

A HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION
OF
BILLIARDS

Its Sanitary Advantages, etc.



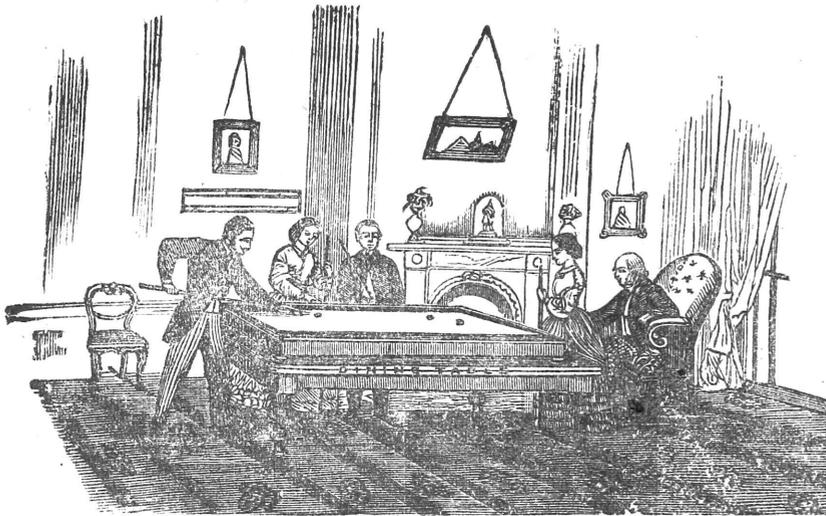
WITH INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO PLAY THE GAME.

PUBLISHED BY
SAMUEL MAY, BILLIARD TABLE MANUFACTURER,
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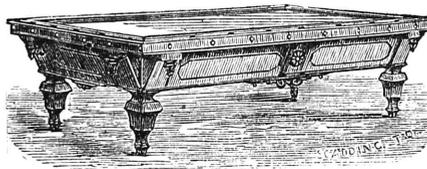
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The Game of Billiards.

The Origin and Antiquity of the Game—Emperors, Kings, Queens and Princes Competitors—The Philosophy of the Game—Description of the Game and the Players—Billiards in the United States—Its Salutary Advantages—Its Introduction into Private Circles.

THE ORIGIN OF THE GAME.

This delightful game has become so universally esteemed for its beauty, mechanical varieties, its scientific illustrations, and, above all, for its wonderful sanitary advantages, that the following description and summary of facts will be found interesting to the reader.

The origin of this game, like the birth-place of Homer, or the problem of the Sphynx, has ever been a contested point. Hence its antiquity—its exact age—continues to be involved in considerable doubt. Some historians suppose it to have been imported from the Persians during the Consulship of the Roman Lucullus. Others contend that the honor of introducing the game into Europe from the East is assigned to the Emperor Caligula. The most reliable, at least the most plausible, accounts of the origin and antiquity of the game of Billiards, is taken from certain parchment manuscripts, once the property of Sir Reginald Mortimer, who was contemporary with Peter the Hermit, and who figured in the eleventh century, somewhere about the year 1085. Sir Reginald was among the Knights Templars who returned in safety from the first crusade to the Holy Land, and afterwards joined the second crusade led by Richard Cœur de Lion. It is known that on the return of the Templar Knights from Palestine, the game, now called billiards, was introduced by them, and was, at that time, considered not only an amusement, but a means of preserving health and to which the cloistered monks of that period were permitted by their superiors to have recourse. At this time it was not considered among the carnal amusements by the fountain heads and only sources of the christian faith. Anterior to this, if known at all by the Romans, as is generally supposed, it must have perished, together with many other noble arts, on the overthrow of their empire. Though cradled in the monasteries, having been introduced into Europe by the Knight Templars, the game is supposed to have shared their fate, and died out when the order was overthrown, by the cupidity of European monarchs. We next hear of the game in the reign of Louis XI, of France, who preferred this innocent pastime to the bloody tournaments that were then so popular with the court.

It is said that the game, when introduced into France, became very much improved upon the original crude game imported from the East, and that during the reign of one of the Henry's, an artizan of Paris, named Henri de Vigne, was commissioned by the King to design and manufacture a billiard table, with a bed of stone, covered with cloth, having a hole and hazard pocket in the centre, into which the balls were driven; this table was to be appropriated to the use of the Dauphin, at that time a lunatic at the palace of Versailles.

The game was much patronized during the reign of Henry III, at which time it received its application of "the noble game."

THE GAME OF BILLIARDS

TITLED PLAYERS.

The Kings of France were at all times considered its most powerful and steadfast friends. Mary, Queen of Scots, was a passionate lover of the game, and on the evening preceding her execution, wrote to the Archbishop of Glasgow that her "Billiard table had just been taken away from her, as a preliminary step to her punishment." The King of France having married the Dauphin to Mary Stuart, she became, for a while, the guest of the King, and it is supposed in this way was introduced to the game during her stay in Paris.

The Empress Josephine entertained so great an idea of the fascinations of the game, that during Napoleon's moody moments she would challenge him to a bout of billiards, and he never appeared more happy than when engaged in the game.

During a very long period, therefore, a period embracing some centuries Emperors, Kings, Princes and titled nobility were competitors at this game, women as well as men participating in the exhilarating amusement. No wonder then that billiards became a popular game, and that the genius of man, evoked at a later period, improved upon, and made it what it is now—the most accomplished, fascinating and healthful game in existence.

The great feature which most likely will eventually lead to the general adoption of billiards as the game for home—the game to be introduced into private houses, and shared with the families of all who are wealthy enough to afford the luxury—is this: that it will admit of being enjoyed in common by both the male and female members of the family circle. Neither sex can enjoy an amusement so rationally or innocently when alone; for in company they exert a happy influence on each other, and more than one half of the vices and follies which affect society result from the separation of the sexes in the pursuit of their different amusements.

Those giant plague spots of society, as at present constituted, gambling and intemperance, seldom dare to show their features in the drawing-room, while they often obtrude their unwelcome presence into places from which ladies are excluded. In France, Germany, England, and in this country also, women have for many years participated in the game. One of the most celebrated women, Madame de Stael, was an enthusiastic advocate of billiards, and was acknowledged to be one of the most brilliant players of her age. The late Duchesse de Berri was also very fond of the game, and played a great deal. Her example gave the tone to Parisian fashion, and to-day the billiard room is regarded as an indispensable adjunct to every chateau of any pretensions in continental Europe.

ITS SALUTARY ADVANTAGES.

The celebrated Sir Astley Cooper—recognized, during his brilliant professional career, as the head of the faculty in England—when asked his opinion relative to billiards as a medium of health in country places, remarked: "In country houses, removed from the theatre and balls of the metropolis, operas, soirees, and other amusements peculiar to large cities, billiards would not only supply the place of these excitements, but would add something healthier and purer to the enjoyment sought for. We should all sleep more soundly if we made it a rule to play billiards for an hour or two each evening before going to bed. Our wives and children would be more healthy and happy, and more affectionate and fond of home, for there is nothing that so endears the family circle, as the recollection of amusements shared in common—in games in which we all take part." The fruits of these cogent suggestions are now making themselves apparent in the domestic circle of all parts of Great Britain, and in the West India Colonies: the billiard room, as with the nursery, is an indispensable portion of an Englishman's home, when he can afford it. As a means of

regaining impaired health, a few instances are noted which are worth recording. One Doctor, Ignatius Fleming, of London, opened a sort of boarding house and infirmary, a few summers since, at Bristol, England, for the reception of invalid patients, and in his advertisements announced billiards as one of the means of cure for consumptive patients. The novelty of the treatment attracted large numbers of people who were suffering with pulmonary complaints, several of whom were annually so far benefitted, that their ultimate cure was thought to be more than probable. A French lady living at Paris, the wife of a respectable merchant, had contracted liver complaint, and had yellow jaundice, and was threatened with a confirmed dyspepsia. Her situation was a critical one, for it is well known that most persons suffering with liver complaint, in this phase of the disease, contract what is called hypo, a technical term for nervous debility, not unlike in its effects the shocks of delirium tremens upon the system: the patient dying in a short time in a most pitiable manner. This lady was induced to accept the invitation of a friend to pay her a long visit at her chateau, near the sea port city of Bordeaux. This invitation was accepted, and among the sources of amusements and recreation afforded her was that of billiards. Forced by her friend at first to engage in the game, she gradually got to be fond of it, and for several hours each day she continued in her now favorite pastime. So great was her improvement in health and appetite in the short space of two weeks, that her husband, delighted with the wonderful change, conducted her back to her own home in Paris, fitted up a room for the purpose, erected tables and implements necessary for the game, and insisted that she should become an habitual player, and always had some one at his hotel to amuse her in this way during his absence from home to attend to business. She continued to improve, and eventually recovered her health and spirits.

Instances are also related of consumptive patients in the Island of Maderia, a tropical latitude, to which particular locality they are sent when their cure is despaired of at home, engaging in friendly encounters in this game, and in the course of time, recovering their health thereby. Numerous other instances may also be noted of the many healthful advantages derived from a regular practice of this game, when patients have been suffering from various complaints. These notices, however, are foreign from the object of this article: sufficient reference is made to them to indicate its purpose, which is simply to show wherein physical games excel all others in contributing to health, in addition to furnishing amusement to those who engage in them.

Ten Pins, Croquet, Racketts, Skittles, Cricket, Base Ball, &c., are, most of them, out-door sports, and with the exception, perhaps, of Croquet, seldom indulged in by women. In this respect Billiards has the advantage of all other games, and as a healthful amusement, opening a wide field for speculation between the regular physician, who kills more often than he cures in dangerous diseases, and the Billiard Table, mute, unpretending and more efficacious in its treatment of patients, with less expense to the sufferer.

An amusing incident is recorded of the celebrated physician, Doctor Lambert, of Paris, of which the following is a translation:—

“Hoguet, the well-known banker, of Paris, called upon Doctor Lambert, and asked him to prescribe for his wife, whom he thought was in a bad way.”

“What is the matter with her, Monsieur?”

“I cannot tell, nor does she know herself; she has no organic disease, no pain, no visible malady of any kind. With all the advantages my wealth affords, she is miserable, has no appetite, and feels no disposition to engage in any of our fashionable amusements.”

“Have you a billiard room attached to your establishment?”

"No. I have neglected to have one fitted up for the purpose."

"Ah! I see. So madam has to suffer for your negligence."

"What mean you, Monsieur le Doctor?"

"Can you not see? Your wife is suffering from lowness of spirits, induced from some buried grief."

"Mon Dieu! it must be so; we buried a favorite daughter, upon whom my wife doted, twelve months ago to-day."

"She remains in the house and has no relish for society; divides her time in reading dismal books and reclining on the fauteuil; takes no exercise, and is not at home to visitors."

"Monsieur le Doctor is an astrologer. It is all true, but how am I to blame."

"Never mind. Now for the cure. Go at once and fit up the best apartment in your house as a billiard room; let her engage in the game, she will soon become fond of it. Yes, Monsieur, billiards is the only medicine I will prescribe for Madame. With exercise will come appetite, appetite will soon exorcise this nervous debility with which your wife is troubled; that once removed, Madame will recover her spirits and become what she was before her loss, an ornament to society, and more than ever a treasure to the domestic circle."

"Monsieur le Doctor, your words are pearls—they have made me quite happy; I will go at once and do your bidding. Adieu!"

Three months later the worthy Doctor received the following missive, with a cheque enclosed, for 5,000 francs: "Chere Docteur—Thanks to your prescription, I have entirely recovered my health and spirits. Accept the enclosed souvenir from your grateful

EUGENIE HOGUET."

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GAME.

The game of Billiards differs from all other games in every single element which contributes its integral portion towards the formation of a harmonious whole.

The game of Whist, one of the most, if not the most beautiful and accomplished games known, and upon which various treatises have been written, is at best a game of chance. True, application, a good memory and long practice have their influence in inducing a certain success, but to command entire success, a great deal depends upon the cards dealt out to the respective partners. Without fair hands, the best players seldom or never command success.

The game of Chess, said by many adepts at both, to be superior to Whist, depends on a thorough knowledge of the game, a good memory, good calculation, some scientific proficiency and a world of practice to induce complete success. These two games are simply selected as a medium of contrast to that of Billiards, because they stand highest in the scale of excellence, and because they are among the few which do not lead to gambling in polite circles.

Euchre, All Fours, Monte, Faro, and sundry others, are essentially gambling games, and as such are irrelevant in this connection.

One of the primary elements in the game of Billiards, is first to understand how the balls are manipulated, and how much they count towards making up the number of points necessary to complete the game. The next step is to know how to strike your ball, the force required in delivering it in the right direction, and the particular point of the ball at which the cue shall strike it, so as to command its performance as the player may desire. Then follows practice

skill, science, mathematical calculations, geometrical deductions, &c. Taste, precision, nerve, &c., follow as a general sequence. The crowning advantage, however, of this game above that of all others is the immense physical benefits it offers in the way of healthful exercise. The game of Billiards may truthfully be said to be a scientific gymnasium, affording a real pleasure, an intellectual recreation, a pleasant way of employing time which cannot be so agreeably employed otherwise, by those who are required not to engage in sedentary pursuits. Add to this, it is not a game of chance; it never can be, as the superior player invariably triumphs over the weaker adversary, notwithstanding the chances which the game affords, by the natural impetus of the balls, reaching, bounding and rebounding to and from the cushions, may give either adversary. Knowing and feeling this, the ambition to excel becomes literally epidemic with the players, and the pleasurable excitement is intense. As an evidence of the exhilarating and delightful effects of this game to invalids, it is recorded that hypocondriacs and persons suffering with bilious and even pulmonary disorders, have gradually recovered from their maladies by indulging in the game, where private tables afford them the opportunity.

In speaking of the philosophy of the game, the aim of the journalist should not be to laud one game at the expense of another, to gratify a liking for the one and a prejudice against the other; but to show that any game, to satisfy all the requirements and avoid all the dangers of a public or a private amusement, should contain within itself the following indispensable prerequisites: It should exercise and discipline the faculties and resources, both of mind and body, without exhausting or disgusting either; and in the second place it should contain within itself sufficient mental excitement and ambition to render the intrinsic interests of a money bet superfluous to its full enjoyment. Experience has shown that these requisites are fully attained in the game of Billiards. It combines science with gymnastics, teaching the eye to judge of distances, the mind to calculate forces, and the arm to execute with rapidity and skill whatever the mind and eye combine to dictate for its execution. It expands the chest, while giving grace and elegance to the form, and affords even to the illiterate mind a practical basis for the appreciation of mathematical and geometric truth.

As regards the action of the game on the muscular anatomy of man; according to the best opinions of anatomists, there are in the neighbourhood of four hundred muscles in the human body, and that beauty of person and health are measureably dependent upon their proper action. The game of Billiards calls into action each and every one of the sinews, tendons, joints, and muscles of the frame. In walking, striking, posturing, stretching, stooping and leaning back, the requirements of an ordinary game place the player in almost every conceivable attitude, thus imparting grace and elasticity to the body, while the exercise of the muscles increases its strength.

HOW TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

The art of playing billiards must be taught by practical experience, but a student may, himself, (or herself) save months of laborious investigation and experiment, by learning thoroughly, beforehand, the principles of the science which is afterwards to be mastered and practised as an *art*, for billiards comprehends both art and science in the variety and extent of its many phases.

FIRST STEPS—POSITION—THE BRIDGE—STROKE—USEFUL HINTS.

First, as to position: a very important matter, for on it depends, in no small degree, steadiness and accuracy of play.

A right-handed player should stand well and firmly on the right leg, with the left leg in advance. Before striking you must be careful to assume an

easy attitude. When "strength" or extra force is required, remember that the body should be lowered somewhat in a stooping position, and the distance of the length of bridge in taking aim a little longer; then draw the cue three or four times briskly backwards and forwards, before striking, in order to make sure of the aim as exemplified in the illustration here given.



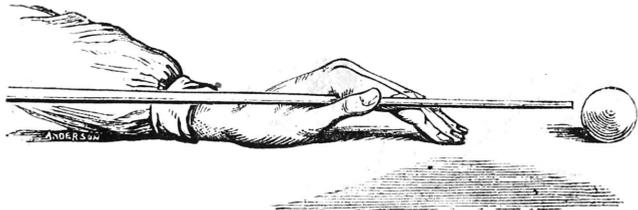
EASY OR ORDINARY POSITION.

Attention to the proper attitude, or position, of the student is urgently recommended; it is indeed quite essential to insure success, for without a steady and easy position no one can ever become an accomplished player.

THE BRIDGE.

Too much attention can hardly be paid to the important preliminary of forming a bridge

First lay the left hand flat on the table; then draw the fingers (which must be kept straight) towards the wrist, which will cause the knuckles of the hand to be elevated; care must be taken also that the tips of the fingers, the wrist, and the ball of the thumb touch the table. The thumb must be a little apart from the fingers at the top, so as to form a good groove for the cue to rest in, as shown here.



THE BRIDGE.

The distance of the bridge from the ball should be about six inches. It is a great fault with some players that they make their bridge too long; some lay the hand almost flat, while others double their fingers under the palm of the hand, or play through the two forefingers. These imperfect bridges offer great impediments to good play. The bridge must, at all events, not be made in a cramped manner.

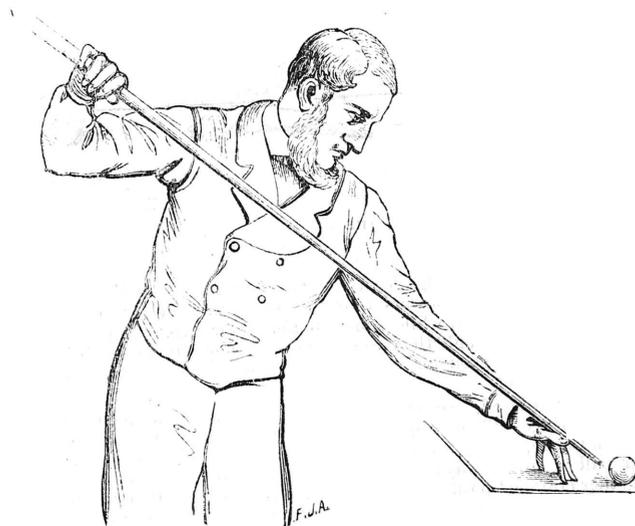
Good play, indeed, requires that certain modifications should be used in forming the bridge. There are proper methods of making these: for instance, in the high stroke, when the striker's ball lies close under a cushion; or when another ball is in the way; or when your ball is close to a pocket; and in the case of other cramped positions. The illustration on page 10 shows the position of the bridge for the high twist, and the attitude for slow recoil.

Practice will, however soon enable the learner to ascertain the proper method for modifying the bridge in the cases above indicated.

THE STROKE.

The next point after making a proper bridge is to know how to strike your own and the object-ball. Having ascertained the position of the object-ball, and what you have to do with it, look at your own ball, and make up your mind as to the exact spot whereon to strike with the cue; next let your glance be rapid from your ball to the object ball, and then let it rest until after the stroke. Do not, however, linger in making your stroke, because, if you do, your eyes will only wander from one ball to the other, and so confuse the sight. Quickness and judgment on this matter will be attained by practice; by it the mind, the hand, and the eye will be trained in sympathy, and will obey each other on the first impulse. This is one of the chief secrets of success at billiards, and is of far more practical importance to the player than any knowledge of geometry. Your hold of the cue must be at the balance,—that is, a few inches from the butt, so that it may touch the centre of the hand; the thumb and fingers should have a fair but firm and easy grasp, which will

require several modifications according to the stroke. The fancy style of holding the cue with the fingers and thumb only should be avoided ; also that gimcrack style of turning in the wrist, affected by many would-be players, who confidently assume an imposing position, but really accomplish nothing. A great deal of "style" is at times assumed even by some professional players who entertain a high opinion of themselves and their play ; but this kind of affectation has been adopted since they became somewhat of players, not when they were learners.



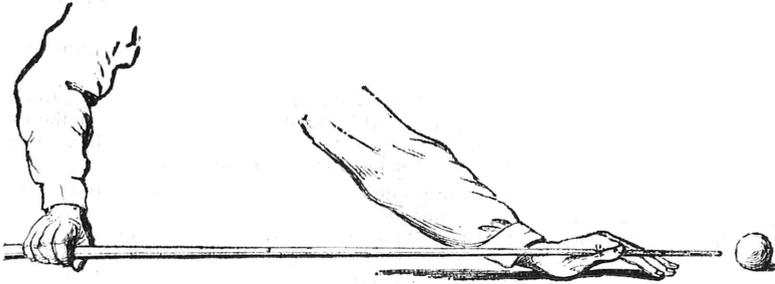
POSITION OF BRIDGE FOR HIGH TWIST.—(See page 9.)

The proper position for the cue is as nearly horizontal as possible in all simple strokes, so as to just clear the cushion ; of course considerable modification will be required for the various kinds of strokes. As to the turning in of the wrist, I maintain that the proper way is to keep the arm parallel with, and as near to, the side as is consistent, so that the cue shall be exactly under the elbow, or at right angles with it, as here exemplified.

By this method the back of the hand will be perpendicular to the table, and not horizontal with it, as is sometimes seen with awkward players.

The cue should be drawn back about six inches, more or less according to the strength required, and then the blow struck with a confident, steady, firm impetus, delivered with the whole arm from the elbow and wrist ; all other delivery of the cue is more or less a "jerk," which should be avoided, as it is

diametrically opposed to the right way. Do not elevate, depress, or move the cue sideways in the act of striking, as by so doing you must necessarily strike your ball at a different point to that which your judgment prescribes as the best.



SHOWING PROPER POSITION OF CUE, HAND, AND ARM.

I cannot impress too seriously upon the mind of the pupil the necessity of acting closely up to the above important directions. In order to obtain a free, flowing, easy, and precise stroke, play one ball only to a certain spot, or up and down the table, trying how many times you can make it travel, increasing the strength of the blow gradually. Continue this kind of practice till you are confident that you can send the ball at the desired point.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME.

A *hazard* is made by driving the ball into any of the pockets; a *winning hazard*, by pocketing your adversary's or either of the red-balls; a *losing hazard* is when you pocket your own ball by your own act.

A *carom*—a word derived from the French *carombolage*—is when you hit one or more balls on the table with your own.

When the ball you play with strikes another ball more than once at the same stroke it is called a *kiss*.

“*Scratch*” is a term used to denote a chance success in the game, as for example: the intention of the player, prefigured in his mind, is to make a certain count in a certain way; he plays, and fails to make the desired count, but accident befriends him, and he wins a count without either intending or deserving it.

“*Force*” is when the player's ball retrogrades after coming in contact with another, this is clearly illustrated by striking a cart-wheel, stripped of its fellows, below its centre of gravity—the double tendency to move forward in the direction of the impelling force, and rotate backwards, will at once be perceived.

“*Follow*” is a term used to signify impelling the player's ball with some force against another ball, and make it follow after it.

“*Jump*” is when a ball is forced by a downward stroke to ricochet or leap up from the table, striking a ball, jumping over it and striking a third, thus making a *carom*.

To "bank" is when the player endeavors to make a *carom* by first striking either cushion with his ball, and compelling it to take the direction intended.

"Miscue" is when the cue, either from want of chalk, or being badly handled, slips off the ball without accomplishing the intended stroke.

"Playing for safety" is when a player foregoes a possible advantage in order to leave the balls in such a position that his opponent cannot make a count when it is his turn to play.

"Playing spot ball" is when the player is not limited to the number of times he may pocket either red ball from the spot.

Some tables are made without pockets, upon which the *carom* game is played, a game wherein the player is required with his own ball to strike two other balls on the table before he can score a count; this being effected, he continues to play and add to his scores until he ceases to count.

The above brief outline comprehends the principal points and terms attending the game. As before intimated, application and practice alone can give the player proficiency; but when a knowledge of the game is once attained, correct execution will more or less follow.

The etymology of the word "billiards" is not very satisfactorily given, nor is it significant of the game as at present known. The reason for this is, that no description of the original game, as imported from the East in the eleventh century, has ever been published. According to the ancient orthography, the word is spelled *balyard*, which being composed of ball and yard signifies *ball-stick*, but it will be perceived this refers only to the cue, or instrument used to impel the ball. The modern French word is *billiard*, spelled and pronounced the same as in the English, with a broader stress upon the last syllable, the signification being a ball table, which approximates nearer a correct definition, but does not describe the game.

BILLIARDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Cavaliers who settled Virginia, and the Hollanders, who were the early inhabitants of Manhattan Island, (the progenitors of old Knickerbocker stock,) were the first to introduce the Game of Billiards into this country; and subsequently the Huguenots, who settled in South Carolina, and the Spanish under De Soto, who settled in St. Augustine, Florida.

The game, as then introduced, differed a little from the primitive game of ancient time. The subsequent improvements made at long intervals, were simply greater care and finish used in manufacturing the tables, the domestic article being rude in construction, with timber beds and stuffed cushions, the cue used being a tapering stick without any leather tip. It was not until the spring of 1823 that one Monsieur Mingot, a professional billiard player of Paris, invented the leather tip, and even then no theoretical deduction suggested to him the wonderful phenomena that would result from the apparently unimportant change, but he is entitled to credit for the boldness with which he pursued his chance discovery to its legitimate conclusion. In the fall of the same year the tips were imported into this country, Mr. Otis Field, a well known and esteemed citizen of New York, being the first to apply and use them. In 1824 James Watson Webb, then a lieutenant in the United States navy, introduced them in Detroit, Michigan, creating quite a consternation there amongst professional players by his dexterous play with a leather tip cue.

THE PLAYERS.

It has been remarked, that at various periods in Europe, emperors, kings, queens, princes, courtiers, and men and women of the highest literary distinction were competitors in the game. In the United States, beginning with and

just preceding the Revolutionary War, we find that the most distinguished generals were patrons of the game. The Father of his country, the illustrious Washington, while the cares of a new born nation rested upon him, was accustomed to refresh his mind, weary from the toils of his exalted station, with the fascinating enjoyments of the game. Lafayette, Montgomery, Wayne, Warren, Putnam, Pulaski, Marion, and Moultrie were also known to be lovers of this noble game. Among our distinguished statesmen we find the names of Hamilton, Jay, Burr, Morris, Madison, Munroe, Jefferson, Patrick Henry and John Quincy Adams, who were not only patrons of the game, but were considered capital players.

At a later day, we find several governors and politicians of note, and men who rank high in the law, literature and science, availing themselves, during their leisure, of the keen enjoyment afforded by this delightful game; and as before remarked, no respectable private establishment, who can afford the luxury, is now considered complete without its billiard room. Elegant public Billiard Temples may be found in various parts of the city, and also in every principal city in the Union. In New York alone there are 10,000 Billiard Tables, exclusive of a large number in private residences.

BILLIARDS IN THE HOME CIRCLE—MEDICALLY CONSIDERED.

BY DR. MARCY, OF NEW YORK.

Nothing contributes more to the physical, moral, and intellectual development and healthfulness of a community than suitable recreation. Man is made up of a great variety of organs and faculties, all destined to perform certain functions, and a proper exercise and development of them is essential to the highest degree of health and usefulness. This vital fact is not duly appreciated by the American people. In all parts of our country the chief end of life appears to consist in the acquisition of riches; and all the faculties of the mind, yea, even health itself, are rendered subservient to this object. In our large cities, especially, violations of laws of health are almost universal. The amount of recreation and amusement indulged in by our professional, literary, and business men is entirely inadequate to secure that degree of physical and mental vigor which properly belongs to them. Scarcely a man of them can examine carefully the moral tabernacle in which his soul dwells, without finding some derangement, some source of pain, depression of spirits, or other annoyance.

We claim that a large portion of these evils are due to excessive devotion to business, and to a neglect of those mental and physical diversions which conduce so materially to health and happiness. On returning home from business, our citizens indulge in rich dinners, with vinous and other potations; after the meal is ended, a majority of them mope over their evening journals, ponder upon the prices of merchandise, stock, and the profits and losses of the day, and then retire to an unrefreshing sleep, with a stomach full of rich viands and exciting stimulants, and a mind compressed with perplexing cares and thoughts of business. Another portion pass a large part of the night at crowded parties, balls, theatres, clubs, and late suppers, and call this recreation. But is the inhalation for hours in succession of a poisonous atmosphere,

or an indulgence in game suppers, punches, wines, ices, and other abominations at two or three o'clock in the morning, and then going from heated apartments with open pores into a cold atmosphere—in sober reality, *amusing* or conducive to health or morals? Let the next morning's headache, nausea, and mental and bodily lassitude, which even Seltzer water fails to remove, answer: Later, let the sallow skin, the dyspeptic stomach, the torpid liver, the shaky nerves, and the blue devils, respond to the query. Later still, let apoplexy, paralysis, softening of the brain, or Bright's disease, give the final answer.

What, then, can be suggested as suitable modes of recreation? How can we present that exercise and diversion to both mind and body which will result in recruiting them from the perplexing toils and cares of business? We answer, by directing the thoughts and the muscles into new and agreeable channels; by taking the mind from care, anxiety, and severe application, and diverting it by pleasurable exercise and excitement; by setting aside disagreeable and depressing emotions, and substituting in their place those which are cheerful and exhilarating; by giving to the dormant muscles of the limbs and of the whole body that gentle and healthful exercise which they so much require, but of which they are deprived in the ordinary avocations of city life.

One of the modes by which these desirable objects may be accomplished is to introduce into private houses a *Billiard Table*, and to present it to the entire family—men, women, and children—as a means of daily exercise and recreation. The most indolent and stupid will, by practice, soon acquire a fondness for the game; and the improvements in the salutary condition of those who habitually indulge in it, will commend it in the strongest manner to the heads of families.

We also advocate the game of billiards in families from a moral as well as salutary point of view. *Young America is naturally "frisky," naturally enthusiastic, exuberant, and fond of excitement and fun. Confine him in the house without diversion and excitement, and he mopes, sulks, pines, and sooner or later, breaks from wholesome parental restraints, and instinctively seeks for amusements, excitements, and pleasures elsewhere—at the club, the play house, the restaurant, and too often the gambling-hell and brothel.* These natural instincts for diversion may be directed in such a manner by parents as to be productive of positive physical, moral and intellectual benefit, by investing home with a few of the attractions which beckon them elsewhere. Give them comfortable billiard rooms and billiard tables, so that body and mind can be amused and invigorated, and the attractions and pleasures of home will be superior to those beyond its boundaries.

Billiards is a mathematical game, and affords scope and exercise for those faculties which discipline and strengthen the mind. A steady hand, a clear head, quick perceptions, and a pleasant exercise of the calculating powers, are the requisites for an accomplished billiard player. The practical development of these qualities must naturally be productive of good results.

The game of billiards was invented in France. The name is derived from *Bille*, a ball.

Charles IX. of France married Elizabeth of Austria in 1570, and the wedding was signalized by the serving up at the table of the first turkeys ever seen in France.

A year after this event, and a year before the death of this young queen, the game of billiards was invented by Henricque De Vigne, a French artist, in 1571. The new game became immediately popular at the French Court, and was soon known to the Germans, the Dutch, Italians, and the various nations of Europe. Burton, the author of the "Anatomy of Melancholy," mentions billiards among the fifteen popular "winter recreations" in vogue in England

at the end of that century. Of some other amusements he thus speaks : " Cards, dice, hawkes and hounds, are rocks upon which men loose themselves when they are improperly handled and beyond their fortunes," Hunting and hawking he regards as " honest recreations, and fit for some great men, but not for every base or inferior person ;" for " while they maintain their faulkoner, and dogs, and hunting nags, their wealth runs away with their hounds, and their fortunes fly away with the hawkes."

In more recent times various improvements have been made in the construction of billiard tables. Tables made of slate were introduced into England in 1827. The skill of home manufacturers now leaves nothing further to be desired.

A few months ago we purchased of Messrs. Phelan & Collender a billiard table, and installed it in one of our large upper rooms, as a household fixture ; and we can truly say, that it has contributed vastly to the health and pleasure of the entire family. Hundreds of times when we have looked upon the happy and excited faces of those engaged in the game, and when personally participating in the exhilarating recreation, we have been profoundly grateful to Messrs. Phelan & Collender for their praiseworthy efforts in endeavouring to nationalize and render popular this delightful game. If those who ameliorate the ills of life, and add to the sum of human happiness, are public benefactors, then the gentlemen to whom we have just alluded are entitled to the appellation.

BILLIARDS AS A PASTIME.

From the Metropolitan Record.

We know of no game deservedly so popular as that of billiards. Affording healthy exercise as well as amusement, it has attained a position in public favor which time, that plays sad havoc with other recreations, only serves to strengthen. And yet no game has had so much to contend against in the assaults to which it has been subjected from the pharisaical and the sanctimonious. The Puritanical missionaries, in their efforts to reduce society to the dreary and gloomy monotony of their own wretched existence, have devoted special attention to this innocent and attractive pastime. It has been, and still is, denounced as one of the abominations that is sapping the foundations of the social system, and undermining the morals of the rising generation. True to their narrow conceptions of right and wrong, they refuse to regard it apart from the associations by which, like other games, it is sometimes beset ; and through the very vehemence of their opposition, they materially aided, for a time, by the false and silly prejudice thus engendered, in confining it almost exclusively to a particular portion of the community. But that time has gone by, and the game of billiards is now, as we have intimated, firmly established in public favor. It has, after a hard-fought battle, won the victory against overwhelming odds, and the Chadbands - the Aminadab Sleeks - have been beaten ignominiously from the field of conflict. Their weapons have been shivered to pieces in the combat ; their strongest arguments have gone down before the terrific onsets of the invincible cue, and their best constructed fortifications have been riddled by the irresistible balls. To-day " the noble game," as it has been justly termed, stands higher in public estimation than ever, and is rapidly superseding many others that have heretofore formed the exclusive entertainment of a large portion of the community. Nor is this to be wondered at, now that the game is being more generally understood and its true character more thoroughly appreciated. The healthy exercise it affords to the body, as well as the attractive interest which it never fails to arouse in those who have once become acquainted with it, commends it specially as a *salutary*

measure to all those who are engaged in sedentary or literary occupations. Its value in this respect can be hardly over-estimated, and the fact that billiard tables are considered as essential in all well-regulated households that can afford such a source of never-failing amusement to *all* its members, young and old, speaks well not only for the game itself, but for the taste by which it is approved and encouraged. We know of few things more truly agreeable than a family party engaged in the game of billiards, as participants and spectators. The absorbing interest with which its progress is watched, the struggle of skill for the mastery, the exhibition of character in the methods and styles of the players, the close calculation required in the "making" of shots, the movements and relative positions of the balls, their diverse action under the influence of the perpendicular, the jump, the follow, the centre, and the force strokes, the new use and interpretation which it has given to words, the set phrases known only to the initiated, and which are full of mystery to the unlearned,—all these features are peculiar to billiards, and give it a varied interest which, we believe, no other game possesses. We do not believe there is a man so phlegmatic for whom it has no attractions, or one who, having become acquainted with its rules, could fail to be interested in the progress of a well and skilfully played game. We have seen the most apathetic temperaments roused up to a degree of enthusiasm while watching a sharply contested match between two rival players, that we hardly considered possible.

We are aware of the objections that have been urged against billiards, as affording opportunities for gambling; but what game is free from the same charge? We have read of rival steamboats, freighted with human life, racing for a bet; yet who would think of condemning the propulsion of vessels by steam on that account? It is the abuse, not the use, of a thing, at which these would-be reformers should strike: but in this, as in many other things, a rampant radicalism would strike at its very existence. We can tell these detractors that some of the best men the world has ever seen, not only admired, but played the game; and we would advise all who have the means to do so, and who would enjoy their hours of leisure from the cares of business, particularly of a sedentary kind, to procure a billiard table, and learn and practise the game. It may interest such to know—and none want exercise more—that in one game of billiards a moderate player walks at least a mile, and his mind is so absorbed that he can hardly realize the fact. When it is also borne in mind that every part of the body is in motion, its advantages as a salutary measure will be fully appreciated.

Billiard Tables for English Army Officers.—The British Parliament appropriated no less than £60,000 (or \$300,000) for billiard tables to be supplied to the officers of the army, at their various barracks throughout the world. The argument urged was, that British officers were very badly paid, and therefore ought to have the means of amusement afforded them as a relaxation from their arduous duties, and as a preventative from their seeking excitement and recreation at other places, and in more objectionable ways. Billiards is another British institution, and the game is indulged in by everybody, not excepting the clergymen of the Established Church.

A Word to the Ladies.—To the ladies a word is due. Nothing can be more admirably adapted for all that appertains to flirtation than billiards; and the game should therefore not be omitted from the already extensive catalogue of modern accomplishments. Amongst the fair sex there have been many really sound players, of whom none attained greater celebrity than Madame de Stael and the late Duchess de Berri. As a medium for exercise, especially to invalids, nothing can be more beneficial than regular practice; and no house of pretension should be without a billiard table.—*London Society.*

BILLIARDS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES.

Referring to the billiard table as a means of healthful exercise, especially for scholars and other persons of sedentary habits, a physician attached to a private academy in one of the Western States, writes: "I carefully observed for several months the powerfully strengthening effects of this peculiar exercise, and was much surprised to note the benefits to those possessing weak and defective structures. So marvellous have been the results in many cases where disease has become almost *chronic*, that I could scarcely comprehend such wonderful results in so short a time. This exercise, so efficacious in driving disease from the human system, has been thoroughly tested and has proven a permanent success, and has the effect of materially assisting the pupils, the work of cultivating the mind being greatly aided by the healthful operations of the functions of the body.

Without exercise, the plan has been *inactivity* of body, and *activity* of the mind; under this system it is equal activity of both, the healthful influence of one, induced by judicious muscular exercise, operating to assist the other.

The motions gone through in the pastime reach every part of the body, and operate upon every portion of the system. They completely dispel languor and inactivity from the frame. The tension of the muscles is tested, and the blood flowing sluggishly in remote and undisturbed portions, is urged and quickened in its circulation by the relaxing and contracting muscles. The brain stimulated into new activity by the lively, bounding current within, and unharrassed by disordered functions of the physical life, comprehends and absorbs with swiftness whatever is presented to its spiritual appetite. Such have been the effects of free billiard exercises, and I hope soon to see them become general in use, as it makes the youth *feel* that he is growing up into a new life of physical strength and activity." It may be stated, in this connection, that there are upwards of a dozen educational institutions and several reformatories throughout the country, where the billiard table is looked upon as an indispensable adjunct. Several of these institutions have two tables, and one in this state has three.

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**MINGOT, THE GREAT FRENCH BILLIARD PLAYER,
AND INVENTOR OF THE CUE LEATHER.**

To the famous Mingot is attributed the invention of the cue leather, such as it now is. But this is not his only title to the fame acquired by him a half century ago, as will be shown by the following anecdote, given in Monsieur Jules Rostaing's preface to the "Manual of Billiards" of M. Desire Lemaire, one of the billiard notabilities of France.

It was at a time, says M. Jules Rostaing, alluding to the revolution of 1798, when it was a rather serious matter for anyone to express certain opinions. Politics led Mingot soon to become a billiard-player of the first water. Nevertheless, I would not advise the reader to follow the same road to reach the summit of the glories of carom.

Before politics led Mingot to acquire the skilfulness for which he was so distinguished, it took him into a state prison. Living as is the custom with prisoners, he soon felt the pangs of sameness and solitude, and hypochondria grew upon him like the spleen of an Englishman. But, singular to say, when the hour of deliverance came, Mingot requested his jailor and the prison director to allow him to remain a few days longer. This director was a man of some good sense in his own way. He thought that as it frequently happened to be a matter of some difficulty to secure the persons of incorrigible conspira-

tors, it would be well to detain this one, since it was his own wish to be detained, and the request was granted. Within another week, however, Mingot desired to be set free, and his jailor opened the prison gates, although not without expressing regret at his departure.

Mingot's friends now discovered the secret of his sudden affection for prison life. He had found there a complete billiard table, which was left at his disposal. After playing upon it, for want of anything better to do, he took a liking for the noble game, which afterwards became his ruling passion. It proved to him the revelation of his vocation. Nature, as was the case with Chamillard, the minister of Louis XIV., had made him that he should become a billiard hero. Maybe, as a minister, he might have been neither better nor worse than Chamillard. The fact is that on the day when he was to have received his pardon and was to have made his exit from the state prison, he was studying and inventing, and on the point of discovering, a new stroke that was to add a remarkable prestige to the game of billiards. And this is why the political prisoner requested a prolongation of his detention. Under lock and key the wings of his celebrity were growing like those of the butterfly in its narrow cell.

What was this remarkable stroke, the discovery of which was more dear to him than the recovery of his liberty? You will soon learn it; and since I have promised an anecdote, let us proceed.

Shortly after emerging from prison, Mingot happened to be at a cafe in one of the southern cities of France, the people of which are known for their bragging propensities. Several times Mingot hears his name pronounced by a gentleman who was telling his friends that while in Paris he had been playing a game with Mingot, whose reputation was fast travelling over the country. He further asserts that he had learned from the new master several remarkable strokes. Mingot casts a look upon the southerner, and, satisfied that he had never met the man before, he sidles up to the table at which the conversation took place. Men soon become acquainted in the south. Scarcely ten minutes had elapsed when Mingot proposed a game, which was eagerly accepted by the gentleman in question. The ivory balls are placed upon the table. Mingot drives carelessly one of the white balls upon the red, as if he were simply trying his cue. But lo! the former, instead of following the latter, returns towards the player after hitting the ball.

"What singular balls those are you have given us!" says Mingot to the waiter, who stood stupefied.

"Why, sir, they are the regular balls."

"What! balls that come back when you push them forward?"

"Is the gentleman sure that he struck the ball?"

"I will try again."

Mingot plays a second time, with the same result.

The waiter was staring at the balls with his mouth as wide open as a pocket, and the people present in the room were overwhelmed.

"Now, I won't play with those balls," says Mingot.

"Nor I either, by Jove!" adds his new friend. "The balls are bewitched, and one must be gifted with immortality to finish a game at that rate."

While these balls are being examined, weighed, turned, and handled in every sense with a certain amount of reluctance and fear, a new set is brought upon the table. These seem to run as usual, and the game begins. But upon the second stroke Mingot's ball returns like the former, and achieves a splendid oarom.

"The devil!" exclaimed the southerner. "There must be hangman's rope for luck in your pocket."

"The dev himself is in it!" says the waiter, fervently crossing himself.

"Stuff!" says Mingot. "Let us finish the game anyhow."

And, thanks to the drawing effect of his cue, which never misses his aim, Mingot scored the twenty points of the game, after his adversary—a good player, by the way—had scored but six.

"Now," said the ex-political prisoner, turning to his new acquaintance, who looked somewhat confused—"now you may tell your friends that you have had a game with Mingot!"

And upon this he left the room, in order to evade an ovation which was in store for him.—*Translated for the Billiard Cue, from "Manuel du Jeu de Billiard," by Desire Lemaire.*

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ANTIQUITY OF BILLIARDS.

INTERESTING RELATIVE FACTS.

The origin of the game of billiards, like the antiquity of Stonehenge, has thus far evaded all investigation. Hitherto, although it was deemed highly probable that the Templars brought it with them on their return from the Holy Land, at the close of the 12th century, the belief has obtained, more particularly in Europe, that it was not known until centuries afterwards, when it was invented by Henri Devigne, a French artist. Shakspeare causes Cleopatra to exclaim: "Charmian, let us to billiards;" but this has been held to be one of the several anachronisms, or antedates, with which "nature's great expositor," stands charged. Yet, were archæology to be closely studied by the students of billiards, we doubt not it would appear that Shakspeare, instead of being guilty of prochronism, committed no error at all, or at least came centuries nearer the real time, in fixing the age of billiards, than the French, who, according to the literary remains of a much earlier epoch than that which witnessed the triumphs of the Cid or the exploits of Richard Cœur de Lion, have perpetrated the equally gross error of parochronism, in making the sixteenth century serve as the birth-time of what Louis the Fourteenth designated "The Noble Game," and what in Germany has been called "The King of Games and the Game of Kings."

In the letter we append, written by a gentleman who up to 1864 occupied the distinguished position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, there is what may be regarded as conclusive evidence that the game of billiards was known prior to A. D. 148; and as Cleopatra lived B. C. thirty years, there is but little latitude for doubt that Shakspeare, who must have been well versed in classic lore—his famous soliloquy, "To be, or not to be," having been taken almost word for word from Plato—found in the earlier authors frequent allusions to billiards. Plutarch, whose "Lives" are reproduced, so to speak, in Shakspeare's works, does not, that we remember, mention billiards. But it is not likely that, had the play been known, he would have referred to it; as he treats mainly, if not wholly, of the important doings and achievements of the ancients. If not in support of the extract from the Abbe McGeorghagan's "History of Ireland," then certainly in proof that billiards was one of the amusements in Europe centuries anterior to the return of the Templars, we have the statement of the late Rev. Archbishop Hughes, who was himself a billiard-player, that he remembered reading in the Confession of St. Augustine, born A. D. 430, an allusion to billiards.

We shall now give the letter of the ex-Chief Justice, which is doubly valuable to the student of billiards, first for the information *per se* that it contains, and next for its tendency to direct the attention of antiquaries to a closer examination into the subject. And as tournaments at billiards and chess, indicating as they do that intellect reigns to-day, have trodden under foot the sanguinary joists of the middle ages, it cannot but awaken the pride of ancestry inherent in the celtic race, to be reminded through the medium of this letter that the intellectual pastime of billiards was, possibly, earliest practised by a people whose pregnant and instructive history the world can now learn only by piece-meal.

OTTAWA, Ill., Jan. 1867.

MICHAEL PHELAN, ESQ.:

Dear Sir: I take the liberty of calling your attention to a passage in the English translation, by O'Reilly, of the Abbe MacGeorghagan's "History of Ireland," page 82, as furnishing pretty authentic evidence that the game of billiards was in use, at least in Ireland, nearly a thousand years before the return of the Knights Templars to Europe from the first crusade, which you give in your admirable work on Billiards as the first authentic date of the introduction of the game into Europe.

Our author on the page referred to, as he says, "merely to show the singular tastes of such early times," gives the substance of the Will of Cathire More, a sub-King of Ireland, who reigned over the district of Leinster, and who died in the year A. D. 148.

I quote: "To Drimoth he bequeathed fifty billiard balls of brass, with the pools and cues of the same material; ten Tric-Tracs, of exquisite workmanship; twelve chess-boards, with chess-men."

By the way, can you inform me what is "Tic-Tac?" Does Dryden refer to it when he says: "Play at tick and lose the Indies"—as we would say, "Play at pin and lose a kingdom," to show a violent contrast?

I confess to feeling much interested in being carried back more than seventeen hundred years and shown the amusements of a people so far removed from the centres of civilization, though undoubtedly more learned and refined than any other of the northern nations. Here we find them practising billiards and chess, which can interest those only of cultivated minds and tastes.

Yours truly,

J. D. CATON.

"Tic-tac"—or "tick-tack" and "trick-track," according to modern orthography—was a game somewhat similar to our backgammon, and played with pins and "men." Dryden undoubtedly refers to this game; and it is more than likely, judging from the comments of contemporaneous writers, that Dryden himself had a practical knowledge of it. Tric-trac is indeed, the French name for backgammon; the Germans also know it by this name; and the Italians call it "Tavola reale," the royal table. It was a favorite diversion of the clergy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; and (we quote from the "American Hoyle," published by Dick & Fitzgerald, of this city), "it is related of Sir Roger de Coverley, of immortal memory, that, wishful to obtain from the University a chaplain of piety, learning, and urbanity, he made it a condition that the candidate should, at least know something of backgammon.—*B. Cue.*

THE AMUSEMENT OF BILLIARDS.

In an editorial article, which appeared at the close of the grand tournament for the championship of Illinois, the *Chicago Times* truly observes that Billiards has assumed a marked prominence in that city, and that, too, among the higher classes. Referring to the tournament, the *Times* says:

“ The lists have been held in one of the most fashionable halls in Chicago ; and the attendance has been large and has included a fair aggregate of the respectability of the city. Among this element were many of the fair sex, who, as in the tourneys of the knights of old, came to grace the occasion by their presence, and to reward the victors with their smiles.

“ Almost every reputable profession in the city has been represented among the spectators. Lawyers, merchants, editors, physicians, and others belonging to similar classes, were in attendance ; and the entire affair was as thoroughly permeated with respectability and decorum as any gathering which ever assembled at the opera house to listen to a production of Gounod, or Verdi, or Ricci.

“ These points as to the character of the attendance are particularized in order that the public may judge of the hold which the amusement of billiards has taken upon the popular esteem. Of all the numerous spectators who have attended, there was scarcely one not an interested, and, in nearly every instance, an enthusiastic observer. Even the lack of familiarity possessed by the lady spectators, did not prevent their becoming close and excited spectators. They watched the play with intense interest, and joined the applause which rewarded a display of superior skill.

“ All this brings us to the fact which we have started to establish, viz., that the game of billiards has assumed a prominence and respectability in this city, which places it high above that class of amusements that is denounced as pernicious by pulpit moralists and by a great many good and well-meaning people. It has taken a position, a prominence, which forbids the attempt to ignore its existence as a healthful and pleasing exercise. In fine, it has become too popular to be put down ; and hence, the only thing remaining to those who oppose it, is, to recognize it and step in and assist in regulating it and preserving its respectability.

“ At annual gatherings of Young Men's Christian Societies, held during the past year, the prominence of the game of billiards has, in several instances, been promptly recognized, and measures have been taken to bring it within the control of the associations. The time is not distant when among the rooms of the various religious organizations of young men, there will be, in the case of each society, one room given up to billiards.

“ We have time and again commented upon the lack of enterprise shown by religious organizations in availing themselves of the influences which, from time to time, originate among the world's people. Here, for instance, is the game of billiards, which attracts by its elegant fascinations the attention and some portion of the time of three-fourths of the young men in every city. Now, why do not religious organizations at once seize upon this power, and use it in their own interests. Young men will play billiards ; and if they cannot find tables outside of disreputable places they will hunt them there, sooner than not have them at all. Let moralists who wish to engage this force of young men, erect tables for them at other places.

“ But the day is past when an argument is needed in favour of the game of billiards as a healthful and elevating amusement. It has won its way through all classes, until to-day, when the exception in society is found among those who either do not play, or who believe it to be pernicious.”

THE KING OF GAMES.

In Europe, billiards has for centuries been called the game of Kings. In this country, it is regarded as the King of games. Though practised by all classes, it is eminently the pastime of the gentleman. Says one of the leading journals at the West :

“Times have indeed bravely altered since that day, not, even now, very long past, when billiards was a game to be played in the garret, behind closed doors, and when all outside mention of the game was to be made in a whisper. Fifteen years ago, and among the steady-going people of the land, billiards was but a species of gambling. For a youth to engage in its mysteries would be to incur something worse than a parental frown—at school or at college it was ground for expulsion, and in business, was proof positive that the young tyro was on his downward course. The days of this *regime* have passed, however, and billiards, like many another pastime tabooed of Puritanism, has taken its place among the healthful, intellectual, invigorating, and “gentlemanly” games of the land.

“Regarded by itself alone, and separated from all other surroundings, there is something in the polished, richly-carved tables, the judicial green baize covers, the round glossy balls, and average demeanour of the players which is attractive. To a person of any refinement, billiard-rooms are no places for brawls and disturbances. The movements which the playing of the game demands are not of the violent order, but one, for the most part, of a gentle, graceful, dignified nature, such as ladies even could not object to. The loud collision of balls and their occasional bouncing from the table to the floor are but the evidences that the player is a beginner, or that he was not cut out for a genuine billiard-player, and uniformly disappear as he advances in proficiency. There is no more pleasant and wildly exciting scene than a match-game of billiards between two masters of the art. The game is of such a nature—it is all before the eye, one can grasp it all at a glance, can at any time know the exact situation—as to be of scarcely less interest to the spectator than to the participant. There is something in the soft click of the balls as manipulated by a skilful player—in the skill with which scattered balls are brought together, in the “nursing” of them after they are thus secured—which, while forbidding any boisterous applause, yet provokes the most intense interest in the game. Indeed, the excitement caused by a scientific game of billiards, though necessarily suppressed in its expression, is scarcely less to player or spectator than that of the most hazardous game of chance.

“Billiards is a game susceptible of constant improvements; at least it has been, during its past history. There are many, no doubt, who have seen the uncouth pictures of the game and the tables as they were a hundred years ago. The three-cornered tables, with their board surfaces and hard unyielding cushions—if they deserved to be called cushions—were such as would make the player of to-day weep with vexation. Contrast these with the elegantly-fashioned tables of the present day, with the firm slate bed, with surface so deadened that the motion of the ball across the table produces no perceptible noise, with the nicely-adjusted cushions, whose reaction, both in direction and force, one may calculate to a fraction, and which alone of all surfaces may be said to have realized in practice the truth of the theory that action and reaction are equal, or that the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.

“The game is a fascinating, a captivating game. What else would keep the player who has just finished his sport still at the table, “punching” the balls around, trying all sorts of experiments, reviewing his late game, trying where he could have improved it, and framing schemes for the next trial. What else would induce the *amateur* to snatch a half an hour from his business, to rush to the billiard-room, “just to play one game?” What else could so have taken hold of all ranks and conditions of society? And what else could have induced our dainty ladies, with their keen perception of the graceful and the refined, to brave the edict of society and favour it with their countenance? There is no doubt that it is captivating—indeed, if it has a fault, it is most too captivating.

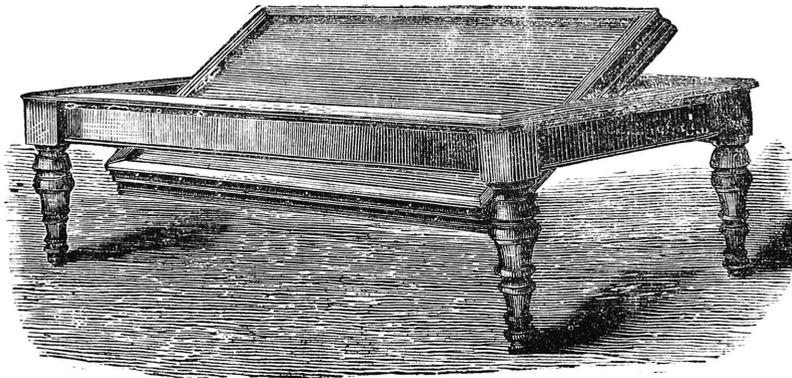
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Arranged to present the correct height, either for dining or playing on.
When placed in position can be altered to either purpose in one minute.

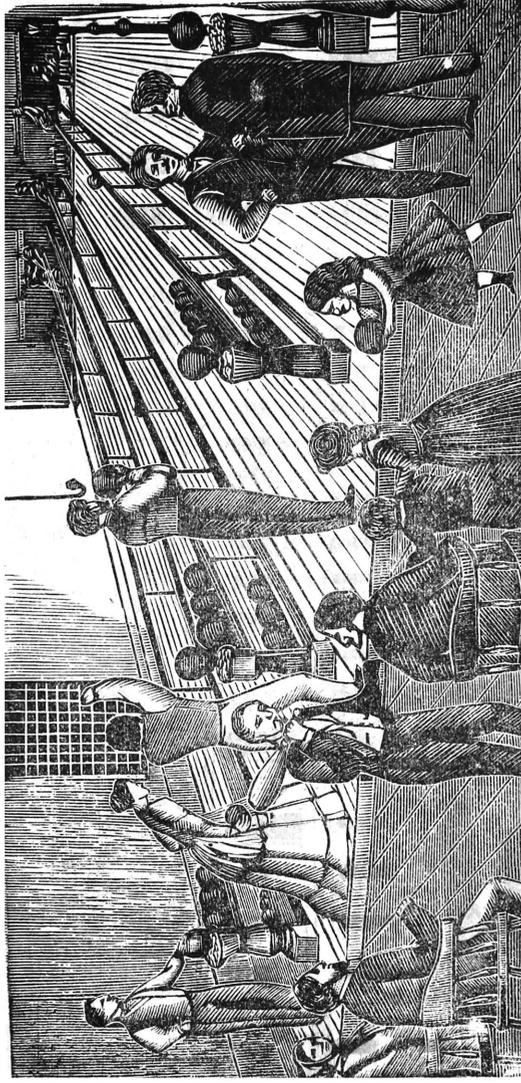


A BILLIARD TABLE in a private house is an appreciable luxury. The above engraving illustrates an ingenious piece of mechanism, recently introduced to the public, and known as the "**Combined Dining and Billiard Table.**" In it the useful is combined with the agreeable and entertaining. It is intended solely for the use of families, and may be used either as a **Dining Table**, a **Library Table** or a **Billiard Table**. It will be found admirably adapted for dwellings and offices in which there is not space for a full-sized or regular Billiard Table. To those (and their name is legion) who would have Billiard Rooms in their dwellings, could they spare the space which the ordinary Billiard Table requires, the **Combined Dining and Billiard Table** is recommended. Many who have before been denied the pleasure, can now play Billiards. Without taking up more space than the ordinary dining table, it may be used as a **Dining Table**, a **Library Table** or a **Billiard Table**. The legs are made to unscrew, so that the Table can be packed for shipping in a small case. Each Table is fitted with our Patent Levelling Castor. Size, 8 ft. x 4 ft. 8 inches; polished Black Walnut. PRICE—\$150.00.

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