

easier shot, was the main interest of the contest.

But evidently cushion carroms is not a popular game. It ought to be, on every principle on which the game has been modified to prevent the aggregation of great runs, for it fulfills all the conditions upon which the modifications have been made. It does make the players "work for their points" and it does keep down the runs. SCHAEFER'S 41 was the best that the greatest expert in the art of "beating the game" could do toward beating this game. Yet, as a matter of fact, a house less than half full was all that the best billiard players living could attract to see them play cushion carroms. The populace does in fact like the gross runs which it is falsely assumed not to like. Wherefore, why not give it what it really likes? Since the other games were invented to neutralize the superiority of these two experts, and since all of them have failed to do it, why should these two players not do what they can do best? Now that VIGNAUX has disappeared and IVES is dead and MCKENNA is dead, there is nobody in the same class with these two. If they were to revert to straight billiards, say a three nights' match of 6,000 or even 9,000 points, the chance that all records might be broken would attract apparently all persons interested in any variety of the game of billiards. Whether it would or not, it is plain that these two players are in a class by themselves, that they are easily the leaders of the hundreds of thousands of American citizens who play something that it pleases them to call billiards, and that either of them might say about the other, in their common craft and mystery, what LANDOR said about SOUTHEY in theirs, "SCHAEFER," or, as it might be, "SLOSSON":

SLOSSON and I have run in the same traces; When we break down, what pair shall fill our places?

CUSHION CARROMS.

The match between SCHAEFER and SLOSSON, which ended on Wednesday evening in the decisive victory of the latter, is the last contest that is likely to be played in public for some time at this game. It is curious that it should be so, for theoretically the game seems to offer an escape from the monotony of big runs, on account of which "straight billiards" are said to have been abandoned by the experts of the highest class. It may be doubted whether this is the real state of the case.

More probably the various substitutes for straight billiards have been introduced and tried in order to find a game at which other players would be more nearly on an equality with these two. But there is no such game. Since the death of IVES there is no player in this country who can be said to be the equal of either at any game that is played on a billiard table, and it is very doubtful whether there is one abroad. It is admitted that they would be first "and the rest nowhere" at straight billiards, or at any form of balk-line or champion game or other device intended to neutralize their superiority. It may very well be doubted whether their superiority to other players is not as marked in cushion carroms. It is true that the "record run" at the game, which is that of 77, made by SEXTON in 1881, was not approached in this last match. Neither was the "record average," made by SCHAEFER in 1887. For all that SLOSSON'S average in this match of four and a half, in round numbers, for 900 points, whereas SCHAEFER'S record average was for 200 points only, will be recognized by all billiard players as a very considerable achievement. And certainly no billiard player who attended the match wanted his money back. He saw an exhibition in which the sense of touch, in which literally "tact," was raised almost, as the senses of sight and hearing have been raised, to the basis of a fine art. It was, to lookers on who were capable of appreciating it, a very wonderful exhibition, and it must have seemed to such lookers on a pity that so exquisite a cultivation of a special sense should not have a more impressive field than the pushing about of three balls with a stick.

Of the game, it may be said that SLOSSON played it, while SCHAEFER, as usual, tried to "beat" it. His efforts were not as successful as they had been in practice or as they had on previous occasions been in public. But they were very interesting. The contrast between the amazing accuracy of SLOSSON in "making shots" and still more shots, and the amazing skill of SCHAEFER in his attempts to obtain after every shot an