

# BILLIARDS.

## THE GAME IN ST. LOUIS.

What the Gamblers are Doing for Themselves and Others.

It was telegraphed from St. Louis to the Eastern press a few days ago that Jacob Schaefer was going to leave that city and locate in business in Chicago in consequence of the billiard business being so out with competition in St. Louis that billiards commanded but twenty cents per hour there. Inside of two years four large rooms have been opened in St. Louis, and from fifteen to twenty tables remain in operation from fifteen to twenty tables remain in operation...

It seems a little singular that the law of supply and demand should not receive more consideration in the leading cities of this country in respect to billiards. There are few cities in the United States, with perhaps the exception of New York and Philadelphia, that have not suffered from the same disease now common to the cities of having too many billiard rooms. This affliction or disease first started in this country more than half a generation ago, when Boston capitalists invested tens of thousands of dollars in the city which resulted in such a financial billiard crash that the prices there were reduced to from sixty to thirty and forty cents per hour.

This naturally started the room-keepers of America, for in those days the standard price of billiards was from sixty to seventy-five cents per hour for the use of tables. Boston has been for many years past a leading center for the manufacturing of billiard tables, there being not less than three large manufacturing establishments there to-day with Eastern or New York representatives or rival houses to fight the Bostonians, if not on Bunker Hill, at least on the Bostonians' battle ground.

Wherever there are many manufacturers it is almost certain that the supply of billiard rooms will be vastly more than the demand, New York alone being the single exception to the rule. There is, however, in New York in this country, doctors, dressers, artists, air-grabbers, speculators, bookmakers and gamblers have dreamed their dream in their fifty hour after creating other cities into modern New York, as Richelieu created France, but the would-be Richelieu billiardists went on until they had created a dreamer, a theorist, an air-grabber, a speculator, a bookmaker or a gambler.

It is doubtful if there are more than half the number of rooms in New York to-day that could have been found there twelve or fifteen years ago, and while the rooms have decreased in number their general standing in dignity and tone will compare favorably with any of the rooms there during the past quarter of a century. At all events the one thing which New Yorkers will not do is to lower their price, and in this respect the New York room-keepers are entitled to the highest respect for maintaining their prices which simply means clinging to the dignity of their establishments, for no first-class room-keeper worthy of the name will for a moment institute that billiards should be played in any leading room for less than sixty cents per hour. This, we believe, has been the universal price in New York rooms from time immemorial, and when we consider the exorbitant rents which New Yorkers have to pay the wonder is that billiards can be played so cheaply in that city.

There is no place in the West that we are aware of where they charge sixty cents per hour for the use of tables, and yet it is a question if the rents and general expenses all through that country are not as high as in New York. In Chicago, which city probably contains more fine rooms than any other in this country, the average price is fifty cents per hour. This is a fair charge, but a fair charge only, and while it is possible for a room-keeper to make a good living at such figures, it is only possible for him to make money in the event of having a great run of trade, which is not likely to happen to any one room-keeper in Chicago to any marked degree any more than to the other, for the reason that there are probably two tables there where there should be but one, which competition must necessarily make all of the rooms as a rule first-class, or certainly such rooms as have to depend on billiards for a revenue. There must be many rooms there, it is true, where the revenue comes from other sources or channels, all of which may be of benefit to the public in keeping such rooms in first-class condition.

This, however, is but poor consolation to the proprietor when he comes to balance up his books, for the inexorable fact will stare him in the face that if he wants to entertain his patrons for fifty cents per hour when he should get sixty, the patrons and the room-keeper must be satisfied with the result under the circumstances. To St. Louis, however, must be given the first honors for marked or conspicuous originality in the question of prices. There has probably been no other instance in the calling during the past quarter of a century that did not come under our observation. We have known billiard tables to have been pawned by those who never owned them, we have known less than forty or fifty tables for the use of tables with...

By making one man do two men's and a woman's work, as well as work six days and one day the week and all day Sunday in order that the advocate of cheap prices might be able to make both ends meet, but it remains alone for St. Louis room-keepers to stamp out the pestilence in the world as the cities of men in the calling in this country who haven't enough sense to permit themselves to run around loose with any degree of safety.

For a long time past the gambling element has been a part as prominent as it has been disgraceful in St. Louis billiards. We do not know whether there are any men engaged in the calling there who are not gamblers. The probabilities are that there are many worthy and reputable room-keepers in that city, but the most respected are not among those who open large rooms for mere speculation, and when their folly confronts them in the face try to get even by ruining others by lowering the price of billiards to twenty cents an hour. This is not only the gambler's curse and simple, but it is the lesson of Judas over again, who took the thirty pieces of silver for betraying his Master. It is to be regretted that the St. Louis room-keepers who lowered their prices to twenty cents an hour did not take any other steps, as did Judas when he discovered his infamy.

To return to Schaefer, however, is it any wonder that he is anxious to fly from so pest-ridden a city? This expert seems to be undecided as to where to locate. There is but one city where Schaefer should locate in and that is New York. To think of locating in Chicago, which would simply mean the opening of another large room there, would be the worst of folly, while to open a room or go into business in Boston would be as bad as the Chicago venture and worse than remaining in St. Louis. There is nothing in the history of Boston billiards calculated to give Schaefer to understand that a location there would be professionally profitable to him.

The one thing which Schaefer should understand now is that he occupies a position which is exceedingly delicate, if not dangerous. Most of the romances of his wonderfully romantic life have ceased to be attractive as a romance. The public has heard so much of Schaefer and his wonderful exploits as a master of the one during the past ten or twelve years that he is no longer a novelty. Had Schaefer been a judicious business man during all those years he might now be financially independent; not having been such it is a question if he is in a position to dictate terms as to his future movements. Schaefer is less in demand to-day than ever before. In his history is but history, and that the billiard world can get along without Schaefer very much better than Schaefer can get along without the billiard world is not only the sign but the verdict of the times. Under such circumstances Schaefer should open a first-class room in New York City, where there is a field for him, and realize the fact that sooner or later Jacob Schaefer will have to depend on Jacob Schaefer for a living.

NEW YORK NOTES.  
The Local Pool Tournament—Harry McKenna's Fate—A New Ball—Proposals Being Fulfilled, Etc.

NEW YORK, April 12.—Editor SPORTING LIFE:—The pool tournament at Keyser & Garraty's room has now been on for more than a week, but without working itself into cognizable shape. The handicaps have made the final outcome a puzzle. Derby, as measured by the handicapper, is only the third strongest player, and yet he defeated handsuming his first three antagonists, while Waterman, the seventh (30) man, started by vanquishing Judson (40), but immediately succumbed to Ich Bau, the lightest weight (35) of the lot. The second heaviest of the weight-carriers is French (60), who has been second in point of success to Derby (55), having defeated two out of his first three opponents. The interest in the affair is heightened by the rebuffs it has administered to the Nassau street prophets. The ailment ascribed to Harvey McKenna has set me ruminating over the large number of professionals who in my time, to go no farther back, have died of consumption. It must sound like a startling paradox, but John McDevitt and Robert T. Ryall, had they lived, would also have died of consumption. They precluded the otherwise inevitable by dying early and in unexpected ways. It is said that McKenna has consumption. This may be a correct diagnosis or only a hasty conclusion. He looked like anything but a consumptive when I last saw him, fifteen months ago, but he has been an invalid for many years. So severely has he suffered from rheumatism that in view of the seat of it, I have often wondered how he could have the patience to stand up and try to master the "rail." Oftentimes his thigh would be so swollen that play was out of question. Physically unfitted ever to become a general and great billiard player, he certainly deserves credit for the assiduity with which he prosecuted one branch of it, which made him formidable "along the rail." Of late years he has had this field all his own. The seeming nervousness that im-

paired his efforts as a match player has doubtless been due to defective heart action, an accompaniment of rheumatism. Rest and care may tone up his blood, and make him a well man again.

The authorities have this week again paid their respects to the pool-rooms of Wm. Lovell and Reginald Levin. The former was long the owner and driver of the famous trotter American Girl, who fifteen years ago fell dead on the track at Elmira, N. Y. Mr. Levin, a son of a veteran New York journalist, is the owner of the diamond cue, originally competed for in the national championship tournament of 1869 and held by Cyrille Dion finally at his death, which occurred in Montreal during the memorable Leitch boat race between Malone and Courtney. Mr. Levin at one time rated as a rather skillful amateur billiard player. That was while he was connected with the Department of Public Works, this city, and before he turned book-maker. He showed a desecratingly speculate upon public billiard playing during a visit he made to Philadelphia in 1876, while the Continental tournament was in progress. He was neither book-maker nor pool-seller then, but he has since, in both capacities, made considerable money off sports, but not from billiards. Probably he is by this time satisfied of what years ago it was sought to convince others of his profession, viz.—That the two "B's"—bookmaking and billiards—can never flourish conjointly. How much that was vinted ten years ago or more by way of warning has come true!

It might be supposed that there are now competition in this market from those makers of wood to those fashioned of rye flour, but a manufacturing house in this city has been negotiating for yet another kind, with a view to controlling it. It is a new thing, and has not reached the open market. Albert Trost contemplates adding one or two tables for pool to those he already has at 224 Broadway.

It is feared here that John King and his wife, who left last spring for South America, are dead. The lady is the well-known Miss Jones, formerly Martin, and as well as an artistic artist, Mr. King is equally well-known in musical and in billiard circles. I have rarely met with a more ardent and inveterate amateur, or with one more punctilious in beginning daily practice or systematic "tearing off." During the five years that G. F. Slosson kept the room in Twenty-third-street Mr. King was his steadiest patron. When Mr. Slosson changed his residence to Chicago Mr. King transferred his cue to John O'Connor's Columbia room. Somewhat familiar with the vicissitudes that attend amusement professionals who venture into South America, I am loth to share in the fear that Mr. and Mrs. King have met their deaths in that country. They went there to make money. I believe that, like the bulk of their predecessors, they will come back—without having made much, and lucky in not having lost all.

An interesting question is suggested by the formation of the Amateur Athletic Union. Will it have any effect among the clubs of the country upon the recognition of the rank of amateur billiard champion instituted by the Racquet Club?

### Schaefer in Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 11.—Editor SPORTING LIFE.—Schaefer arrived here on Sunday last. It is reliably stated that he is going to locate here permanently, and that, in connection with two friends of his, the lease of a desirable room large enough to hold fourteen or fifteen tables has been secured. The location, although very expensive, is probably the best in this city for a billiard room. It is certain to be the best stand that Schaefer has ever had, providing the place is well managed. Room-keepers are well pleased at the idea of Schaefer locating here, believing that the presence of the "Wizard" in our midst, together with his great rival, Slosson, will have a tendency to boom billiard here. One of the blessings of the high license law in this city is that liquor must not be sold to anyone under twenty-one years of age.

Fortunately the Sunday billiard room is not only done in this city, but in every city in this country. The proprietor of one of the most prominent rooms in this city will not permit anyone to play billiards in his room who is not twenty-one years of age. Generally speaking, this is a sound rule to observe, all things considered, in this city at present.

### Caroms.

John O'Connor was expected at his place of business in New York during the middle of last week. Alexander Barnes, of New York, paid this city a flying visit on Tuesday last, returning home the same day.

The ten Brunswick-Balke-Collender tables at the Union League were covered with new cloth a few days ago.

Thomas H. Green, although in better health at present, has been on the sick list for some few days past.

The high license law will have a disastrous effect on jobbers and dealers in billiard goods throughout this State.

At Matt Hewlin's room, Hartford, Conn., on the 10th, Powers beat Clearwater in an exhibition match at continuous pool.

The late Benjamin Harris Browster was passionately fond of billiards and could stand for hours at a time watching the balls dancing around the table.

A 15-ball pool tournament will be started at the Jersey City Athletic Club house on April 16. It will probably last a month. Games will be played every night, and a silver ball will be the prize.

At Hartford, Conn., last Monday, the crack billiard player of Connecticut, Hawkes and Kingsbury, played a match game of cushion caroms. Hawkes won by 300 to 217. Hawkes' average, 4 3/16-66; Kingsbury's, 3 22 65.

The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. are moving their machinery and manufacturing stock by slow stages to their commodious factory at Stamford, Conn., where they will in the future manufacture their wares for the territory known to them as the Eastern market. The new leases of their Eighth street factory are to take possession May 1.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch gives currency to the following:—"Jacob Schaefer, the champion billiard player, will arrive in this city on Monday or Tuesday, probably to make this his home. He will bring Harry Moon, the St. Louis expert billiardist, with him. There is talk of arranging a tournament here in which Slosson, Daly, Sexton, and Carter will be invited to participate."

### A CLUB IS KNOWN BY THE CLOTHES IT WEARS.

We think this week an article on Uniforms would not be out of place. The Championship season will soon open and the new suits for 1888 will be ready for criticism. We have furnished this year, as in the past, nearly all of the best uniforms. By actual count 75 PER CENT.

of all the suits to be worn by the Clubs playing under the National Agreement, which of course includes every leading Professional organization in the United States, will be furnished by our firm. What a recommendation this fact is? In the leading Amateur and College Clubs, too, where everything must be just so, fit perfect and goods the finest, we have almost a monopoly. Yale, Princeton, Young America Cricket Club, of Philadelphia; Staten Island Athletic Club, Staten Island Cricket Club, Bergen Point Athletic Club, are only a few of the leading EASTERN organizations who this year will wear Spalding's best. We merely mention these facts to show what we have done. Now a word as to WHAT WE WISH TO DO.

All the leading Clubs have their orders either filled or placed by this time, but the boys of the country, for the most part have yet to order, so just a word for them. We will venture to say that there is not an Amateur Club in Amer-

ica who would not prefer to order their suits from our house, and a great many of them, we are happy to say, do. Some others we know would do so, did they not have an erroneous idea that our prices were high. We can think of no reason in the world why we should have any reputation of this kind except for the fact that every one knows that we FURNISH ALL THESE FINE UNIFORMS,

and it is always a fact in this world that a reputation for fine goods is always followed by an impression that the prices are high. Is this a fact in our case? We think not. We can make a uniform for boys complete for \$5.00, without shoes for \$3.50. Certainly this is not exorbitant. With every suit, even of this lower grade, the cut and fit is guaranteed, and unless the suits are satisfactory we are only too glad to refund the money.

You can see you run no risk and are dealing with a house whose word is their bond. We have other suits that would cost you \$1.50 more, the difference being almost entirely made up in the better quality of flannel used. But why say more? If you will only drop us a postal card we shall be most pleased to send you a complete list of all of our uniforms with prices of same, samples of all the different kinds of flannel and samples of all the different kinds of belts and variety of colors. As it will only

COST YOU ONE CENT to waste for this, we ask you is it not worth the while?

APOLOGY TO THE PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS OF AMERICA.

When we first started making our now celebrated wagon tongue bat this year we thought we had enough stock bought to satisfy all demands, but the bat has had such an enormous sale, has been so perfect in every way, that we find ourselves behind. Were we satisfied to put in green lumber or unseasoned stock we could easily keep up, but we are bound never to put out one of our Black Tipped Bats that is not ABSOLUTELY PERFECT.

In order to do this it is impossible to rush them through. However, we are doing the best we can and if you will bear with us we are certain that before the 1st of May we will have all Clubs fairly supplied.

A.G. Spalding & Bros, 241 Broadway, New York.

108 Madison Street, Chicago.

PHILADELPHIA, April, 1888.

With nine out of ten sporting things are luxuries. You expect to pay fancy prices for them just as you do for the luxuries you eat, or drink, or wear. Every time you do it you throw money away. Cost of making, with a moderate profit added, will get you the best of sporting gear. Doubt it? Of course you do if you've kept in the old buying ruts.

There's a quarter acre in our Basement filled with Lawn Tennis, Base Ball, Cricket, Croquet, Lacrosse and the belongings of a dozen other favorite sports. The goods of every popular maker, but the price tags tell a new story. Glance at the prices and the varieties. Thirty-one styles Lawn Tennis Racquets, for instance. Where else in town can you find more than half a dozen?

On things for sporting wear as well. From very small beginnings we have got now to a very large business in Cricket and Tennis Coats and Caps, Base Ball and Bicycle Stockings, Sweaters and Rowing Shirts, Swimming Suits and Tights, Flannel Shirts and Belts.

And everything of the sort that helps to make the Summer hours pass pleasantly. We will answer all inquiries and give full information cheerfully and promptly.

Wanamaker prices, of course. Sporting Clothing is on the first floor, Juniper and Chestnut streets corner.

JOHN WANAMAKER.

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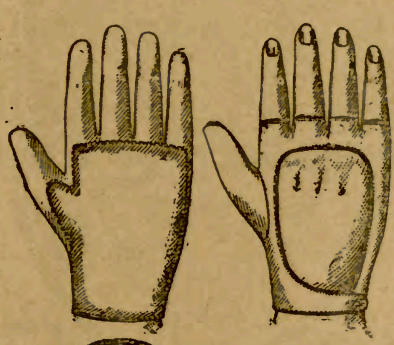
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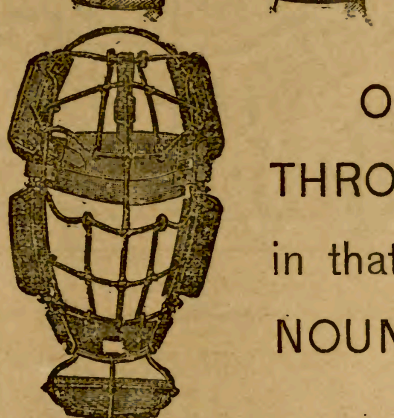
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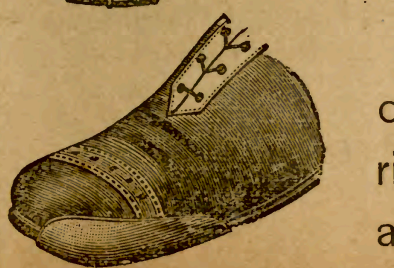


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PHILADELPHIA, April, 1888.

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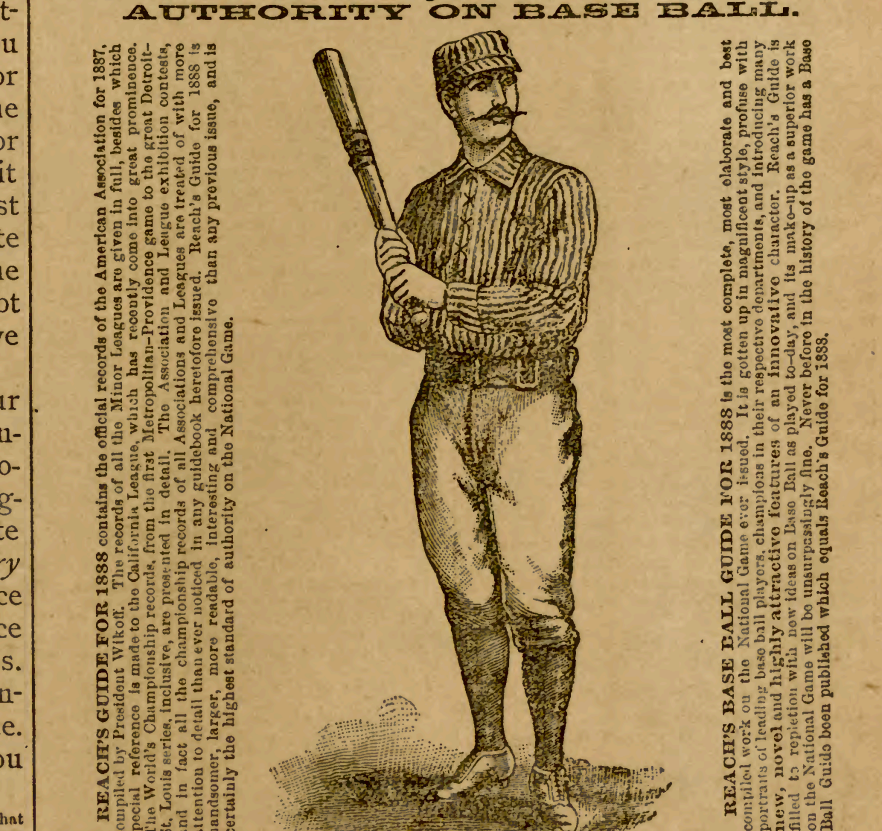
On things for sporting wear as well. From very small beginnings we have got now to a very large business in Cricket and Tennis Coats and Caps, Base Ball and Bicycle Stockings, Sweaters and Rowing Shirts, Swimming Suits and Tights, Flannel Shirts and Belts.

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