

BILLIARDS.

THE CHICAGO BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHICAGO, Saturday, Nov. 22, 1873.

The prominent professional billiard-players of the world have, during the past two weeks, been in this city in attendance upon the tournament. The occasion was one of great interest to those who play the "gentleman's game," and the several contests were very gratifying to a number of persons outside of those specially concerned. The tournament, of which Alderman Tom Foley was the manager, was got up as a card for four manufacturing firms, instead of one, as in the case of the New-York tourney, and it was calculated to create an enthusiasm for the game which would materially benefit the more prominent room-keepers. The tourney was preceded by a match game for \$1,000, between Maurice Daly, of New-York, and George F. Slosson, of Chicago. The former undertook to give the odds of 100 in 600 points, and was defeated, only by 7 points, however. It was from first to last a lively struggle. It developed uncommon nerve and skill on the part of Slosson, and it confirmed the reports that Daly occasionally comes to a stand-still in his public matches. But for this infirmity on his part, he might have won the game with ease, for he had recovered his odds before it was half concluded. On the Monday evening following the tournament was inaugurated. The attendance was not large, and with but two or three exceptions the audiences have not been great during the entire time. This fact is attributable to the existing stringency in money matters, and not to a lack of interest in the games. From the opening four games were played daily, with the exception of two evenings, when the Star lecture-course managers claimed possession of the hall. It was believed that the first prize would go to one of three players. The voice of the pool-seller was heard nightly at Foley's billiard hall, on Clark street. M. Ubassy sold for first choice, Prof. Garnier second, Maurice Daly third, and Cyrille Dion and the others constituted a field worth but little, and not eagerly sought after. As the tournament progressed, the "sports" and those who bet "for the fun of the thing" were farther confirmed in their opinions that either Daly or one of the two Frenchmen would win the gold medal. Five games in succession the "wizard" won; his sixth was with Cyrille Dion. To more than one person Cyrille boasted his intention to beat the old mah, and when they came together there was a certain confidence in himself and such a display of skill as speedily assured those present that he was in fine form, and, barring something extraordinary on the part of Ubassy, would surely win the prize. It was a close struggle, and a long and tedious one, but Dion lasted longer than his opponent, and won the game. This left two games yet to be played by Monsieur, one with George Slosson, the other with Prof. Garnier, champion of the world. He won from Slosson by 30 points. Then came his last game. It was a contest characterized by great fear and evident weakness on the part of both; it was a struggle won simply because the winner had better luck than his opponent. It was impossible to tell which of the two contestants was the most frightened. The simplest caroms were missed; their forces and follows were wretchedly attempted; their massés miserable failures; their nursing clumsy endeavors, only resulting in innumerable freezes and failures to reach the second object ball. Garnier was pale and almost helpless; Ubassy was perspiring and trembling; the large audience were impatient to have the game over. Finally, the contest resulted in favor of Monsieur. The old school had gained a temporary advantage over the new, not because the one was better than the other, but because the exponent of the new was not in fit condition to defend his teachings. There was one great player left for Garnier to meet—Maurice Daly. With him defeated, the Professor would have an opportunity to once more meet his countryman. Meantime the youthful Maurice had been defeated by the elder Dion. It was a wretched exhibition of professional skill, and Daly attributes his lack of success to a want of confidence in his cue. The result of this game placed Daly in a peculiar position. If he won from Garnier, there was a chance left him for second prize; if he lost he would drop so far to the rear in the race that he would stand on a level only with Joseph Dion, for fourth prize. Garnier and Daly came together on Wednesday evening. Theirs was the last regular game of the tourney, and was witnessed by a large audience. The result was an overwhelming defeat of the pet of New-York. Prof. Garnier was in the finest possible condition, and as if heartily ashamed of his conduct of the evening before, he played remarkable billiards. In the short time of one hour and a half, he made 400, while Daly was making but 163 points. His average to the inning was upward of 17 points. It was a beautiful exhibition, and the winner was loudly applauded. There were not a few, however, who were sorry for Maurice, and were not sparing in their sympathy over his defeat.

The tournament was over, but the prizes were not yet disposed of. There was a tie for the first and another for the fourth; Cyrille Dion was, beyond question a winner of the third. The two tie games took place on Friday evening, before one of the largest and best audiences ever seen at a billiard match. The Mayor of the city, Congressman Rice, Postmaster McArthur, Gen. Sheridan, Gen. Frank Sherman, Gen. Farnsworth, an ex-M. C., Hon. Phil. Hoyne, several of the more prominent Chicago editors, and other well-known citizens, were among those present. The first game of the evening was between Joseph Dion and Maurice Daly, and resulted in a victory for the latter. It was by no means a good game, and at one time it seemed certain that Daly would lose. But he struggled hard, and finally won the game and the fourth prize. Then came the grand finale, with M. Ubassy and Prof. Garnier playing the leading rôles. Preparatory to the game, it was requested that the audience refrain as much as possible from applause or exhibitions of partisan feeling. With but few exceptions, the auditors obeyed the request, and but for a few nisses directed toward Garnier at a time when he made a claim of a freeze, and which the referee disallowed, there was nothing which might be construed into discourtesy to either contestant. In the earlier stages of the game both players were evidently struggling to overcome their fear of each other. The old man was watching his opponent; the younger player was seeing to it that Monsieur did nothing wrong; both were on the alert, ready to take every possible advantage sanctioned by the rules of the game. For several innings it seemed as if their previous contest was to be repeated, so clumsy were their efforts to make successful shots. But the Professor was the first to recover his confidence, and his fear once dispelled, he was, once again the prince of players. Now and then it was the perfection of billiards, and as he rapidly drew toward the close of the game, his every stroke was applauded. The old man was near forfeiting the game in one of his innings. He made a count, but the Referee disallowed it, whereupon Ubassy threw down his cue, and it was with considerable trouble that he was induced to continue his efforts. Finally the game was won by Garnier; the young Frenchman had re-established his right to be called the champion of the world. A little scene followed. At the close of every previous game, the contestants took each other by the hand—the one to express sympathy, the other to offer congratulations. Prof. Garnier extended his hand to M. Ubassy, but the latter declined to accept it. His friends insisted that he must shake hands, but he persistently refused. Urged to explain, M. Ubassy replied: "I desire at all times to play an honorable game. I have never taken an unworthy advantage of any opponent. I would rather lose a game than permit myself to cheat. My opponent in the game just concluded saw fit to charge me before this audience of ladies and gentlemen with a dishonorable act. I counted, and he insisted that I did not, although he knows I did. His appeal was sustained by the Referee, who was not in a position where he could give an opinion in accordance with the facts. Garnier, by this act, undertook to make it appear that I was trying to cheat him. The man who would do this is guilty of a fraud, and I will not shake hands with one whom I believe to be no gentleman." This afternoon the prizes were presented to the several winners.

The following tabulated statement will furnish such other information as is needed by the friends of billiards:

Players.	Games Played.	Games Won.	Games Lost.	Best Single Average.	General Average.	Highest Run.	Total Innings.	Total Number of Points.	
Garnier.....	7	1	6	17	9-23	8	265-308	82,308	2,729
Ubassy.....	7	1	6	12	28-31	7	213-355	69,355	2,793
C. Dion.....	7	2	5	8	24-47	6	190-360	86,360	2,350
M. Daly.....	7	3	4	12	4-33	7	228-326	153,326	2,510
J. Dion.....	7	3	4	7	15-55	5	269-433	124,433	2,434
Slosson.....	7	5	2	9	4-44	6	210-375	63,375	2,460
Bessunger..	7	6	1	7	15-55	5	251-407	71,407	2,286
Snyder.....	7	7	0	4	51-70	3	280-384	48,384	1,432

Further than this it appears that Prof. Garnier was 14 hours and 30 minutes, M. Ubassy 15 hours

and 30 minutes, Cyrille Dion 14 hours and 40 minutes, Maurice Daly 16 hours and 20 minutes, Joseph Dion 16 hours and 15 minutes, George Slosson 15 hours and 50 minutes, John Bessunger 15 hours and 50 minutes, and Peter Snyder 13 hours and 45 minutes in making the respective totals credited to them. And further, a general recapitulation shows that there were 11,200 points made by the winners, and 7,799 points made by the losers; that the winners had 1,530, and the losers 1,468 innings; that 339 massés were made during the tournament, and that the actual time engaged was 123 hours and 40 minutes.