

MONOLOGUE FROM LONGFELLOW'S "MICHAEL ANGELO."

Better than thou I cannot, Brunelleschi, And less than thou I will not! If the thought Could, like a windlass, lift the ponderous stones, And swing them to their places; if a breath Could blow this rounded dome into the air, As if it were a bubble, and these statues Spring at a signal to their sacred stations, As sentinels mount guard upon a wall, Then were my task completed. Now, alas! Naught art thou but a Saint Sebastian, holding Upon his hand the model of a church, As German artists paint him; and what years, What weary years, must drag themselves along, Ere this be turned to stone! What hindrances Must block the way; what idle interferences Of Cardinals and Canons of St. Peter's, Who nothing knew of art beyond the color Of cloaks and stockings, nor of any building Save that of their own fortunes! And what then? I must then the short-coming of my means— Piece out by stepping forward, as the Spartan Was told to add a step to his short sword.

And is Fra Bastian dead? Is all that light Gone out, that sun-bone darkened; all that music And merriment that used to make our lives Less melancholy swallowed up in silence, Like madrigals sung in the street at night, By passing revellers? It is strange indeed That he should die before me. 'Tis against The law of nature that the young should die. And the old live; unless it be that some Have long been dead who think themselves alive. Because not buried. Well, what matters it, Since now that greater light, that was my sun, Is set, and all is darkness, all is darkness! Death's lightning strikes to right and left of me, And, like a ruined wall, the world around me Crumbles away, and I am left alone. I have no friends, and want none. My own thoughts Are now my sole companions.—The rights of her, That like a benediction from the ship, Come to me in my solitude and soothe me. When men are old, the incessant thought of Death Follows them like their shadow; sits with them At every meal; sleeps with them when they sleep; And when they wake already is awake. And standing by their bedside. Then, what folly It is in us to make an enemy Of this inopportune follower, not a friend! To me a friend, and not an enemy. Has he become since all my friends are dead.

THE SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENT FOR THEISM.

Whatever may be said against science and scientific men, as being, in the opinion of some good Christian people, hostile to the doctrines of Christianity, certain facts have been adduced as the result of scientific investigation that lead directly and logically to a faith in a Supreme Being. There was a time, so science teaches, when the earth was a molten mass, a globe of incandescent matter, upon which, or near which, life was an impossibility. There are, doubtless, some germs that are hard to kill; but in such a heat nothing great or small could retain for an instant the least vitality. How, then, was life introduced upon this planet? This question may be asked independently of all ideas or theories in regard to evolution. Life may have begun with a germ so infinitesimal and simple that protoplasm would be a gigantic compound in comparison, and yet the answer would necessitate the admission that some creative agent more potent than matter has been at work. The answer, to be at all satisfactory, necessitates, in short, the existence of a spiritual, intelligent force. Science leads us up to this. There is no escape from this conclusion. It matters not whether we call this force by one name or another; in the last analysis it is God, the Supreme Being, who is the great spiritual force that has always been recognized in some way by human beings from the earliest historic period to the present time. Because we cannot understand how a spirit can act on matter, there is no valid scientific objection in the way of our acceptance of the fact. There are a great many facts which science accepts which it cannot explain. The only question is, does the evidence require that we should accept it? Here are phenomena that nothing we know of in nature can explain, and which, furthermore, are inexplicable on any other than the spiritual hypothesis. Scientific men are therefore called upon to admit the existence of such a spiritual force in nature, that began to act in the production of living things some time after the earth became, by cooling, a fit abode for them.

TIGHT LACING.

This is a question, the mere mention of which is "tabooed" in polite society. He who is bold enough to protest against the prevailing fashions, whether of corsets, banged hair or high heels, must be prepared to encounter the frowns of the fairest, and, perhaps, excommunication from all social circles in which he dare exercise the liberty of free speech. It is utterly useless to attempt to convince young women of the evils that later come from lacing. No child is satisfied that fire will burn until his own fingers have been blistered, and, strange as it may seem, it is quite as difficult to convince matrons of middle age, when they have had their forms, from childhood, held in the grip of steel and buckram.

"Were I to leave off my corsets," says one, "I should be limp as a rag." These strengthen and sustain me." Quite right, madam, but why? Simply because you have worn corsets so long that they have appropriated the office that the muscles of the chest were intended for, and these, having nothing to do, have dwindled away or perished, leaving the upper half of your body to be supported by corsets. What nature has no use for, she finally dispenses with. She is generous, but, at the same time, exercises a wise economy, and does not long burden us with useless gifts.

Paralysis of the pectoral muscles is the least of the evils induced by lacing. Long continued pressure on the vital organs impedes their action and deranges their functions. It is a prominent cause of heart disease, consumption and spinal irritation. It is not necessary to be a physiologist to feel a sort of disgust for an abnormally small waist, or a philanthropist to pity its victim. There is something barbarous and repulsive in the fashion of making cripples of Chinese women by lacing their feet. Would it be more humane to make perpetual invalids of them by lacing their bodies?

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

Some 40 years ago, when the people of the United States had raised a considerable sum for the purpose, this monument was begun. When the monument had been built to 156 ft. in height the funds were exhausted. Finally the Government took hold and made appropriations to finish the work. But when the labor on it was renewed, examination showed that the foundation was not strong enough for the intended superstructure; but how to insert additional strength under a column weighing 32,000 tons without disturbing its equilibrium or making a crack in its walls, how to move the dirt below this tremendous weight and insert concrete masonry therein, was a question that required inventive genius and delicate engineering. The difficult work was most boldly and successfully done. A solid body of masonry, about 126 ft. square, and more than 13 ft. in depth, now underlies this tall structure. It ought to have a solid base, for the monument, when finished, will have a total weight of over 80,000 tons. This pillar is now about 350 feet high, and is rising in mid-air at the rate of nearly 100-ft. a year. From two to three more working seasons will be required to complete it. When completed it will be 555 feet high.

MISCELLANY.

How DIMPLES ARE MADE.—This is the way dimples are manufactured in Chicago, if a reporter of the Herald of that city tells the truth: "My arm being bare and the exact spot indicated, he (the operator) placed a small glass tube, the orifice of which was extremely small, upon the spot. This tube had working within it a piston, and was so small that when the handle was drawn up the air was exhausted from the tube and it adhered to the flesh, raising a slight protuberance. Around this raised portion the operator daintily tied a bit of scarlet silk, and then took away his suction machine. The little point of skin that was thus raised he sliced off with a wicked looking knife, bringing the blood. I tried hard not to scream, but it was so unexpected that I had to. Then he bound up the arm, placing over the wound a small silver object like an inverted cone, the point of which was rounded and polished. This little point was adjusted so as to depress the exact center of the cut. Then he told me to go away and not touch the spot until the next day. When I came at that time he dressed my arm again, and this operation was repeated for five days, when the wound was healed. The silver cone was removed, and there, sure enough beneath it was the prettiest dimple in the world! And all I had to pay was \$10."

As we have more than once had occasion to state, fencing is in high honour at the Elysee Palace, where a number of expert swordsmen, guests of M. Jules Grévy, cross their foils nearly every morning in the conservatory. Last Sunday an interesting event came off in the improvised salle d'armes of the Elysee. More than thirty persons were present, and participated in a gigantic pool, of which the winners were to receive various prizes, objects of art and swords. The jury, whose duty it was to decide upon the respective merits of the candidates, was composed of MM. Collin, Beves, Minisagne and Prévost, professors, assisted by the well-known amateurs, MM. Carolus Duran, Chabrol, Aurélien Scholl, Général Pittie, Mollard, Lalou, Jules Toulouse, Baron Sellière, Ostris, Fontaine, Audouin, &c. The method of the pool was by elimination, that is to say, that two candidates were matched together, the loser disappearing from the contest, while the winner was pitted against the winner of another match, and so on until finally two fencers alone came together and crossed their foils to decide the question of final supremacy. After a quantity of eliminations, the final issue was between Captain Darné, MM. Audouin, Félix Faure, Gomez, Tavernier and Levrier. MM. Gomez and Tavernier fought the final bout, and the former was victorious after a most vigorous and interesting contest. The prize carried off by M. Gomez was a magnificent vase in onyx, presented by M. Adolphe Violet. M. Tavernier was awarded a beautiful Sevres vase, offered by M. Daniel Wilson, President Grévy's son-in-law.

EFFECTS OF TOO MUCH BRAIN WORK FOR CHILDREN.—On April 28th, Dr. Richardson delivering a lecture on "Natural Necessities as Basis of Natural Education," before the Society of Arts, brought forward, writes F. C. S., the following extract, which happened to be a report of the chairman of the evening, Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C. B., to the British Association in 1860, to show what an evil effect too much brain work, without a proportional amount of industrial occupation to support it, has upon young children: "In one large establishment, containing about 600 children, half girls and half boys, the means of industrial occupation

were gained for the girls before any were obtained for the boys. The girls were therefore put upon half time tuitions, that is to say, their time of book instruction was reduced from 36 hours to 18 hours per week, given on the three alternate days of their industrial occupation, the boys remaining at full school time of 36 hours per week, the teaching being the same, on the same system and by the same teachers, the same school attendance in weeks and years in both cases. On the periodical examination of the school, surprise was expressed by the inspectors at finding how much more alert, mentally, the girls were than the boys, and in advance in book attainments. Subsequently, industrial occupation was found for the boys, when their time of book instruction was reduced from 36 hours a week to 18, and after a while the boys were proved, upon examination, to have obtained their previous relative positions, which was in advance of the girls."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

EDWIN BOOTH will, it is stated, spend the summer in Newport.

MRS. LANGTRY will play in New York later in the season and will probably spend most of the summer in this country, but will return to England at its close.

ANTON RUBINSTEIN'S latest composition, a humorous three-act ballet, entitled "The Vine," is to be first brought out at the Vienna Court Opera. It is a dramatic and mimic representation of the struggle of nature and science with the phylloxera, science remaining the victor in the end. Blended with the rather material combat, Cupid and Bacchus are also introduced; in fact everything relating to wine, its joys and the miseries it entails upon friends and foes. The mise-en-scene is to be a most brilliant one. All the prominent members of the terpsichorean opera world have grateful rôles allotted to them, in which to shine and distinguish themselves.

WAGNER leaves his family in a condition of temporary embarrassment. He received large sums of money every year, but his expenses were very large and his debts stupendous. Besides living expensively he spent large sums of money on the artistic, literary and musical collections which he gathered together in Vulte Wahnfried, in Bayreuth. The future of the family will be secured, however, from the honorarium which they will receive from the performances of his works in Austria for a space of ten years, and in Germany for thirty. From the Vienna Court Opera Wagner received annually a sum of sixteen thousand marks, and from the rest of Germany a further sum of sixty thousand marks. Besides this there will be the performing rights from "Parsifal" in case Madame Wagner consents to allow the performance of the work outside of Bayreuth. From the rest of Europe Wagner has received little or nothing for his works, as all his more popular operas are free so far as performing and literary rights are concerned. Wagner would have been worth untold thousands had an international copyright existed at the time he produced "Lohengrin" and "Tannhauser."

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Correct Solution received of problem No. 224.

We are pleased to be able to copy from the Quebec Chronicle the following account of the annual meeting of the Quebec Chess Club, and we congratulate the members on the success which has attended their Association during the past year, at the same time we would kindly hint that as the Tournay of the recent Congress at Montreal of the Canadian Chess Association is not yet brought to a conclusion, it would be well to avoid any discussion of the manner in which it has been carried on, until the final report of the managing committee has been published.

QUEBEC CHESS CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Quebec Chess Club was held on the 24th ult., when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Honorary President—Mr. T. LeDroit. President—Mr. C. P. Champion. First Vice-President—Mr. E. Pope. Second Vice-President—Mr. E. Sanderson. Secretary—Mr. M. J. Murphy. Managing Committee—Messrs. Andrews, Fletcher, Dr. P. McLeod, Jones and Blackiston. The meeting was a numerously attended one, and much interest was manifested in the several topics brought up for discussion. The President read a very interesting retrospect of the chess events which occurred during the past year in connection with the club, and among other matters alluded to the brochure in the late Canadian Chess Association Tournay. This subject was fully and impartially discussed during the meeting when the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

This meeting, having received from T. LeDroit, Esq., President of the Canadian Chess Association, the communication from Mr. J. G. Ascher, of the 20th inst., just read, it is resolved:

"That this meeting is of opinion that any game which may have been played at the late Tournay of the Canadian Chess Association in contravention of the rules of the said Association, and to which the attention of the Committee has been called, should be cancelled, and that the Committee are not justified in departing from the clearly expressed rules of the Association; and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to T. LeDroit, Esq., President of the Canadian Chess Association."

A vote of thanks was passed to the following gentlemen for the very liberal and handsome manner in which they subscribed towards the funds of the club for the purchase of the Trophy Cup: Messrs. O. Murphy, R. R. Dobell, T. Beckett, W. Sharpley and W. Cook; also to C. V. M. Temple, Esq., for his very kind donation of the allegorical picture which now graces the club room entitled "The Prince of Darkness playing with Man for his soul," accompanied by an explanatory introduction. After a protracted sitting, and the usual vote of thanks to the retiring officers, the meeting adjourned.

We have been requested to insert the following copy of a letter addressed by Dr. Howe to the Chess Editor of the Witness:—

To the Editor of the Chess Column of the Witness.

Sir.—In a letter to the Witness of Tuesday, March 6th, you express your readiness to play out our tie game "on a time limit of twelve moves to the hour instead of fifteen, the legal number, provided you receive the sanction of the Quebec Association." I must repeat that these are the terms which I proposed and which you refused at a meeting of the managing committee held about a month ago. The difference between ten minutes to each move, which you maintain was my offer, and your own demand of four minutes to a move, is so wide that it presents a strong improbability *à priori* that such was my proposal. But besides this indirect evidence in my favor I can adduce the direct testimony of at least three members of our club who heard my concession to your wishes and understood it to be five minutes instead of four to the move, whereas you have on your side only one who understood my offer in the sense in which you have taken it.

As to the condition to which you subject your readiness to play—that of receiving the sanction of the Quebec Association—I cannot but consider it as a new affront to the Montreal Committee, in keeping with the tone you have adopted towards them throughout. Without their consent any game that we might play would be void; yet you pass them by and substitute the sanction of the Quebec Association which will not meet till Easter 1884, and then may decline to interfere. So that your offer to play our tie amounts at present to nothing.

Your last letter has confirmed me in the opinion that throughout these discussions you have not preserved due moderation nor shown due respect for those who differ from you. In saying this I do not for a moment call in question your right to a free exposition of your arguments, but you should not have put forth statements which—speaking with a euphemism—are inaccurate. With these thoughts and feelings in my mind I am not disposed to play on any terms.

You conclude your last Saturday's Chess Column with the observation that the discussion must be considered as closed. But as you have yourself, by your letter of Tuesday re-opened the subject, I request that you will do me the favor of inserting this reply in your next Saturday's Column.

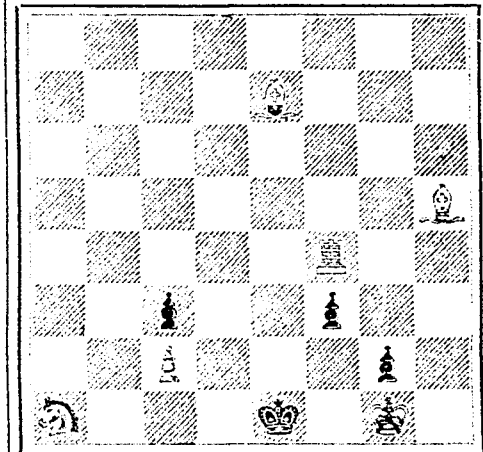
Your obedient servant,

H. ASPISWALL HOWE.

PROBLEM No. 421.

By J. P. Taylor.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 421.

White. Black. 1 K to K3. 1 Any 2 Mates acc.

GAME No. 10.

One of the simultaneous games played at the Manhattan Chess Club on February 22, between Messrs. Seitz and J. M. Hanham.

(King's Gambit Declined.)

WHITE.—(Mr. Seitz.) BLACK.—(Mr. Hanham.) 1 P to K4. 1 P to K4 2 P to K B4. 2 B to B4 3 K to K B3. 3 P to Q3 4 B to B4. 4 K Kt to B3 5 P to Q3. 5 Castles 6 Q Kt to B3. 6 P to Q B4 7 Q to K2. 7 Q to K2 8 P takes P. 8 P takes P 9 B to K3. 9 B takes B 10 Q takes B. 10 Kt to Kt3 11 Q to K2. 11 P to Q R4 12 B to Kt3. 12 Q to B4 13 P to K B3. 13 Kt to B3 14 Q to B2. 14 Q takes Q 15 K takes Q. 15 Q Kt to Q2 16 P to Q B4. 16 P to Kt3 17 Kt to Q3. 17 B to Q R4 18 Kt to K2. 18 P to Q3 19 Kt to B3. 19 Q R to K3 20 P to Kt4. 20 Kt to B4 21 Kt to Q2. 21 P to Kt3 22 Kt to Q3. 22 B to Q3 23 Kt to Q B4. 23 Kt takes B 24 P takes K. 24 Kt to Q2 25 Q R to Q3. 25 Kt to B4 26 P to Q1. 26 P takes P 27 P takes P. 27 Kt takes Q K: P 28 Q R to Q3. 28 Kt to B4 29 K to K3. 29 Kt takes Q R P 30 K takes Q R P. 30 P to B4 31 K to B3. 31 P to B3 32 Kt to B3. 32 P to B6 33 Kt to Kt3. 33 Kt to Kt2 34 P to Q7. 34 B takes Kt 35 Resigns.

—Tat. Field and Form.

FIT'S A Leading London Pharmacist establishes his Office in New York for the Cure of **EPILEPTIC FITS.** From Am. Journ. of Med. Dr. Ab. Moserolo (late of London), who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any other living physician. His success has simply been astonishing; we have heard of cases of over 20 years' standing successfully cured by him. He has published a work on this disease which he sends with a large bottle of his wonderful cure free to any sufferer who may send his express and P. O. Address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Dr. AB. MOSEROLE, No. 26 John St., New York.