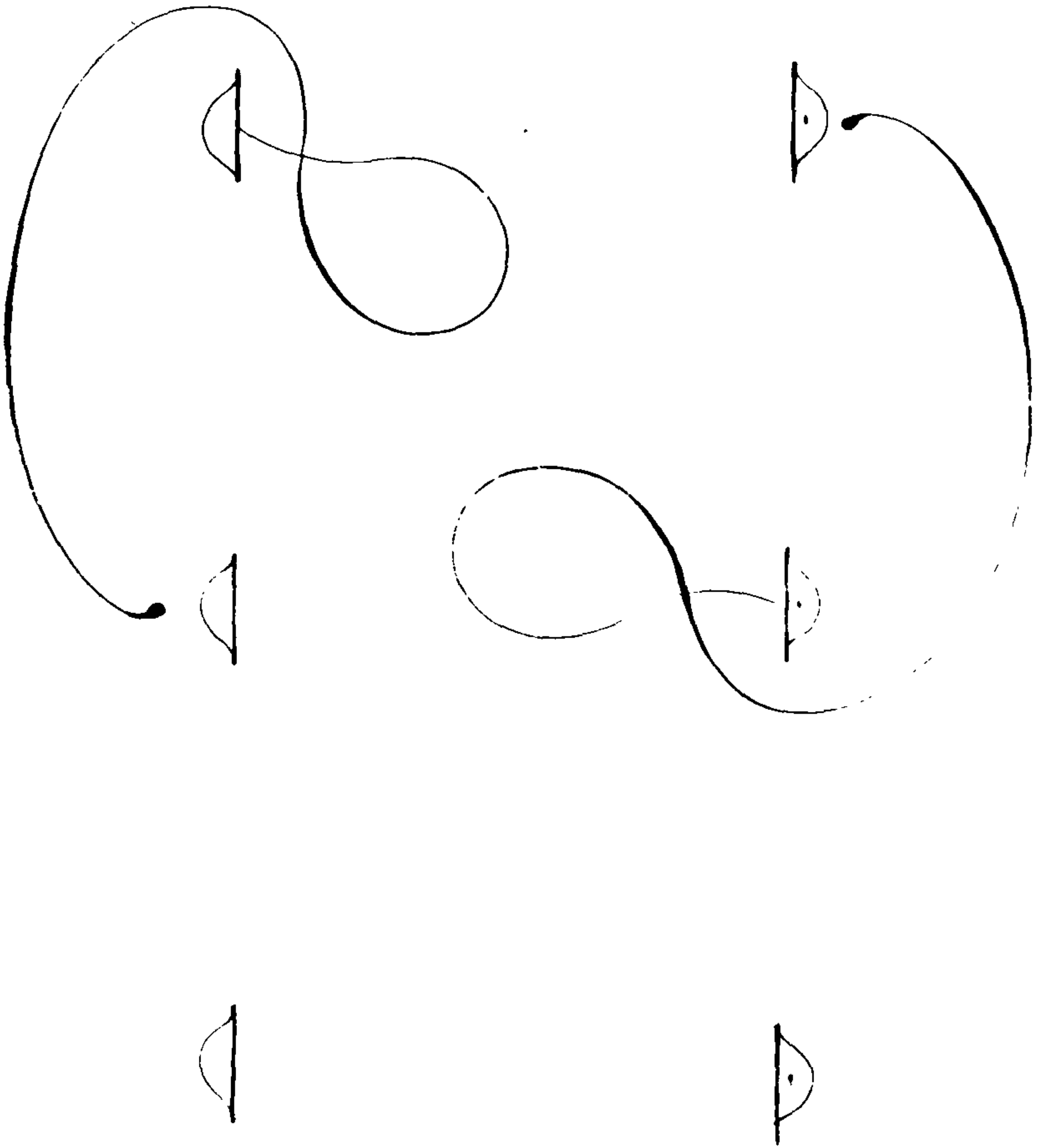
*The 1st man turns right hand with the 2^d no:
and left hands round with his partner; and
finish in their own places*



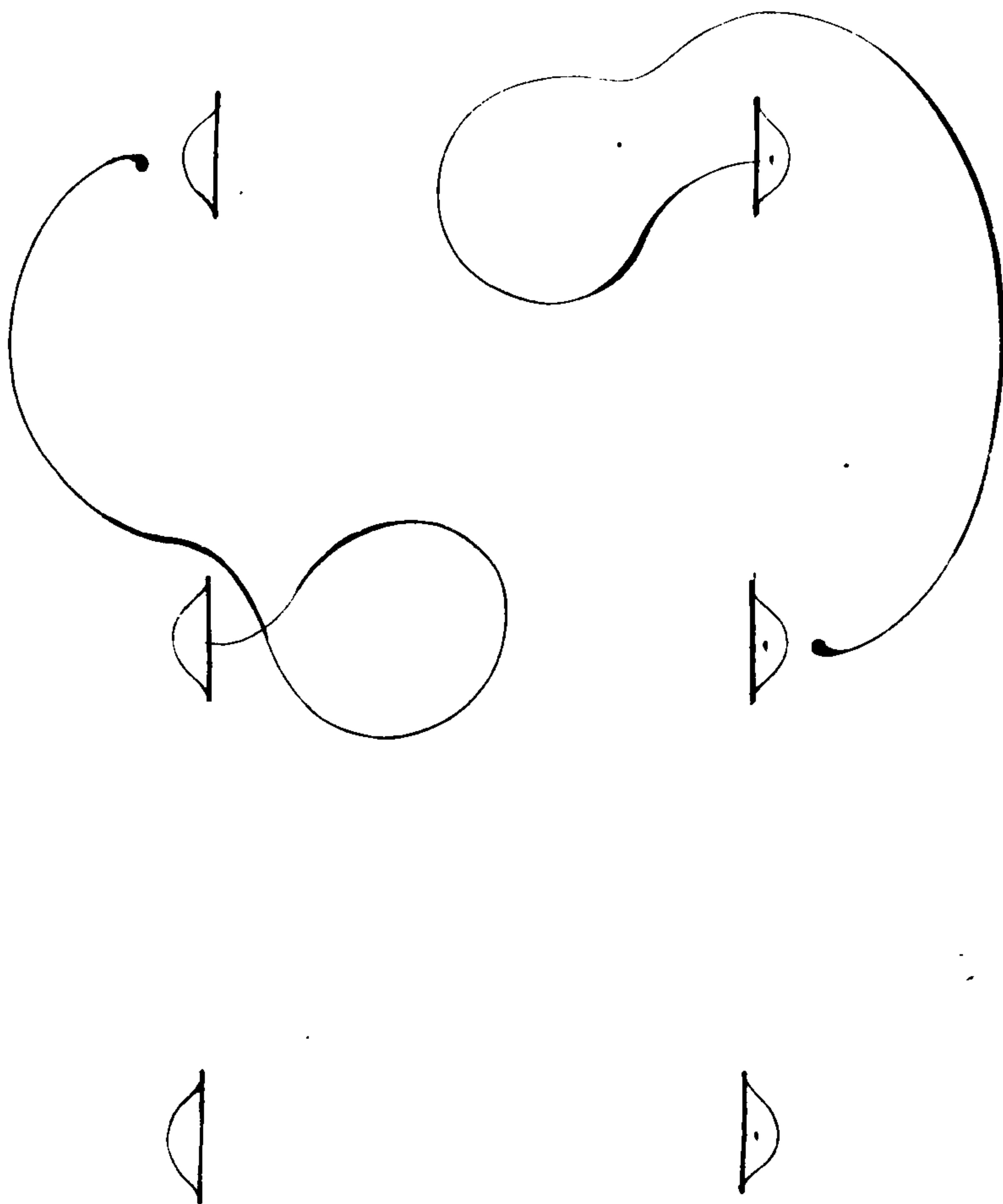
*The 1st w^o: turns right hands round with the 2^d
man, and left hands round with her partner,
and finish in their own places*



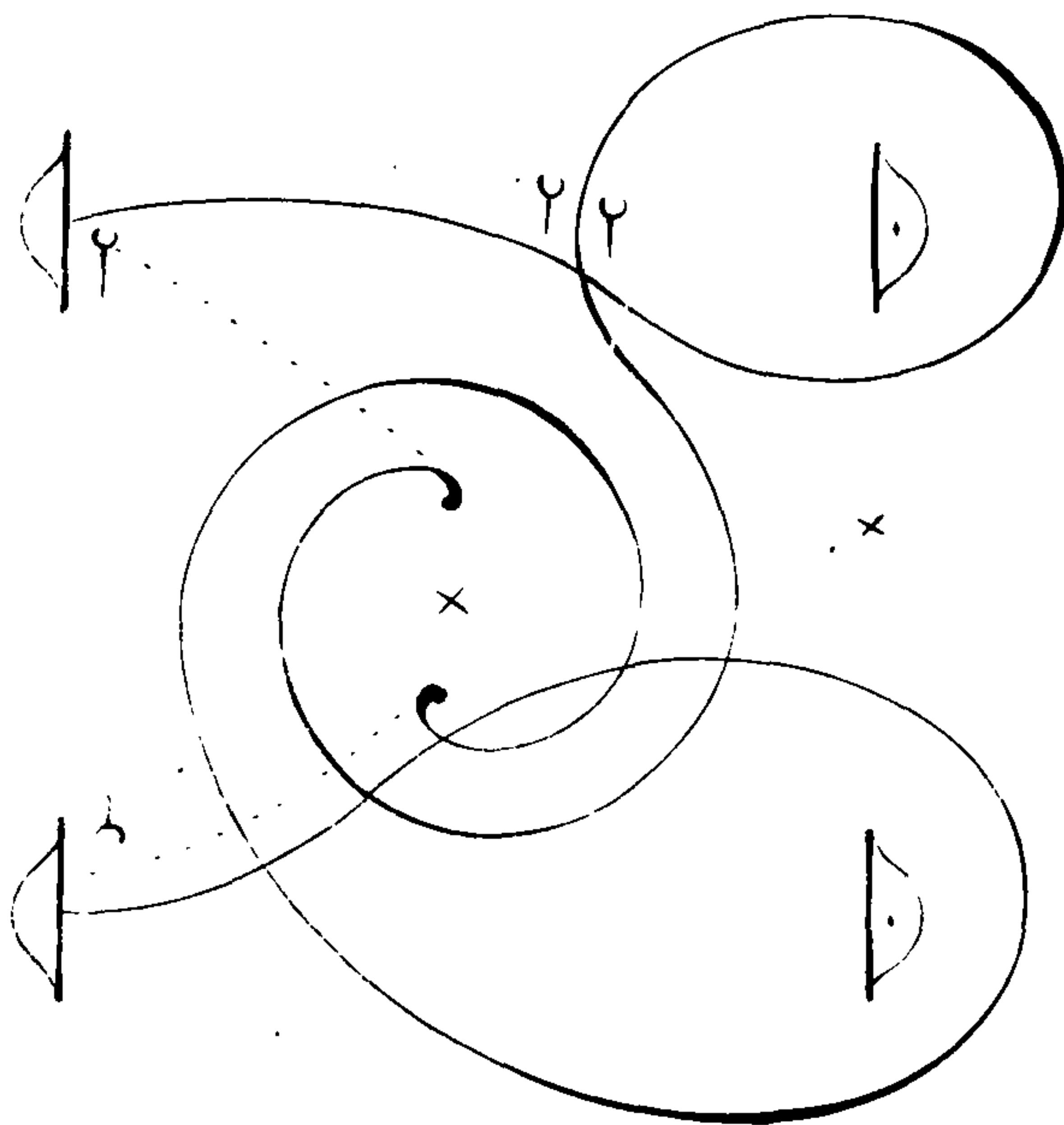
*The 1st man and 2^d w^o sets to Each other &
 turns round singly, the man Casts of one
 (3) and the w^o Casts up one (3)*



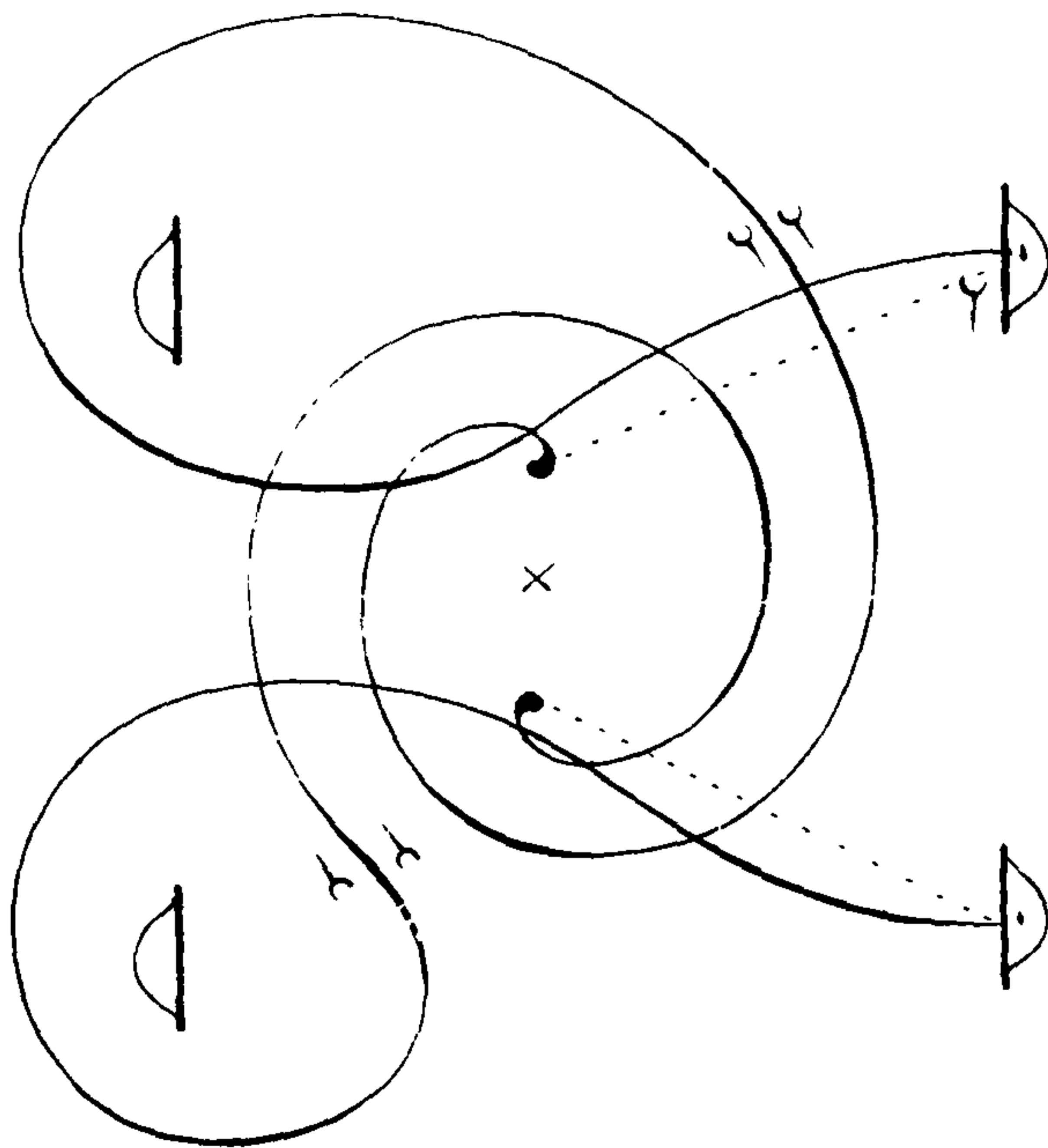
*The 1st wo and 2^d man Sells to Each other and
turns Single; the wo: Casts of one Couple and
the man Casts up one Couple*



*The 1st two men leads between the 1st two no:
and Cast of round them to their own places, &
turns both Hands.*

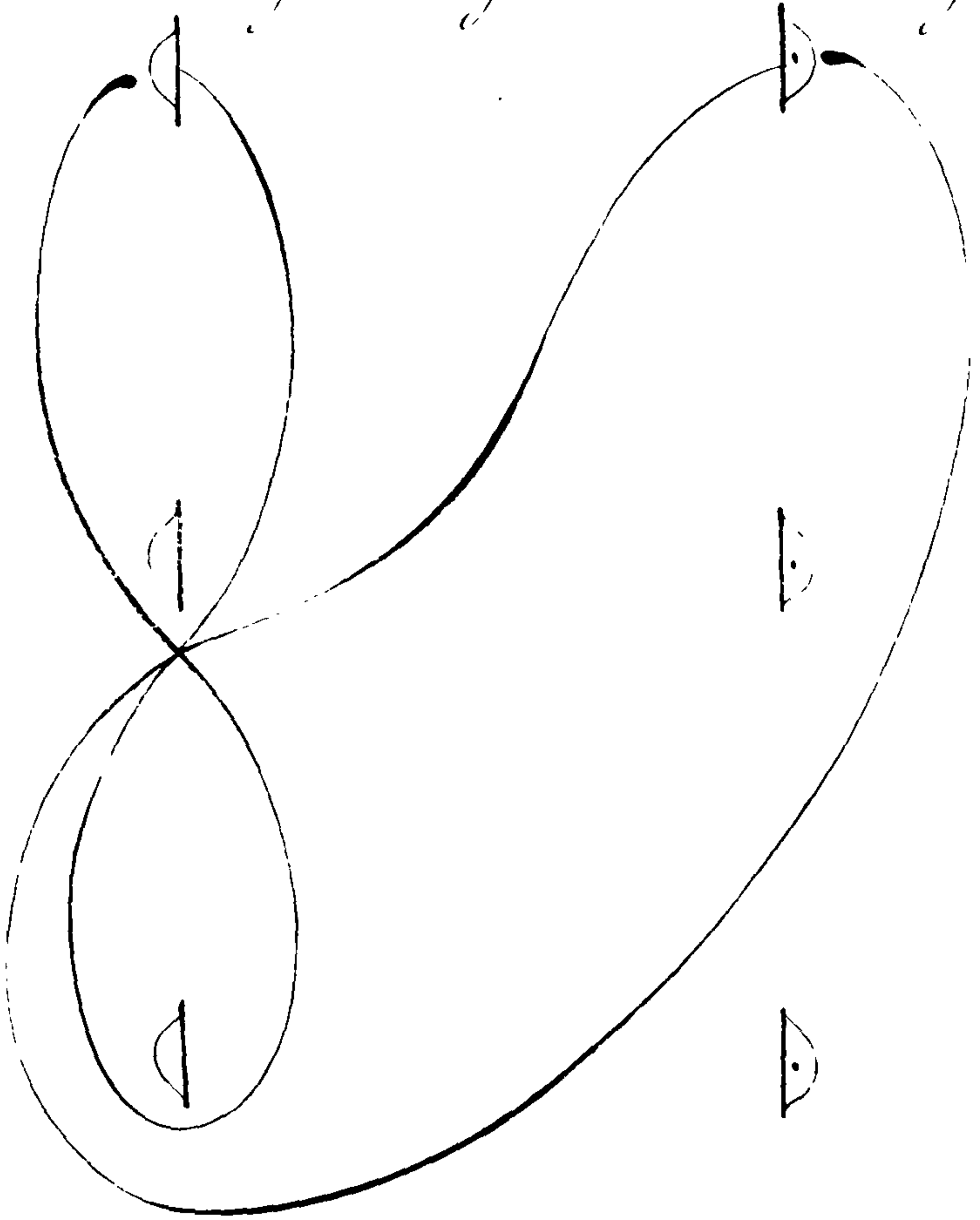


The 1st two wo: leads thro' between the first two, men and Casts of round them to their own places, and turns both hands.

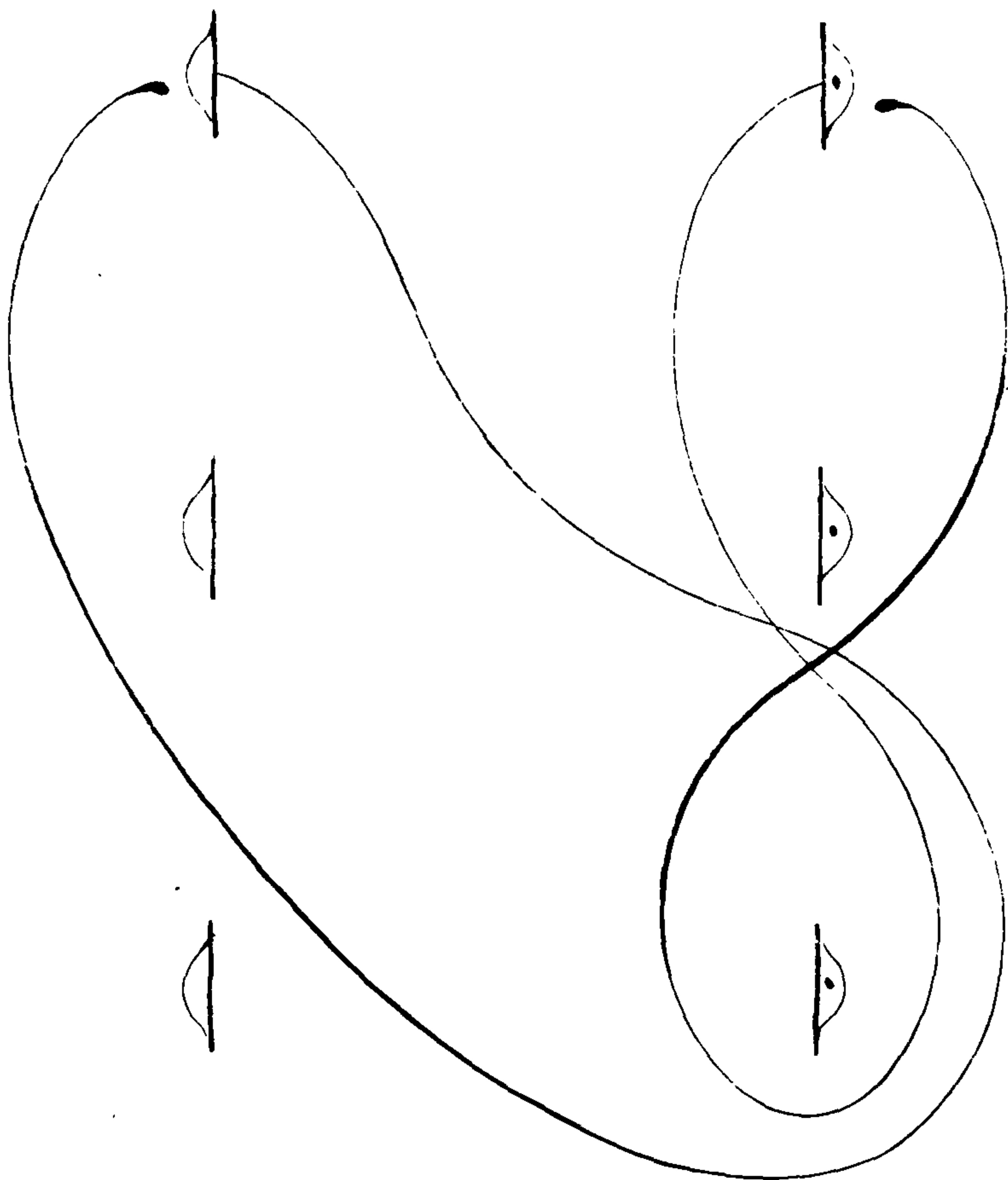


The 1st man whole figures of his own Side
and the wo. follows him round the 3^d man
and half figures up of her own Side to her
own place

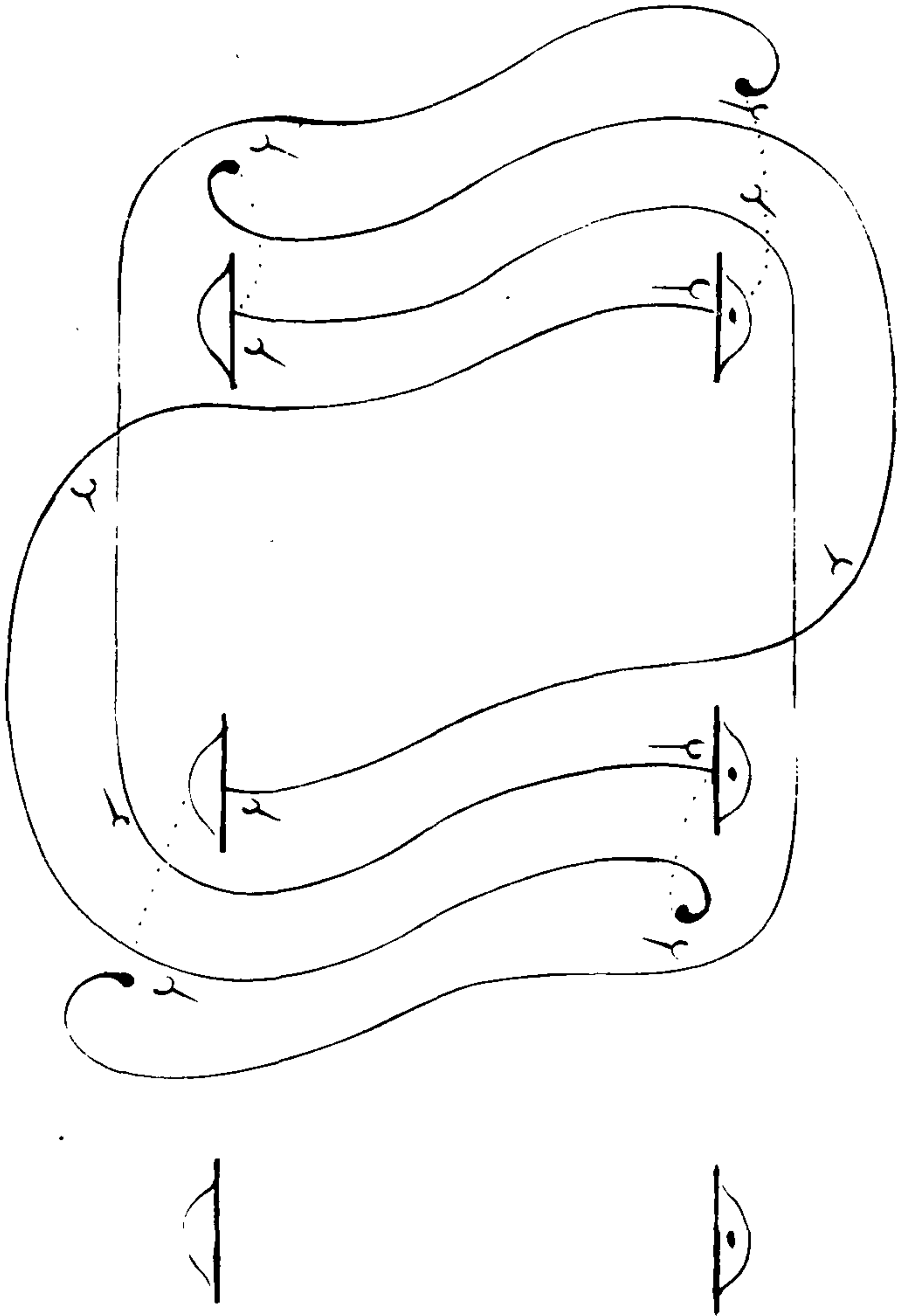
This is what is generally called Hunting



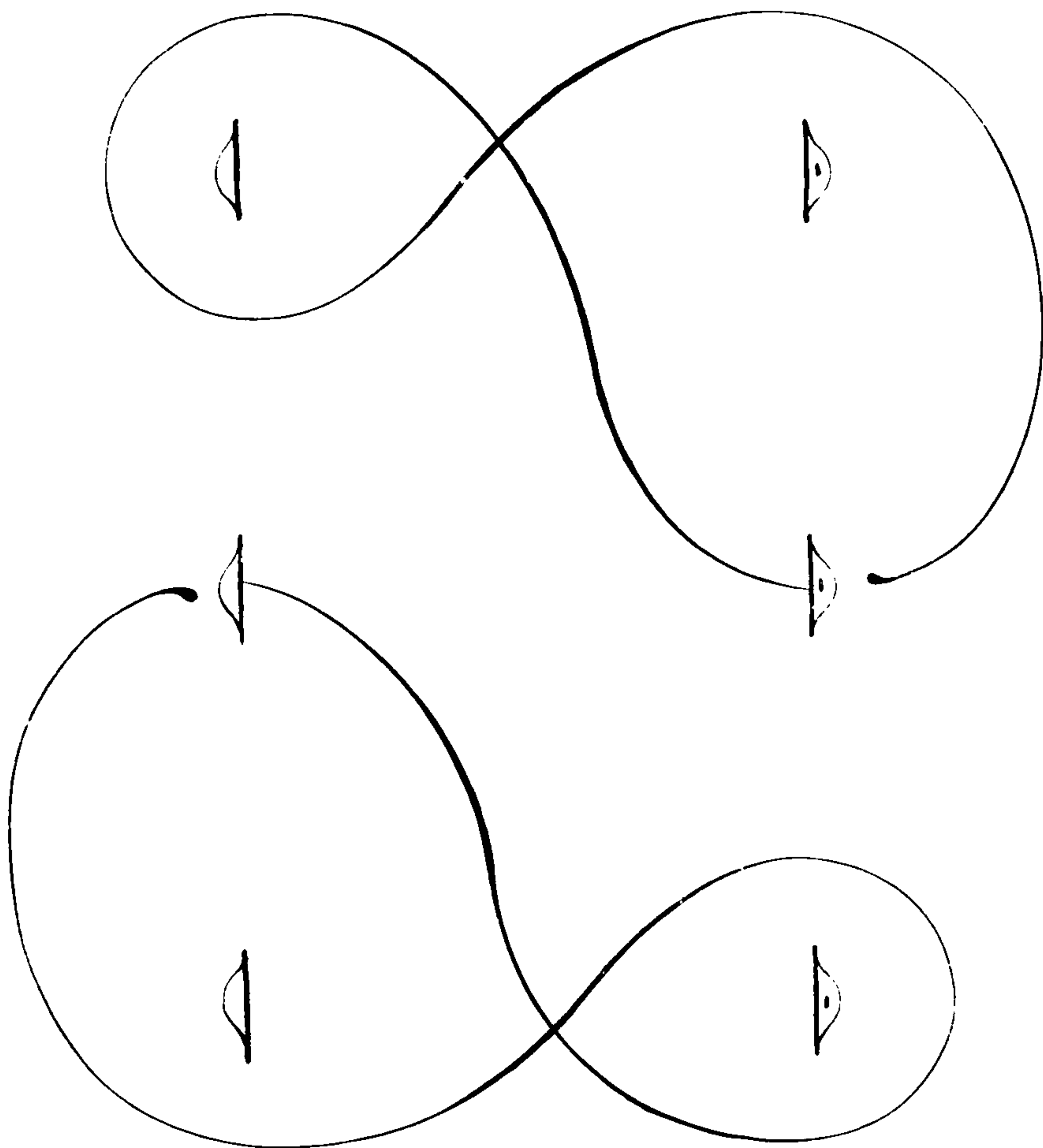
*The 1st wa: whole figures of her own side, and
the man follows her round the 3^d wa: and half^d
figures up of his own side*



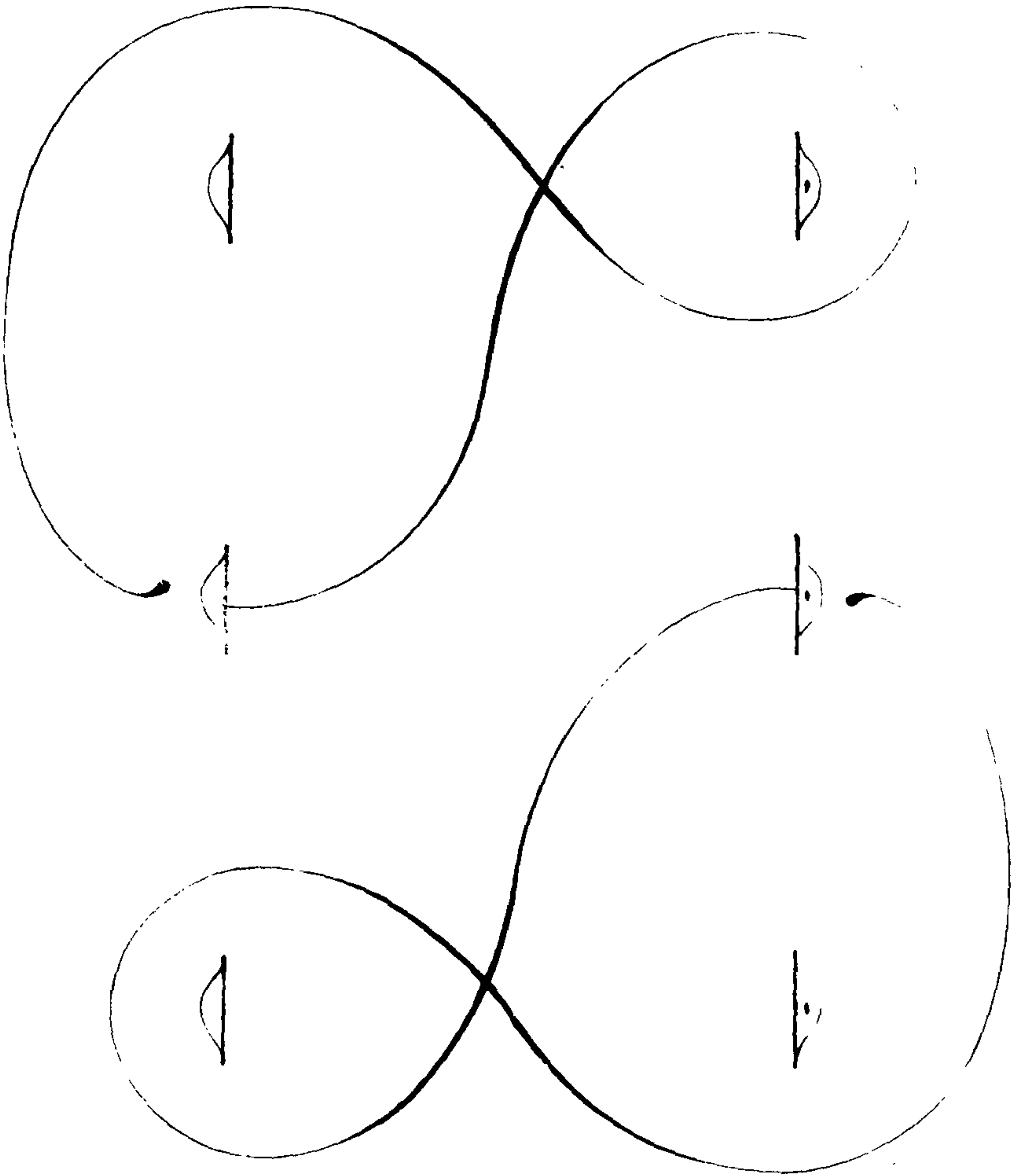
Right and left into the 2^d (3^d) place



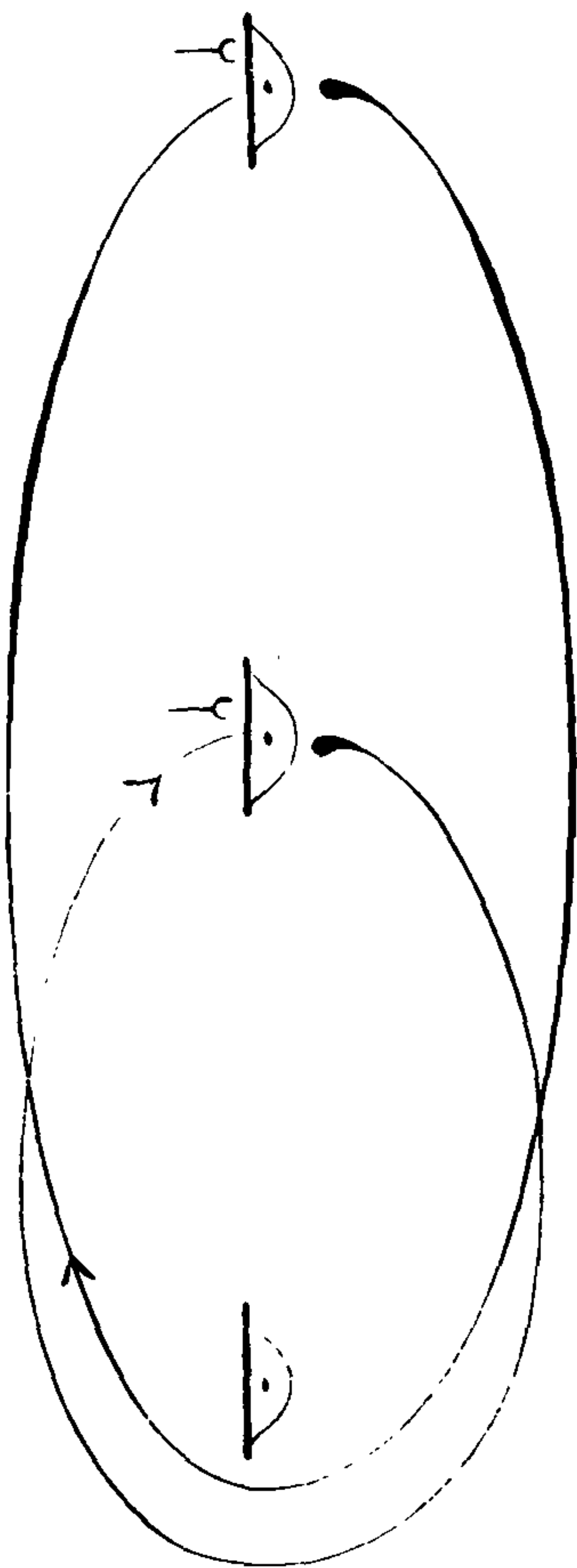
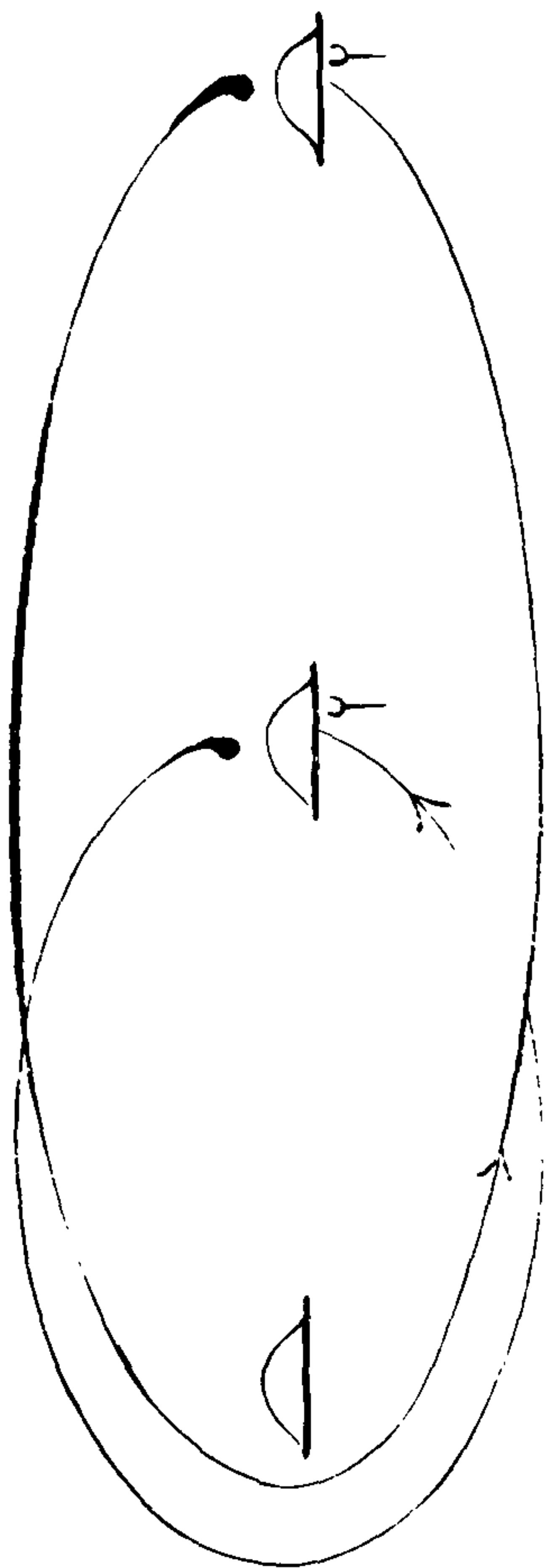
*The two whole figures at top, & the man
at the bottom at the same time.*



*The man whole figures at top & the wo.
at the bottom at the same time*

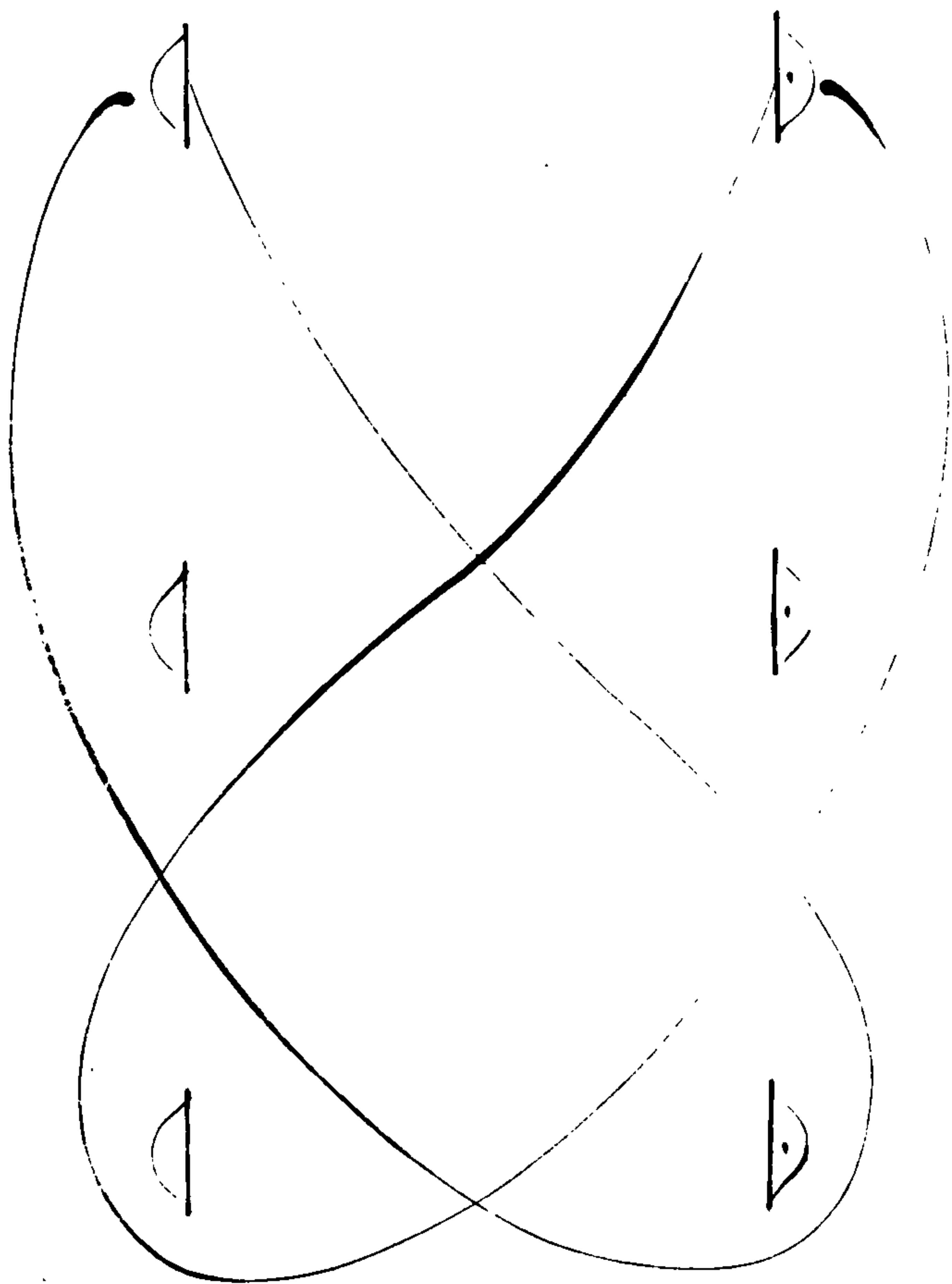


The 1st Co. leads down thro' the 3^d Co. & Casts
up to the top, & the 2^d Co. follows them round y^e 3^d
Co. at the Same time, in the Same manner,
and finishes in their own places

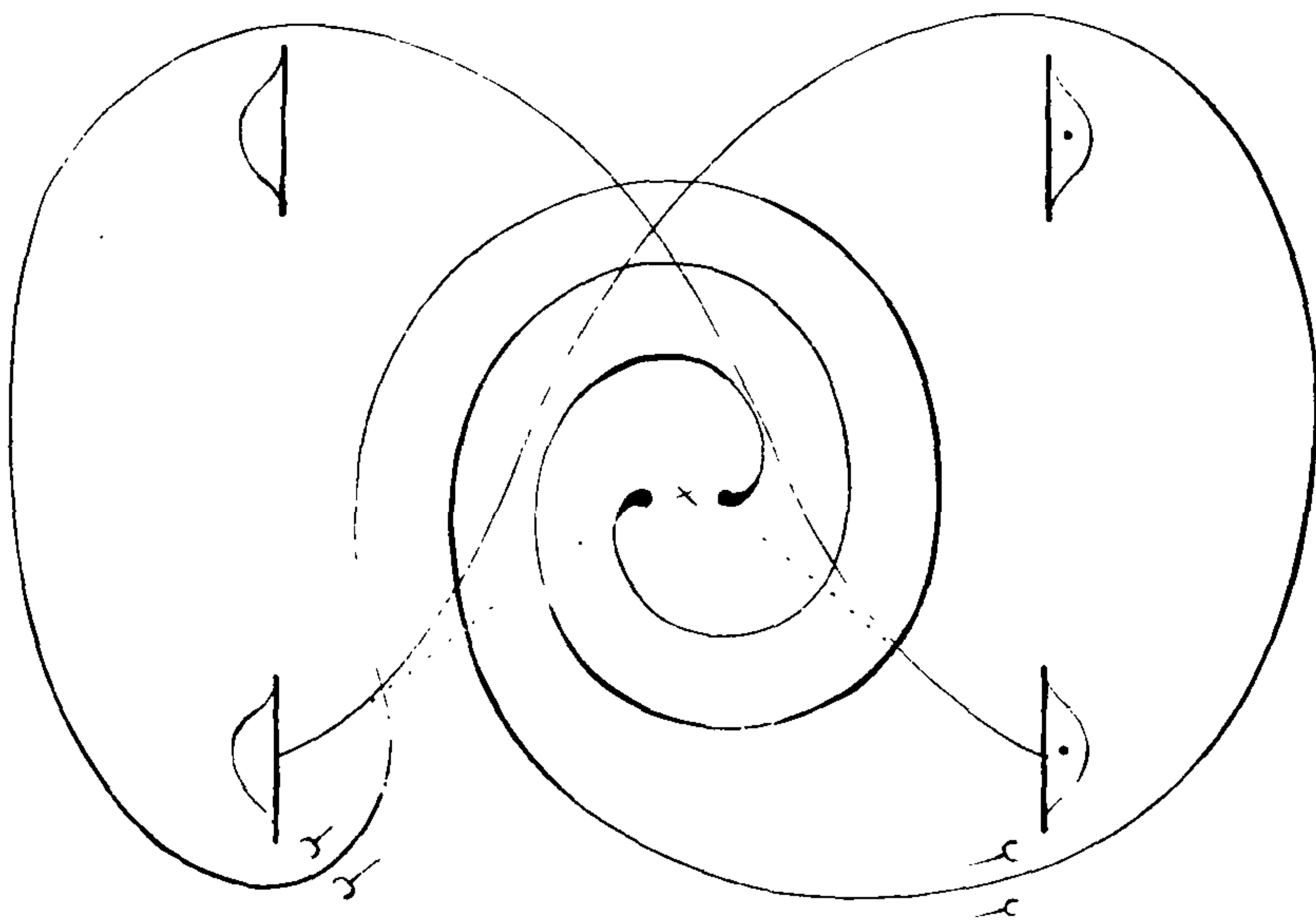


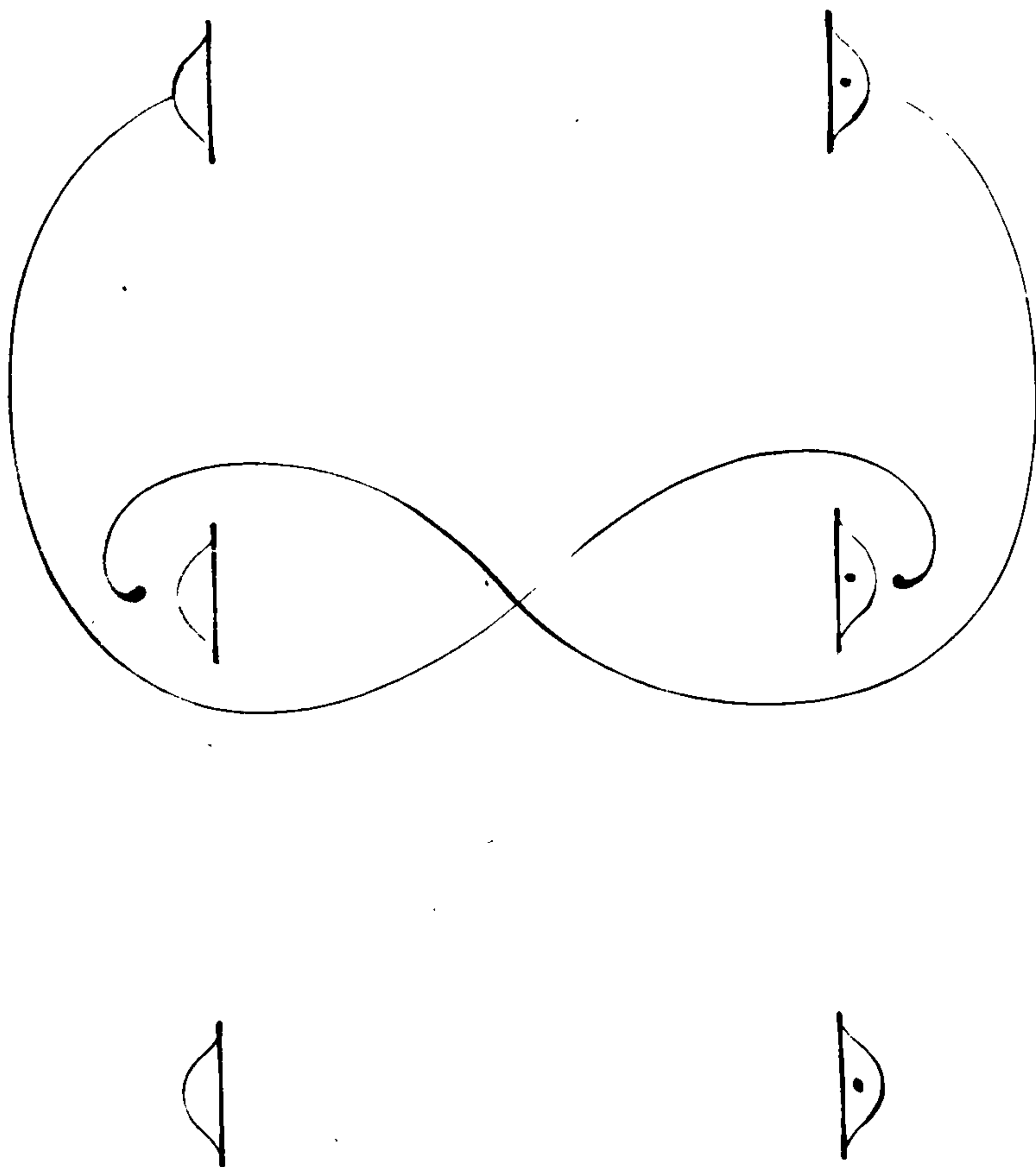
+

*Half figure down Contrary sides and
up again of your own*

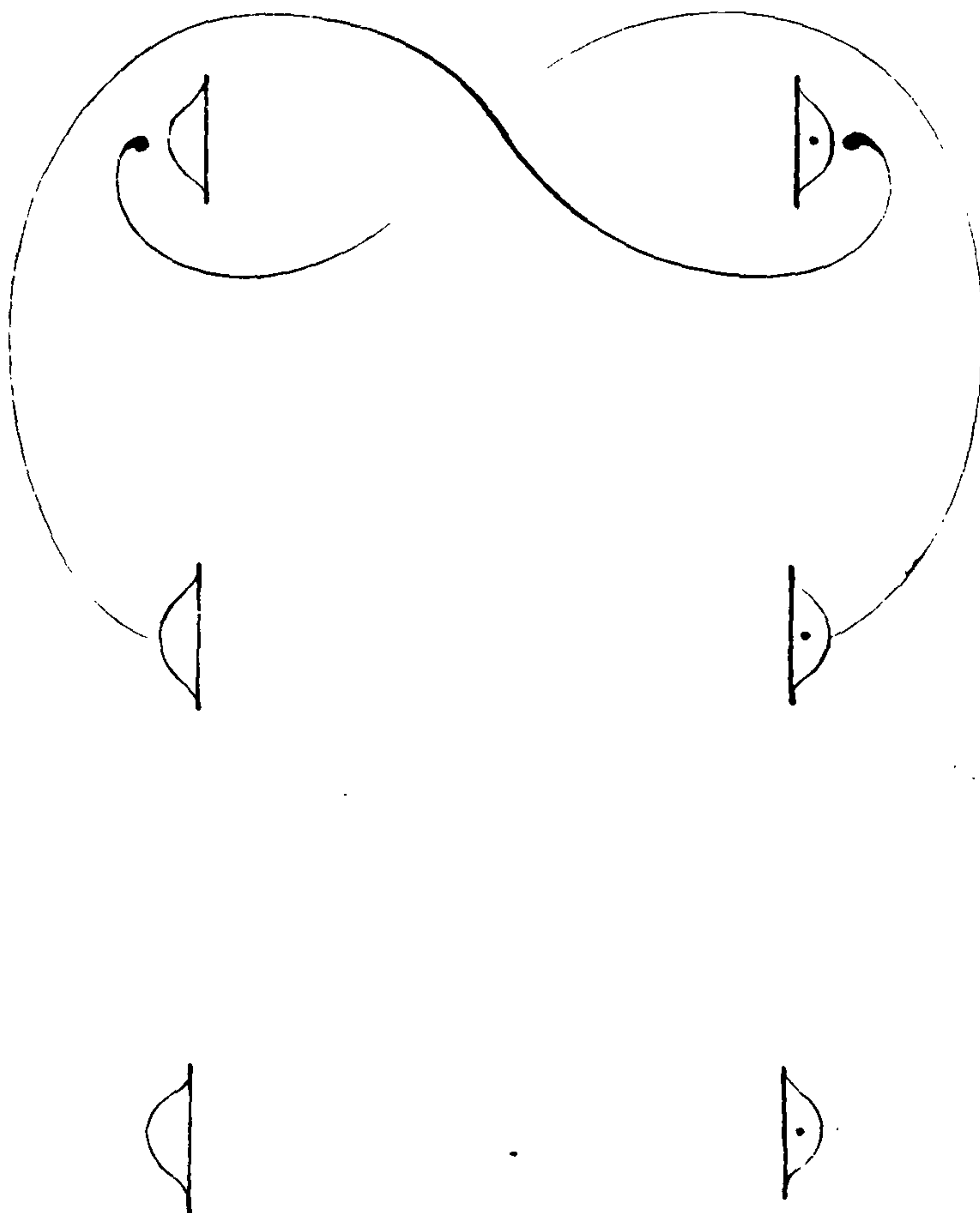


Half figure at top and turn hands



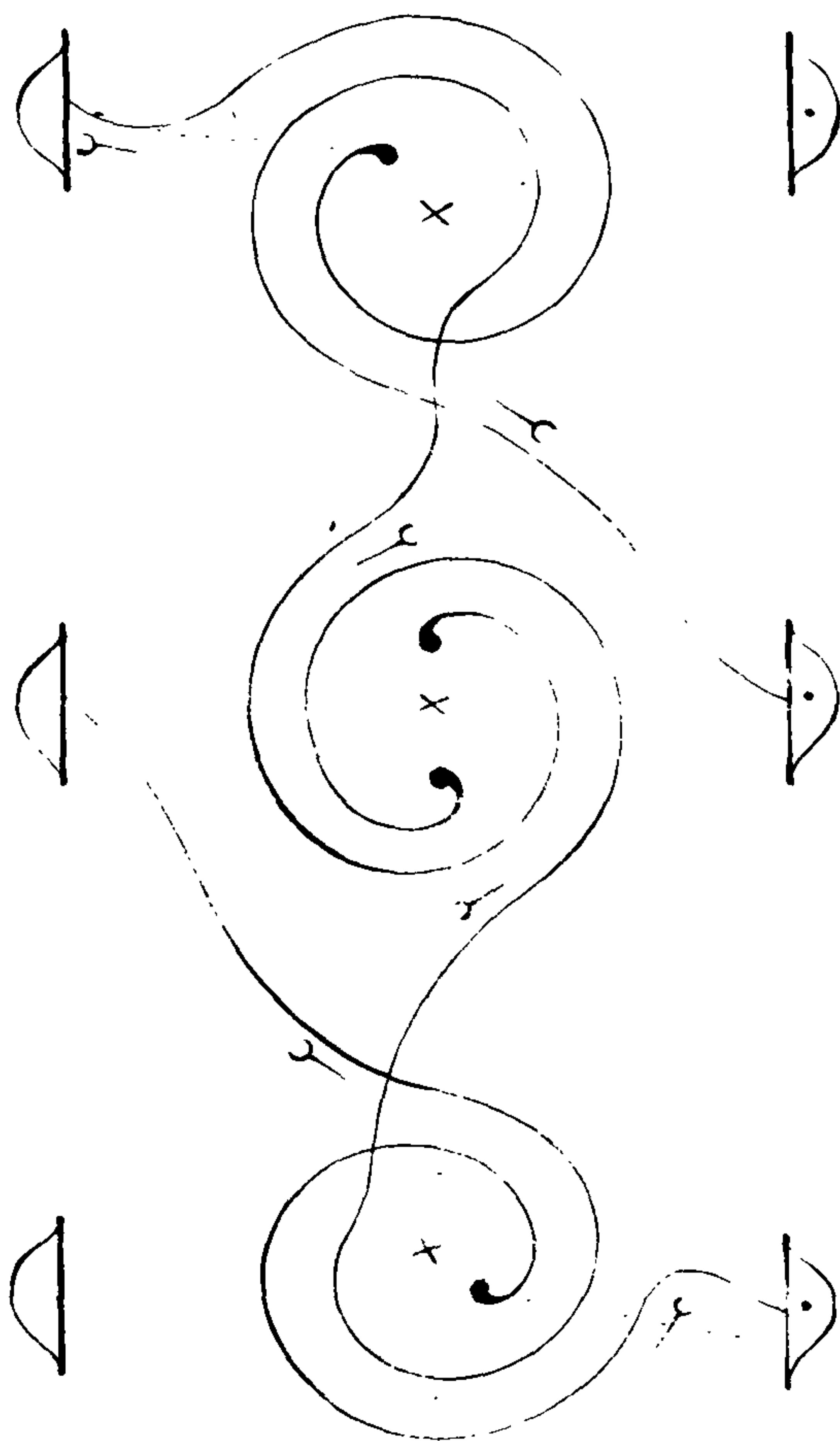
Cast of and half' figure

Cast up and half' figure. -----

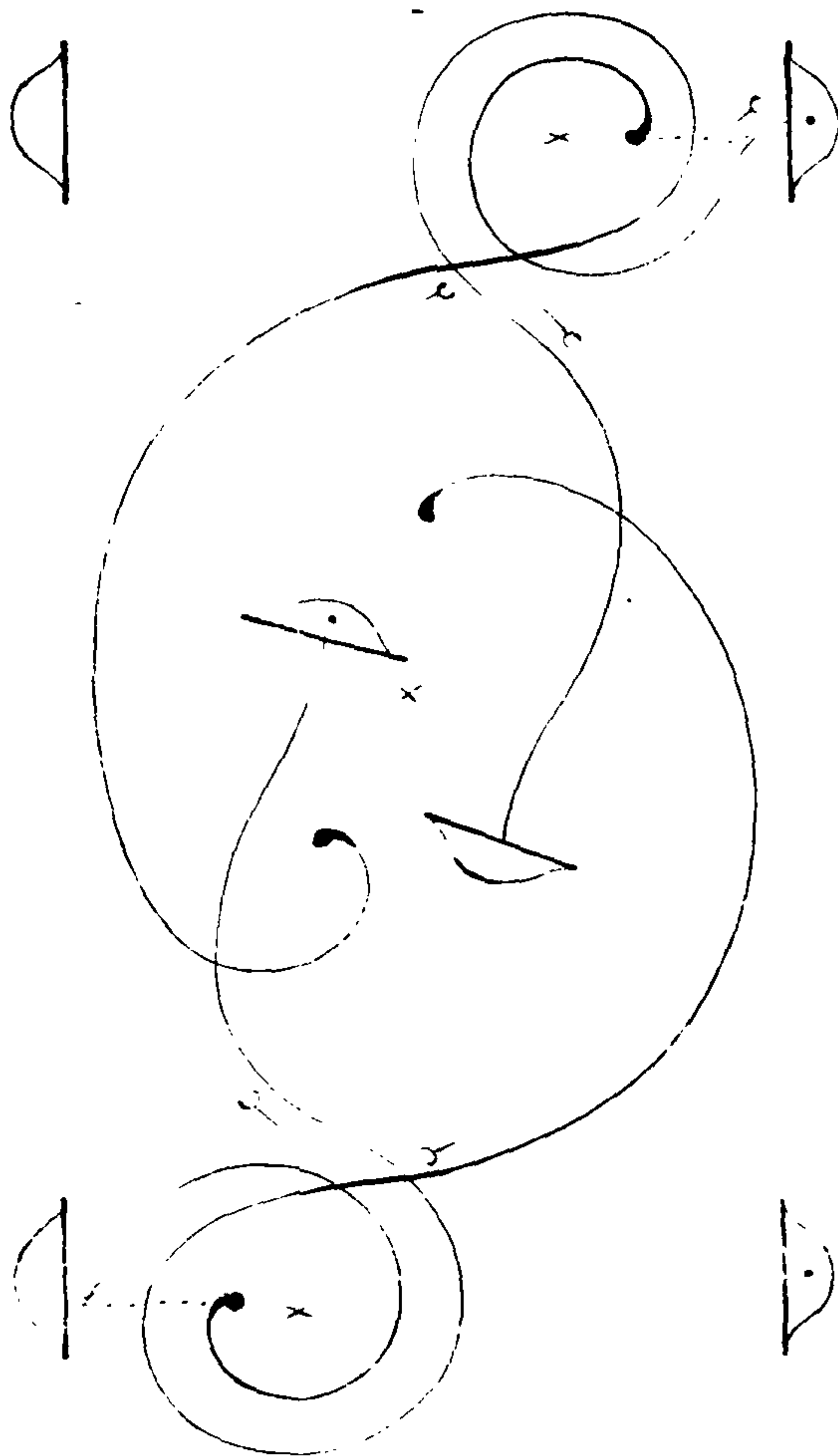


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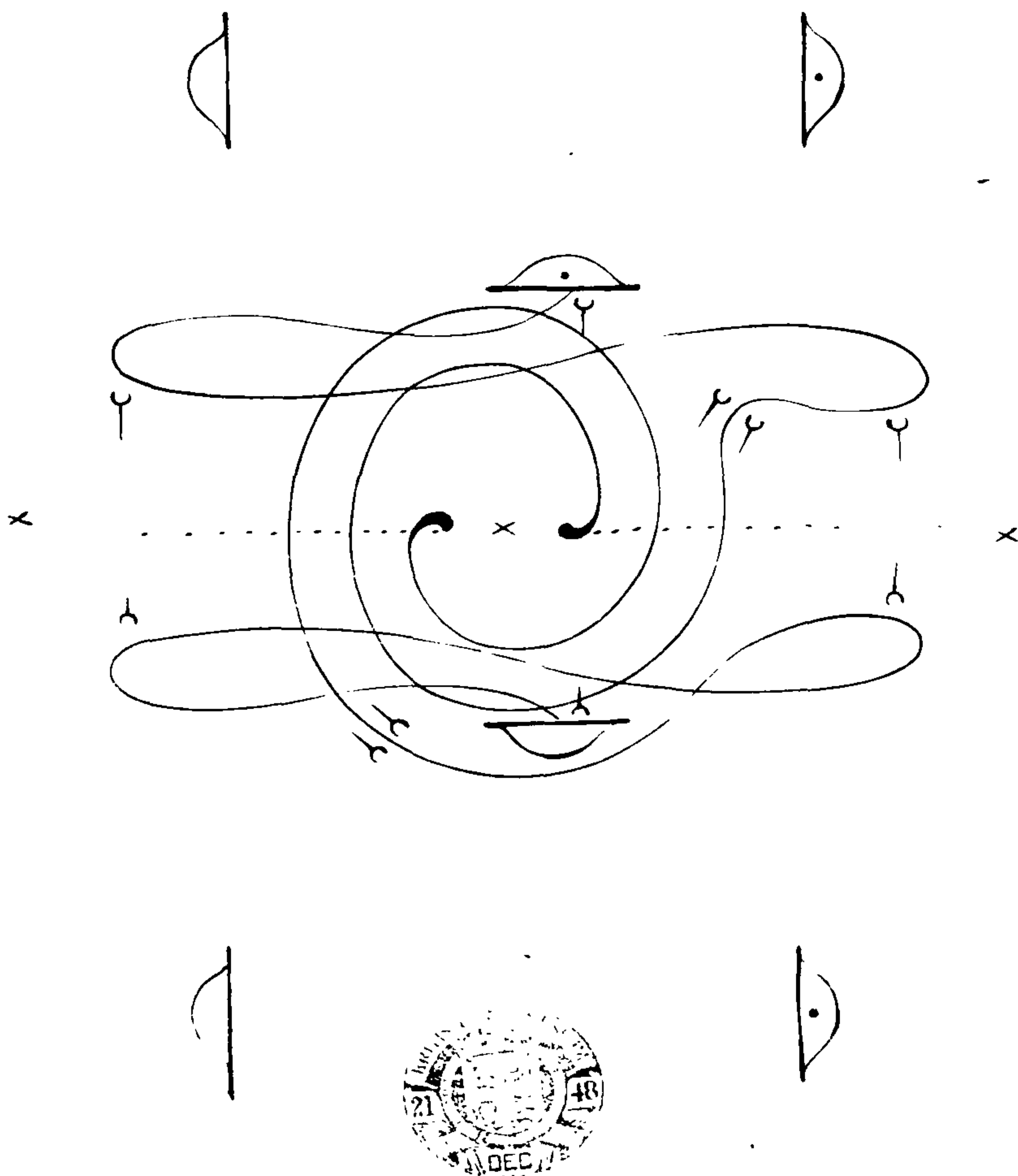
*Turn Corners right hands and your Partner
round with the left hand.*



*Turn the other Corners right hands & y^e Partner
left hands half round.*

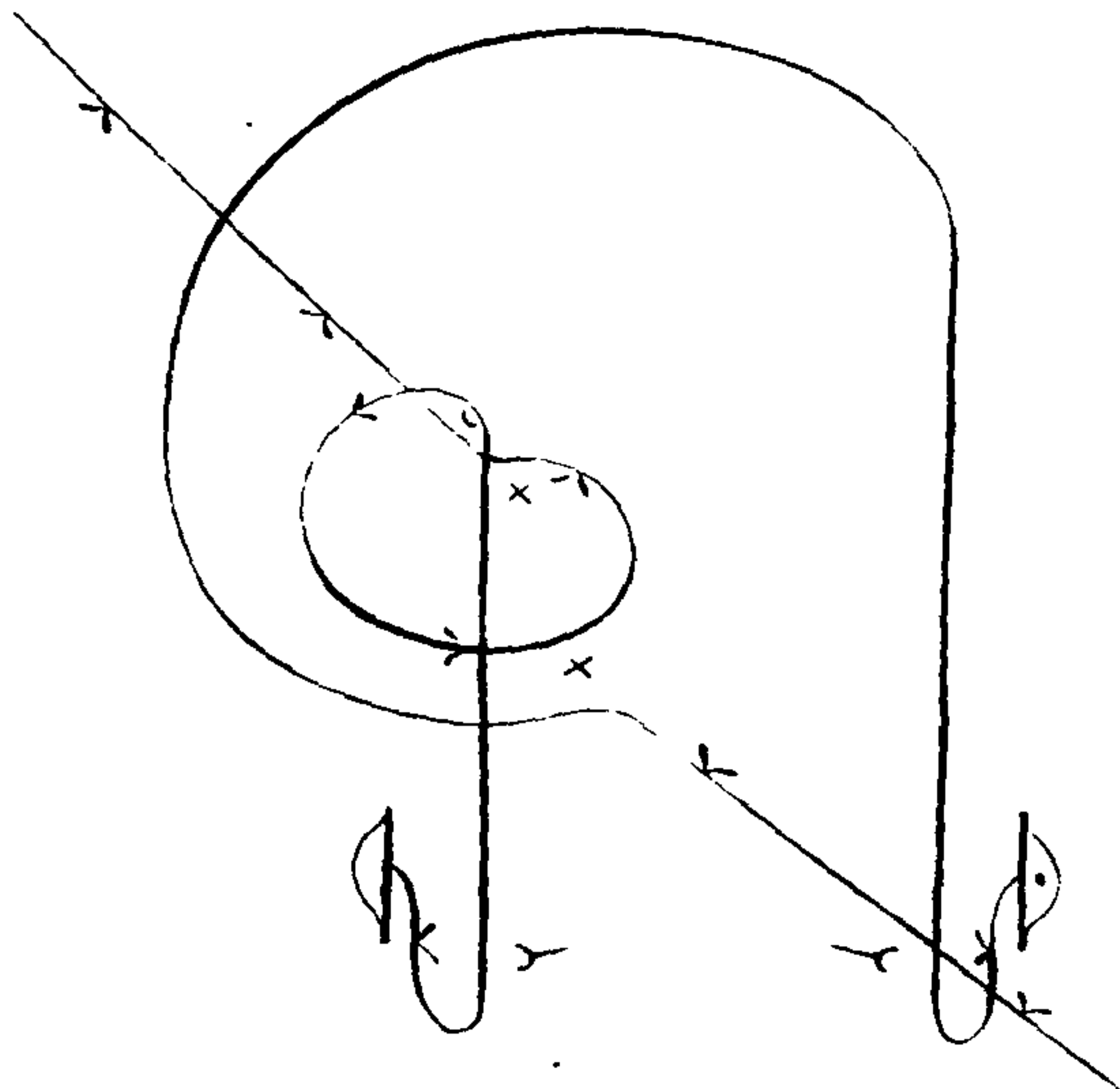


Lead out of the Mans side & foot it, then lead out of the Womans side & foot it, & lead in again and turn both hands & finish of your own sides

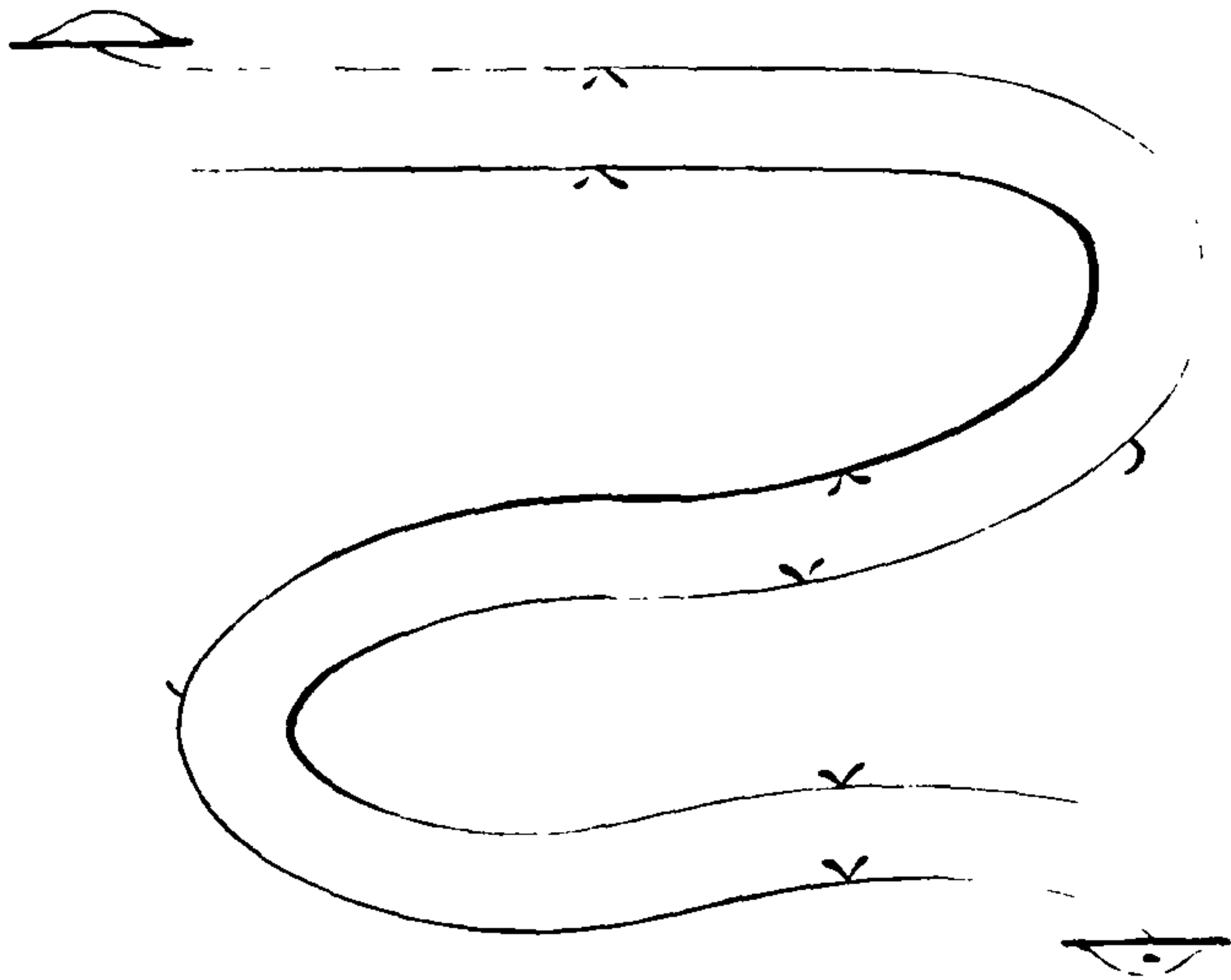


The Figure of the Minuet.

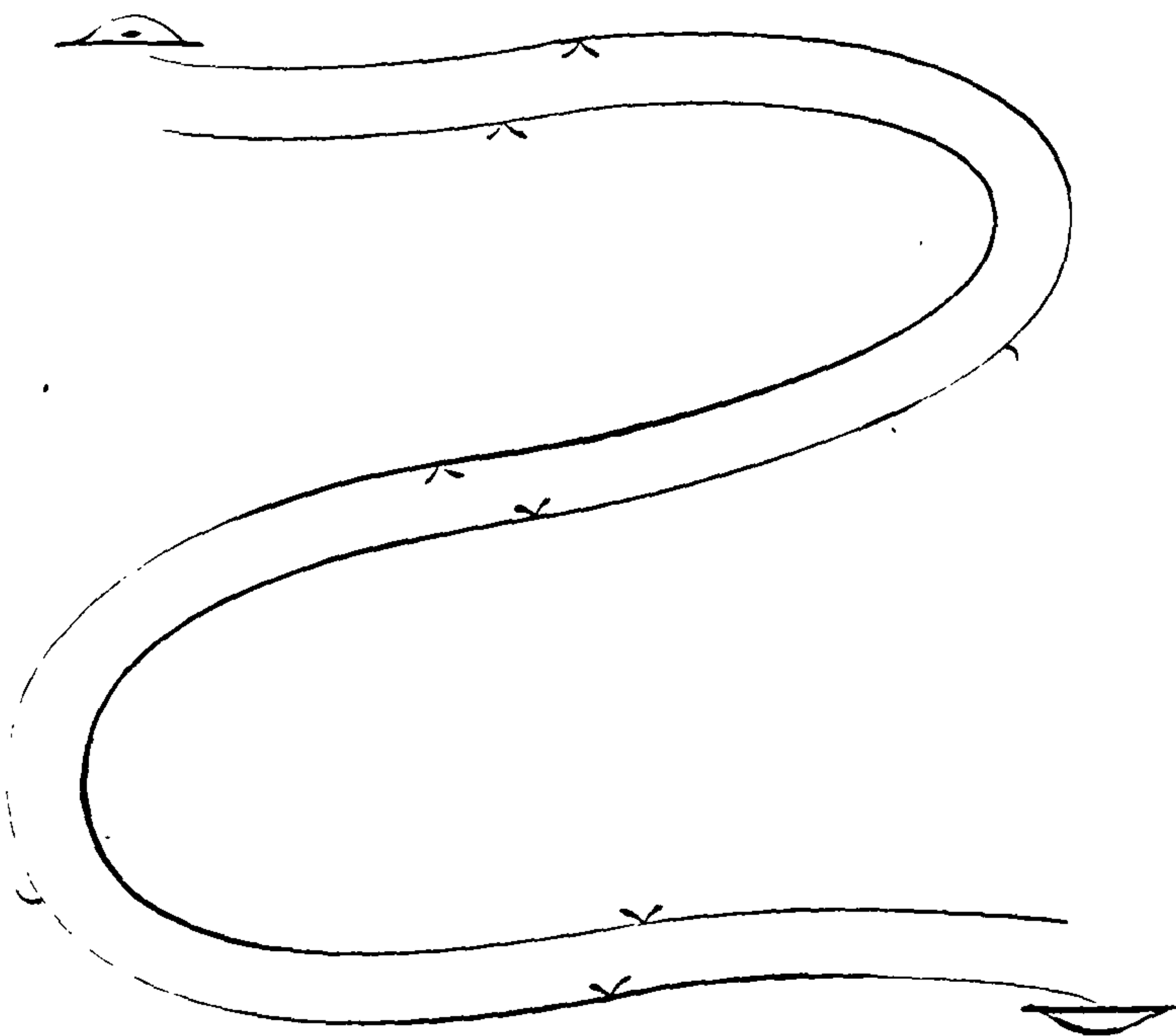
As I only propose to give the figure of it, the Honours we suppose are made; the Man & Woman being Opposite each other, they are to begin with a Minuet Step sideways, the Man to his right hand, & the Woman to her left; then the Man takes the Woman by her left hand with his right hand, & leads her two Minuet Steps up the room; then he falls back, leading her two Minuet Steps round him to about the middle of the room; then they quit each other, & each person goes two Minuet Steps sideways to the right hand, as in the figure.



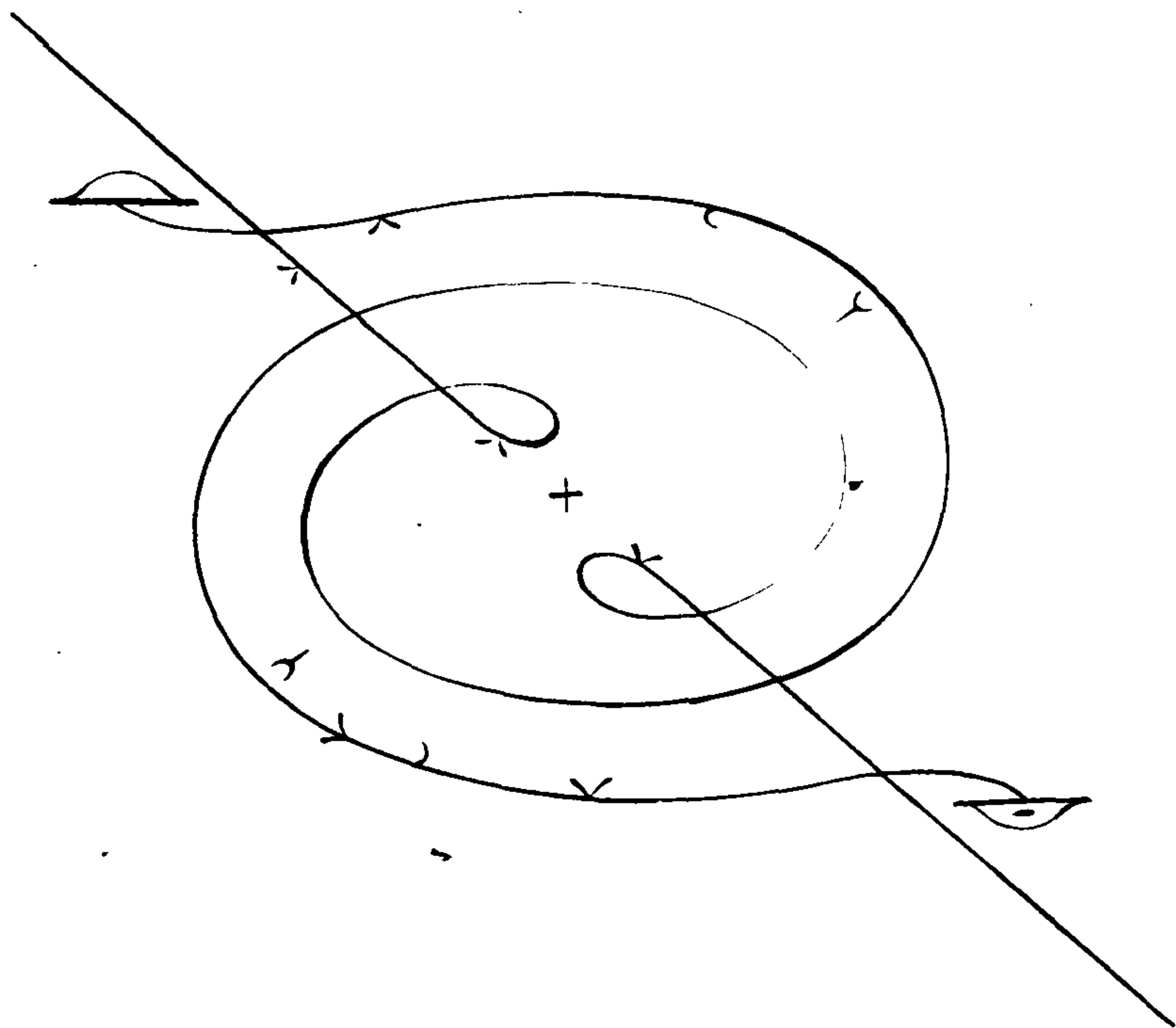
Now the Man being at one Corner of the room and the Woman at the other, they are both of them to proceed with two Minuet Steps to their left hands, then to cross over two Minuet Steps & turn the Corners to their left hand; then two Minuet Steps to their right hands. Sideways.



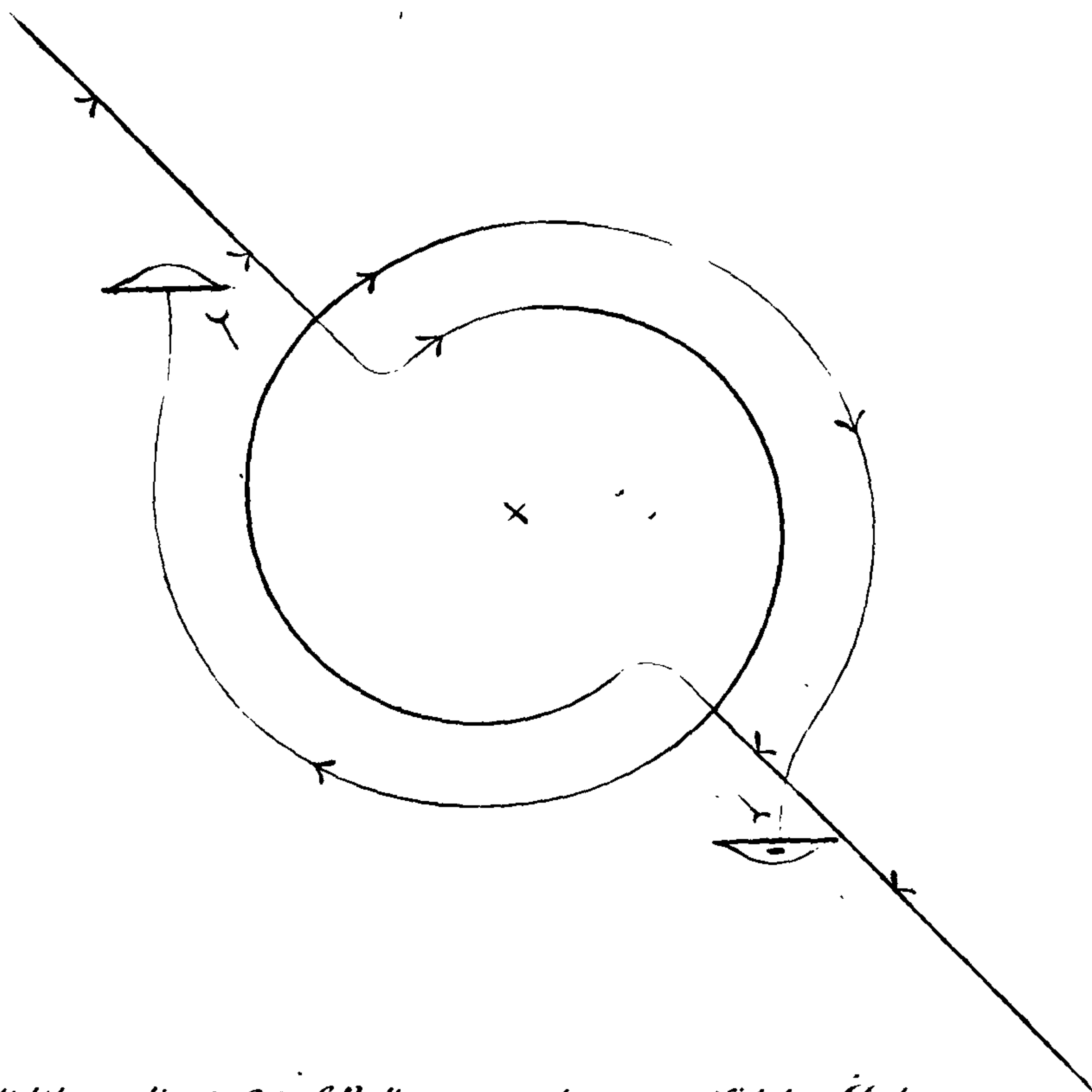
• Now trace the same figure back again, exactly as
 on the other side; which brings you to the same corner
 as when you first quitted hands; this figure you may do
 as often as you please, before & after turning hands. -
 Only a long Minuet should always be avoided; it
 being tiresome to the Spectators to see too often a Repetition
 of the same thing. -



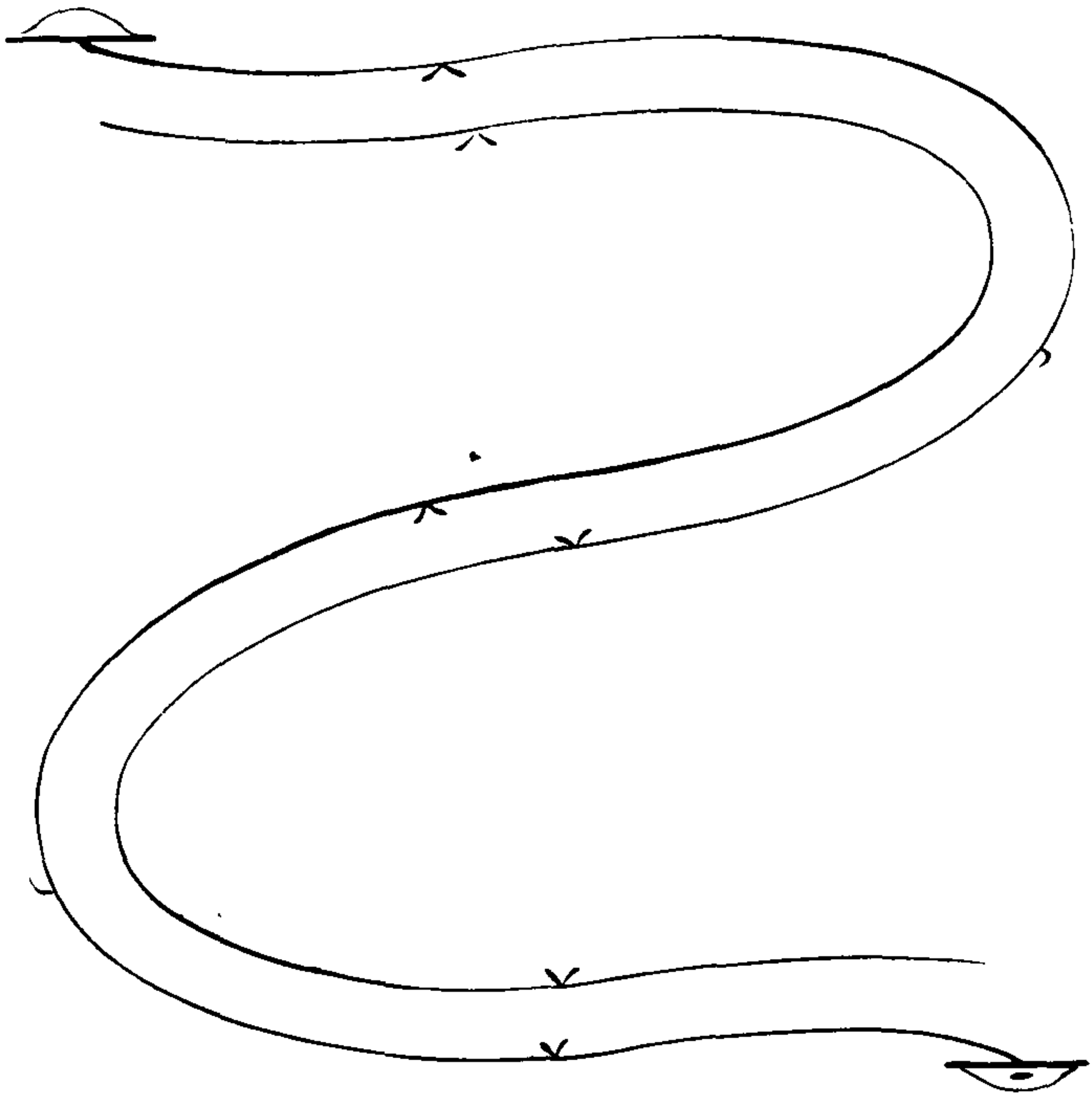
You are now to go two Minuet Steps to y^e left hand, as the figure represents; & then, in making a Circle, you present the right hand to each other, & going two or three Minuet Steps, making a round; then let go the Hands, & make each of you a Couple of Minuet Steps to the right hand Corner.



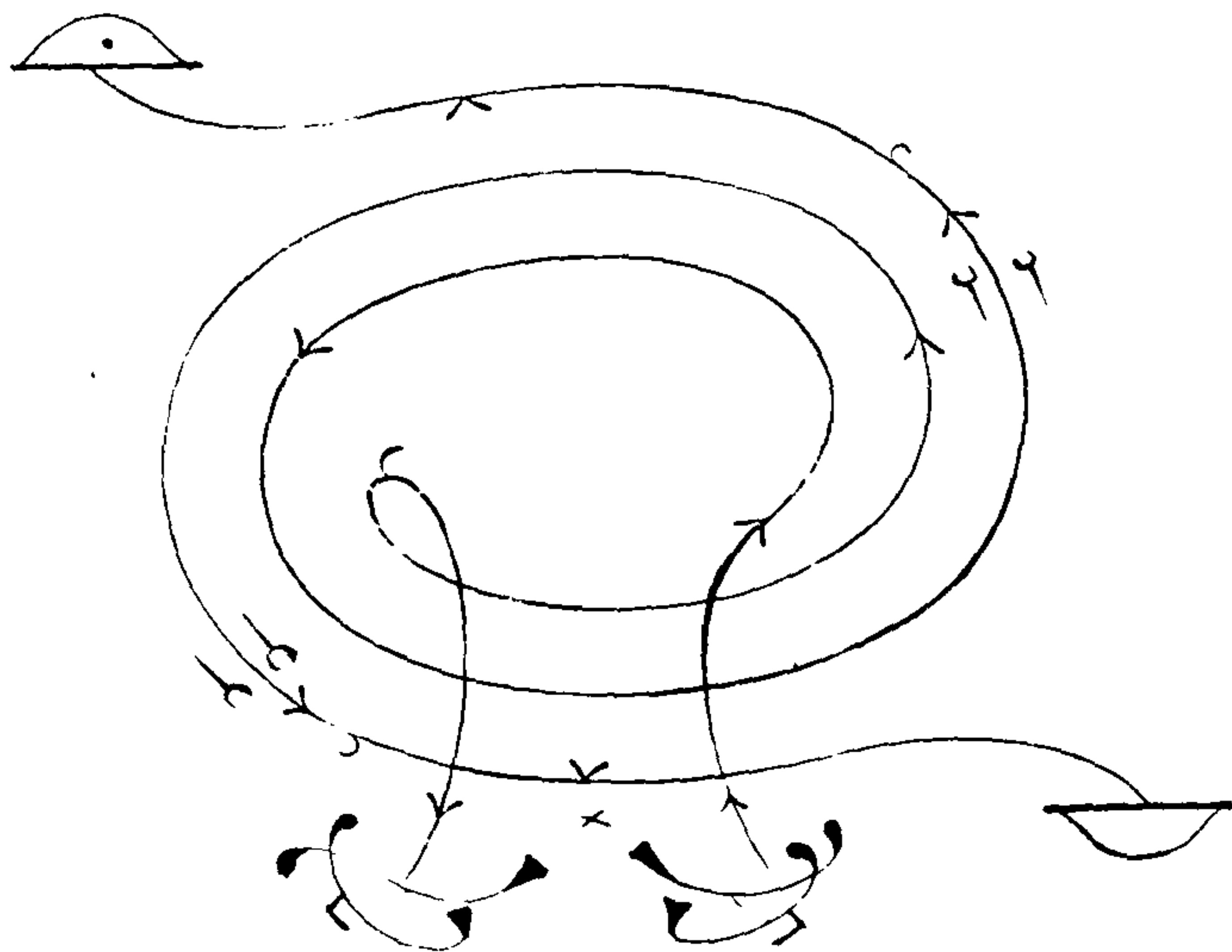
The right hands being finish'd, & you being return'd to the same Corners as before, you now proceed forward, with two or three Minuet Steps, & making a Circle as before, & present the left hands to each other; when you have made your round, you let go hands, & going a Couple of Minuet Steps to your right hands, brings you to the same Corner again as before the given of hands



The right & left hands being now finish'd, you proceed back to the figure as before; & go it once, twice or three times, as you think proper



You having gone now the Main figure as often^s
 as you think proper each of you proceed Sideways
 to the left hand as in the figure then making a
 circle round present both hands to each other and
 having gone your round the Man goes a Couple of
 Minut^s Steps back & the Woman follows him
 till they come to their own places where you
 finish as you begun making your Honours in the
 same manner as at first^s



Dukes, Nicholas. A concise & easy method of learning the figuring part of country dances, by way of characters. To which is prefixed The figure of the minuet, by Nicholas Dukes, Dancing Master. S.n., [1752]. Eighteenth Century Collections Online, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CW0115488766/ECCO?u=txshracd2598&sid=ECCO&xid=70394cbf>. Accessed 5 Aug. 2020.