

MILTON.

The following statements made by Professor Masson in a lecture on Milton delivered a few weeks since in Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, to the Young Men's Association connected with that congregation, are interesting and in some particulars contradict generally received opinions concerning our great poet. At the period Milton began to write he found the authors and poets of his time a feeble, corrupt, and degenerate race, who could not realize the nobleness of literature; and he resolved that any work that occupied his genius should be totally different from the great run of poems and writings then produced. In those days, and for centuries before, it was difficult for a poet in any nation to decide whether he should write in Latin, which was the medium of communication among the learned all over Europe, or whether he should write in his native tongue; Milton, however, fortunately resolved to write in his own language. There is evidence to show that Milton read the Old Testament, at least the historical parts, and also portions of the New Testament, with a view to see what subjects out of these histories might afford the greatest capabilities for a poem; and it also is evident that he read British history for the same purpose. He had collected no fewer than 100 subjects from which to select one for the foundation of his great poem; and amongst those taken from Scottish history was Macbeth, which he thought a possible subject to be treated even after Shakespeare. Of all these hundred subjects, however, the one that struck Milton most was that of "Paradise Lost." His intention of writing a great poem was interrupted by the troubles of the period; and he became a pamphleteer on all the questions which were occupying the Long Parliament, wrote pamphlets against the bishops, against prelacy, and against this and against that, which the Long Parliament had determined to uproot. These pamphlets are among the most extraordinary things in our literature. There are passages in them that he could not dare to read now in a public audience. They are so powerful, so unsparring in language, so tremendously scurrilous; if he might say so, such words were used, that if he were to read them to an audience in which there were a few bishops, he would do so at the outside of the door, with a hold of the handle, bawling the passage in, and then running off. Some of the pamphlets were afterwards burned by the hangman. With regard to "Paradise Lost," it was dictated bit by bit, a few lines a day, to any person who might call on Milton. In some pictures of Milton he was represented as dictating the poem to his daughters, who seemed rapt and reverential; but these were pure fantasies, for the fact was that his daughters were undutiful. Instead of being rapt and reverential, they pawned his boots, and wished him dead, so that these pictures were imaginary.

In an article in the Popular Science Review Baron Liebig gives his opinion as to the best method of preparing coffee. He recommends boiling as the most efficacious mode of obtaining the valuable materials of the berry. "With three-fourths of the coffee to be employed, after being ground, the water is made to boil for ten or fifteen minutes. The one-quarter of coffee which has been kept back is then flung in and the vessel immediately withdrawn from the fire, covered over and allowed to stand for five or six minutes. In order that the powder on the surface may fall to the bottom it is stirred round; the deposit then takes place, and the coffee poured off is ready for use.

Printing Press.—The great general of the people, who has driven the enemy from the fortified heights of power, and compelled him to give battle in the open field of thought. Clock.—A dog we keep to bark at us. Pawnbroker.—A man who holds your coat while you fight. Marriage.—Harness for a pair. Experience.—The scars of our wounds. Luxury.—The hectic flush of a consumptive nation.

PASTIMES.

DECAPITATIONS.

- 1. Behead a princess, and leave a species of vermin; again behead, and leave something much prized in summer time.
2. Behead a pair, and leave an amusement; behead again, and leave a unit.
3. Complete, I am frequently used in interrogations; behead me, and I am an article of wearing apparel; behead me again, and I am a preposition; transposed, I am an enemy to ice and snow.

CHARADES.

- 1. I am composed of 6 letters. My whole is a great crime. Transpose my last half, and I am what my whole is; transpose my first half, and I am frequently the cause of my whole.
2. Forwarded by a young lady.—I am composed of 23 letters; my 1, 10, 5, 23, 3 is a lake in Canada; my 6, 22, 23, 20, 4 was an ancient heathen goddess; my 19, 9, 7, 21, 23 is a street in Montreal; my 11, 16, 3, 15, 6, 15, 13 is the title of a little poem by my favourite author; my 15, 10, 2, 19, 20, 8, 15, 8 is the name of an Indian tribe that once inhabited Lower Canada; my 6, 15, 1, 7, 10, 18, 19, 17, 5, 10, 22 is where I sometimes walk with my little sister on a summer morning; my 15, 14, 22 is what we lassies of Montreal enjoy in winter; my 1, 7, 2, 12, 11, 21 is a name borne by several kings of England; and my whole is the prayer of every true-hearted Canadian.
3. My 12, 11, 5, 10 is a verb; my 6, 14, 2, 8 is a vehicle; my 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 5 is one who buys and sells; my 5, 7, 3 is an animal; my 3, 11, 5 is a resinous substance; and with my whole the reader is more or less familiar.

ENIGMA.

Although I have no leg nor arm, I travel far and near; I tell of love, I tell of woe, And sometimes cause a tear. To many I have fortunes given, I fortunes have destroyed— A cause of merriment to some, But many I've annoyed. Invisible I sometimes am, But then can re-appear Gentle and docile as a lamb, Yet oft cause anxious fear. From humble peasant to the king I quite familiar am, And tractable to all who wish To use me if they can.

TRANSPOSITIONS.

- 1. Na tinsinct nife fo loby thbur Elvdt ni hte sobmo fo het huoyt Hughlot sinsoap deimdm its realsences.
2. AAAACTM. Name of a desert.
3. MALARAENDS. A reptile.
4. OLETTINCAPNSON. A city in Europe.

ARITHMETICAL PROBLEMS.

- 1. Two persons, A and B, lay out equal sums of money in trade. A gains £126, and B loses £87, and A's money is now double that of B's. What did each lay out?
2. What number is that from which if you sixty take, one sixth of the whole remains?

ANSWERS TO ANAGRAMS, &c., No. 23.

- ANAGRAMS.—1. Adam Bede. 2. Pendennis. 3. Waverley. 4. 5. Ten thousand a year. 6. Great Expectations.

- CHARADES.—1. Pillow. 2. Ochotsk. 3. Boot-jack.

- TRANSPOSITIONS.—1. May their vices be as small as their bonnets, and their virtues as extended as their crinolines. 2. Serene, accomplished, cheerful but not loud; insinuating without insinuation. 3. Coquetting.

- DECAPITATIONS.—1. Attract-tract-act. 2. Warm-arm-mar. 3. Strain-train-rain.

ARITHMETICAL QUESTIONS.—1st. The numbers are 3, 4, 6. 2nd. 24 doz. at 6d. per doz. 3rd. He remained 2 h. 45 min. Time he left 10 h. 33 m. 10 sec.

The following answers have been received. Anagrams.—H. H. V., Cloud, Camp, Head-corn, X. Y. Stratford, Festus. Charades.—All, Cloud, Festus, H. H. V., Camp, W. L. Hunter, X. Y. Stratford, Robin; 2nd and 3rd, Headcorn; 2nd, Bonum.

Transpositions.—All, X. Y. Stratford, H. H. V. Camp, Cloud, Festus; 1st, Headcorn, Bonum, Argus, H. L. V.

Decapitations.—X. Y. Stratford, Robin, W. Lewis Hunter, Headcorn, Festus, Cloud, H. H. V. Argus.

Arithmetical Problems.—All, Cloud, Argus, Festus, H. H. V.; 1st and 2nd, Headcorn; 1st, Robin, 3rd, W. Lewis Hunter; 1st and 3rd, X. Y. Stratford.

Received too late to be acknowledged in our last issue. S. J. C., Ellen B., W. M. Ardour.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Answers to Correspondents were unavoidably crowded out last week. "ST. URBAIN ST."—Thanks for your continued favours.

T. P. BULL.—Have you nothing to contribute in either Problems or Games? Surely the interest in the game is not flagging among your players?

PROBLEM No. 10.—Correct solutions received from St. Urbain St.; J. McL.; R. Hamilton; and M. N., Brighton.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 11.

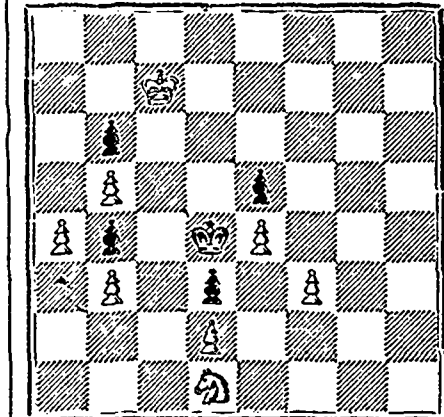
- WHITE. 1 R. to K. R. 6th. 2 Q. to Q. B. 3rd. 3 Q. to K. B. 6th. 4 R. to R. 4th. Mate.
BLACK. Kt. from Q. B. 3rd to Q. 4th (best) (a). Kt. to K. R. 4th. Kt. from Kt. 6th to Q. 6th.

(a) If Black plays 1 K. to Kt. 6th, White replies with 2 Q. to K. 2nd (ch.) and Mate next move. If 1 K. to K. 6th, White plays 2 Q. to Q. B. 3rd, Mate next move.

PROBLEM No. 13.

By T. P. BULL, SEAPORTH, C. W.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and Mate in four moves.

Game played last year in match between the Dundee and Glasgow Clubs.

EVANS' GAMBIT.

- WHITE. (Mr. Baxter.) 1 P. to K. 4th. 2 Kt. to K. B. 3rd. 3 B. to Q. B. 4th. 4 P. to Q. Kt. 4th. 5 P. to Q. B. 3rd. 6 Castles. 7 P. to Q. 4th. 8 P. takes P. 9 Kt. to Q. B. 3rd. (a) 10 P. to K. 5th. 11 B. to Q. R. 3rd. 12 Q. to Q. Kt. 3rd. 13 Kt. to K. Kt. 5th. 14 Q. R. to Q. sq. 15 Kt. to K. B. 3rd. (c) 16 Kt. takes K. P. 17 Kt. takes K. B. P. 18 B. takes Kt. 19 R. to Q. 5th. (ch.) And White wins the game.
BLACK. (Pres. of Glasgow Club.) 1 P. to K. 4th. 2 Kt. to Q. B. 3rd. 3 B. to Q. B. 4th. 4 B. takes P. 5 B. to Q. B. 4th. 6 B. to Q. Kt. 3rd. 7 P. takes P. 8 P. to Q. 3rd. 9 Kt. to K. B. 3rd. (b) 10 P. takes P. 11 B. takes Q. P. 12 Q. to Q. 2nd. 13 Q. Kt. to K. 3rd. 14 P. to Q. B. 3rd. (d) 15 Q. to Q. B. 2nd. 16 Kt. to Q. B. 4th. (e) 17 B. takes B.

(a) The Dundee players ought to be conversant with this phase of the Evans' Gambit, from the fact of Mr. Fraser (their champion player) having devoted much time and labour to the examination of the many beautiful variations springing from the branch of the attack. (b) B. to K. Kt. 5th is generally played here, but we incline rather to Kt. to Q. Kt. 4th. (c) If 15. Kt. takes Kt., 15. P. takes Kt., 16. Kt. to Q. Kt. 5th, and Black replies with 16. K. to B. 2nd, with a tolerably safe game. (d) Had as this is, we really see nothing better. (e) K. takes Kt. is a much stronger move, the one made being immediately fatal.