tree to fragments, striking it with sudden death, or topples down the most massive tower reared by the skill of man. In Oriental fable we read of lamps, the rubbing of which produced an obedient genius ready to minister to every wrath. We can excite the electric force, and the most stupendous of all the genii nature—if not, indeed, the master spirit, of which all known natural forces are but variations—is at our service; our servant, if we will—our most terrible master if we have no skill to conciliate him.—*Beeton's Dictionary of Science.*

ATOMS AND MOLECULES.

UNFORTUNATELY we have no chance of seeing the ultimate atoms or molecules of matter. Chemists use the term molecule to denote the smallest quantity of any substance capable of existing alone; but the definition is not quite satisfactory, because they have reason to believe that there are many compound molecules that only exist in parts of more complicated combinations. Could we, by help of any apparatus, see ultimate molecules, the sight would be an astounding one: for the extremely minute portions of any substance, however solid or liquid it may appear to ordinary vision, would become exhibited to us as composed of infinitely more particles than all the stars we can perceive in a clear sky, and all in motions as harmonious as those of the celestial bodies. When either compositions or decompositions are going on we should see hosts by the myriad rushing together or springing apart, as the case might be. Eternal motion is the condition of life, whether it be of the smallest unit or of the entire universe. Nature, as Humboldt said, is ever arranging herself in new forms, and absolute stillness would be cessation of being.—*Sc. American.*

THE world has a million roosts for a man, but only one nest.—*Holmes.*

THE one where your place is is the best for you.—*Holmes.*