

## BILLIARDS.

### First Match Game Between Ubassy and Bessunger in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 29—The first of a series of match games of billiards between François Ubassy, the celebrated French expert, and John Bessunger, of Chicago, took place this evening in the presence of over 2,000 spectators. The game was for \$250 a side, 490 points up, three-ball caroms, Bessunger receiving odds of discount. George R. Rockafellow acted as referee. Tom Foley, umpire for Ubassy; Geo. Morris, umpire for Bessunger. Opinion before the match was pretty equally divided, and the betting was even. The game started rather tamely on the part of the Frenchman, who seemed under a cloud. For a time his opponent played strong and well, developing a most perplexing system of safety, while Ubassy always played for a count, with no reference to safety. The latter made his first good run, thirty-four, in the twelfth inning, in which several astonishing strokes occurred. Bessunger followed with a run of 23, reducing his opponent's score almost to nothing. The first call was in the nineteenth inning, when the string showed 111 points for Bessunger and 5 for Ubassy. Nothing further of interest took place until the twenty-third inning, when a run of 38 by Bessunger placed him a long way ahead. Ubassy now began to realize that he must wake up, as the odds were against him 100 to 75. He began to hit balls in earnest, but stopped at 24, nervously missing a simple draw with the balls in good position for a big run. Two innings intervened, with nothing to speak of on either side. In his twenty-sixth inning Ubassy got away with 29, but failed to improve his next two opportunities, and saw Bessunger go off with a run of 22, in the twenty-ninth-inning carrying him to 216, Ubassy 20. In the next inning both players slipped up on the *massé* shots, Bessunger getting the best of the breaks and still increasing his lead. In the thirty-fifth inning he had 248 and Ubassy not a point. During the next six innings the play was light on both sides, but in the forty-second inning Bessunger accomplished a pretty run of 36, ending on an easy shot. Score, Bessunger 304, Ubassy 0. The Frenchman put forth a strong effort to improve his chances, and was likely to do it handsomely, but at 21 he found himself frozen to the white, and missed on the lay off as he had done twice before, but got his revenge in the next inning, when he accumulated a magnificent run of 64, over half of which were made by delicate nursing of the balls along the left hand rail. Bessunger now showed a little nervousness, missing an easy shot, but leaving his opponent an impossible break. Runs of 15 and 16, and the forty-fifth and forty-eighth innings carried Ubassy past his first hundred, the score standing 321 and 105. Just after this a short intermission occurred, both parties retiring for a few minutes. When they returned, Bessunger took the balls, and by a continuation of delicate touches, fine running and superb position play, he put together the remarkable run of 75, leaving but two to go; and his achievement was greeted with long and continued applause, each shot bet being the occasion of vociferous demonstrations whenever he reached and passed 64. Ubassy's best run, the crowd was wild with delight that the young Chicagoan should surpass the greatest of French experts. Ubassy, however, took up his cue with a will and had worked out a pretty run of 25, when the balls froze, spoiling a fine position which promised a big run, so that he stopped at 27. Bessunger made 1, Ubassy missed, and then the former scored the last point of his game. Thus closed one of the most brilliant and notable of billiard matches.

Total for Bessunger, 400.

Total number of points made by Ubassy, 377; total, after discount, 75.

Bessunger's average,  $7\frac{3}{4}$ .

Ubassy's average, 6 53-54.