"SUCH IS THE LIFE OF MAN."

Human life has been compared to many things, but not often to a game of backgammon! Why not to chess much rather?

Nay, chess is not half as good a simile, for in that royal game a man’s movements are in his own power, and his will rules his fortune throughout; and such is by no means the case in life.

For the circumstances in which a man is placed, and the accidents (otherwise providences) which happen to him from childhood to old age, are not of his choosing. These come to him like the throws of dice to a backgammon player, as chances beyond his control. What shall he do then? Sit down with folded arms and let Time and Chance carry him where they will?