

Billiards.

W. COOK AND W. MITCHELL, FOR £400.

The second important money match between these players took place on Monday evening, May 31st, at St. James' Hall, when Cook conceded his rival 200 in 1,000 up, on an ordinary table, for £200 a side. There was a large attendance, and a very exciting match was witnessed. Mitchell, prior to the opening of the game, was made favorite at 5 to 4 on. In the first half of the contest Cook had clearly the best of matters, and with chief efforts of 113 (seventeen spots) and 128 (forty-one spots) unfinished, he reached 501 against 373, when the interval took place. On the game being resumed Cook brought his addition up to 163 (forty-one and ten spots) before giving way, and this he supplemented with 107 (ten, seven and eight spots) before Mitchell made an important move, the scratch player then having a lead of 246 points. So rosy did Cook's chance appear before the resumption of the game that the odds veered round to 8 to 1 in his favor. Mitchell now woke up, however, and with 81 (twenty one spots) and a splendid break of 217 (sixty eight spots), he again reversed the order, the figures reading at 701 to 690 to his credit. Twice after this the leadership was changed, however, and in spite of the fact that the Sheffielder displayed consummate nerve, he had in the end to submit to a defeat—almost as glorious as a victory—by 41 points. It is rare indeed that such excitement is manifested over a billiard match as was witnessed on Monday night, the cue being extraordinary at every change of position, and while Cook's masterly play well deserved the great success achieved, no one will begrudge the Sheffielder the applause his determined play received. It may be mentioned that the score was well called by W. Ingarfield, who gave out the figures with promptness and precision. Prior to the match being commenced, the balance of the stakes were deposited with our representative.

After the first few strokes Mitchell obtained an opening, and by the assistance of cannons and red losses he got opposite the red at 221, when he compiled a succession of eleven spot strokes in a break of 48, which took the record to 251-3 in his favor. Here he broke down, the red being left over the right hand top pocket. Cook only made two spots, however, but by means of the all round game he ran up 77. Mitchell then added on five, when he failed at an ordinary cannon, leaving the object ball in a dead line with his opponent's over the top pocket. A single winner was therefore enough to enable Cook to obtain an angle at the top of the table, when he added on 75, which took the game to—Mitchell 259, Cook 155. After a series of poor efforts, in which Cook did much the best, and gradually drew up to his opponent's figures, the score stood—Mitchell 316, Cook 256. Several uneventful innings ensued, Mitchell leaving a double baulk at 383. Off this the scratch player made a fine angle cannon, and by a series of beautifully-judged cannons and losing hazards he soon entered the same century as his rival, when by spot play he got within 15 points of his opponents, the marker calling—Mitchell 384, 373. This break amounted to 143, including seventeen spots. The Champion soon obtained another opening, when he kept busy until at 497 he got out of line, and having made a cannon the interval was called, the game standing at 501 to 383 in his favor. Cook's unfinished break amounted to 128, including a succession of forty one spots, the game so far having lasted 1 hour and 5 min.

Hostilities were renewed at twenty minutes to ten, when Cook made up his break to 163, forty-one and ten spots, the figures reading at—Cook 540, Mitchell 388. Three difficult cannons, which evoked loud applause, were credited to Mitchell here, and the game was shortly announced as—Cook 540, Mitchell 401.

The former was once more in form at this point, running up 197, including ten, seven and eight spots. Mitchell now received a much needed opportunity, and an 83 break was credited him before he gave way, inclusive of twenty six spots, and after a cannon from his rival he tried to put down that player's ball, but was unsuccessful, and Cook was enabled of what was left to get busy with the red at 656. Ten spots were then credited to that cueist, when he got out of line, but continued his break up to 690. Here he broke down at a difficult running through cannon. This effort was 51, and at its close the scoring board indicated Cook 690, Mitchell 484. The latter at the second attempt now got busy at his favorite stroke, having disposed of his adversary's ball previously. The marker was thus soon able to call 692-690 in his favor, which announcement caused applause. He made no pause here, until at 701 he accidentally touched his ball, and Cook claiming a foul the referee decided against the striker, when he gave a double baulk, the record at this point standing at—Mitchell 701, Cook 690. The spot-player's break on this occasion was 217, made up principally by sixty-eight spot-hazards. Cook made no sign here, and Mitchell, aided by a compilation of 73 (twenty spots), progressed to 779 against 690. The Champion, on again taking up his cue, got another look in at the spot end of the table, and beginning that stroke at 699 he entered his eighth century, and keeping the red on the move he was yet again on level terms at 779, whence he passed to the front, and entered his ninth hundred, arriving at 833 to 779 ere he gave way, his effort being 152, in which was a run of forty six spots. Mitchell in turn by miscellaneous play drew up to 792, when having disposed of Cook's ball he renewed his spot practice. Once more these redoubtable opponents were at even points at 843, but Mitchell did not remain long here. He still continued to drive home the object ball until 908 was in due course left behind. The game was now watched with almost breathless interest, every stroke and the position left being keenly scrutinized. The spot player kept the balls remarkably well under control, however, and left himself very few difficult shots. Without a pause he drew on towards game until, at 945 to 840, he had a lead of three figures. His break was now nearly ended, however, as he missed a rather difficult shot and let his rival have another chance, the game having reached—Mitchell 951, Cook 843. This addition of the receiver of points amounted up to 175 (two and fifty-four spots). The scratch player then made another bid for success, as aided by four spots and some all-round strokes he was opposite the red at 885, when he also entered his final hundred. He broke down at 930, however, at a rather easy shot, his addition being 87 (fifteen, five and eight spots). Game—Mitchell 954, Cook 930. The former only put together 5, and was unfortunately enough to leave the red over the jaws of the top pocket, off which Cook was again in line at 933. He then again resumed the command, and thence he ran out, after one of the finest games ever recorded, the winner by 41 points, amidst the most intense excitement, the game having lasted, exclusive of the interval, 2 hours 25 min.—*London Sportsman*.

Wm. Burleigh has assumed charge of the Commercial billiard rooms, Ottawa.

Advertiser, Petrolia, Ont.

"Town and Country" is the name of a new weekly paper, devoted to sports, recreations and live stock matters, lately started in Toronto. It is a very neat little sheet of sixteen pages, well got up, lively, spicy, and ably edited. It has some excellent articles on the turf, kennel, stable, sports, etc., and is well worth ten cents a copy, but is sold for 5 cents a number, or \$2.50 per year. Send for it.

OUR RECEPTION.

Manchester, Eng., *Sporting Chronicle*.

"Town and Country" is the title of a new weekly paper devoted to sports, recreations, and live stock matters, the first number of which has just reached us. The paper, which is published at Toronto, Ont., is edited by Mr. James Watson, late of the *Manchester Sporting Chronicle*, to whose fitness for the task he has undertaken we are happy to bear cordial testimony. The paper is neatly got up, well printed, and is altogether a very creditable specimen of colonial journalism.

Detroit *Post and Tribune*.

"Town and Country" is a new weekly established in Toronto, and devoted to sports, recreation and live stock matters. The second number, just at hand, is a capital one, replete with fresh and valuable sporting news, written in crisp, vigorous style, and admirably classified. The editor, Mr. James Watson, is just the man to build up a sporting paper, which should command large circulation and influence through Canada. He is an Englishman by birth, and has been connected with the *Spirit of the Times*, *London Field*, *London Referee*, and *Manchester Sporting Chronicle*. No man on either side of the Atlantic is more familiar with sporting topics, or better qualified to discuss them intelligently. Canada needs such a paper as "Town and Country," and should give it hearty support.

Peterborough *Times*.

"Town and Country," a paper recently started in Toronto by Mr. James Watson, is before us. It is a neatly got up, and well printed sheet, devoted to stock breeding, agricultural, and general sporting news, and is deserving of the support of all those engaged in or taking an interest in any of the above pursuits.

Aylmer, Ont., *Gazette*.

"Town and Country" is the name of a new paper devoted to sports, &c., recently established in Toronto. It is a neat sixteen page journal, full of excellent articles on the turf, the kennel, the stable, out door games, &c. We wish it every success.

Printer's *Miscellany*, St. John, N.B.

"Town and Country" is the name of a 16 page paper, published at Toronto. It is edited by Mr. James Watson, and is devoted to aquatic and field sports, recreations, and the dissemination of news pertaining to live stock.

Borealie, Aurora, Ont.

We have just effected an exchange with the "Town and Country," a new weekly journal published in Toronto, by Mr. James Watson. It is devoted to sports, recreations and live stock matters, and is excellently printed. It contains a large amount of reading matter interesting to lovers of horse flesh, poultry, dogs, &c., and is also full of news and comments which will be read with pleasure by all those who interest themselves in aquatics, horse racing, lacrosse and other out door sports. We recommend those who are fond of a new, readable and neatly got up paper of this description, to put their names on the subscription list of "Town and Country."

Brockville *Recorder*.

We advise all who take an interest in sporting matters to subscribe for "Town and Country." The new journal is a credit to Toronto, where it is published.

Kingston *Daily News*.

"Town and Country" is a new sporting paper recently started in Toronto. It appears to have at its head a gentleman well acquainted with sporting matters, who promises to conduct it in a gentlemanly manner.