

**Obituary.**

JEAN BAPTISTE CYRILLE DION, BILLIARDIST.

J. L. Cyrille Dion, celebrated for his many brilliant and stubborn battles upon the billiard table, expired on Tuesday evening, Oct. 1, at half-past eleven o'clock, at the residence of his mother, in Montreal, of congestion of the lungs, together with a bronchial affection, the latter having given him trouble for some months. At about a year ago Cyrille took a severe cold, and journeyed last winter to the South, in company with Maurice Daly, with a double purpose in view, that of seeking warmer climates for his health, and also for going to Louisiana to see his father, in conjunction with Daly. They finally reached New Orleans, but his departure there during the winter did not effect the desired cure, and in the Spring he returned to New York. He has been ailing all summer, and caught more cold, which so affected his bronchial tubes that he lost his voice, and could scarcely whisper. This situation continued for some days, and then he began to recover voice, but the cold and cough clung to him. Growing to better he resolved on a trip home to place himself under the care of his aged mother, whose nursing powers he so well knew, and on Friday, 27th ult., he left New York for Montreal by the 6 p.m. train.

J. B. Cyrille Dion was born March 22, 1848, in Montreal, of French-Canadian parents, and was third of six children, three sisters and three brothers. The father died about 1850, and the fifth child, a sister, died about 1858. A sister was the eldest, then in turn came Joseph, Cyrille, two sisters (not twins), and Frank. Cyrille at the age of five years attended school in Montreal, receiving a common school education. After leaving school he worked for his uncle, Perrault, as marker in St. George Hall, Great St. James street, Montreal. This hall contained six tables, and Joseph had been employed here for some time as marker. Cyrille remained here about four years, and at the age of fifteen, while yet a boy, he entered the wholesale and retail grocery store of Adams & Co., in Montreal as clerk, remaining here about five years. The elder brother Joseph having meantime proven himself proficient as a billiard expert, had acquired the proprietorship of St. Lawrence Hall billiard room, a very large and elegant establishment. In 1862, needing the services of a trusty person to assist in the conduct of such an extensive concern, he called for Cyrille, who had become a strong local billiard player, and together they conducted the business. About two years after, in the winter of 1865, being together in St. Lawrence Hall, they retired therefrom and opened Nordheimer's Hall in Montreal. They were burned out by fire in January, 1867, but immediately refitted and were again at business the following June.

In 1870, in consequence of the immense tax, \$1,800 gold upon sixteen billiard tables, they closed up Nordheimer's Hall and went to New York, where they have since remained. At first they gave exhibitions of their skill around about, and finally Cyrille, in December, 1871, bought from Captain Boyle the billiard room at 243 Broadway. He remained there for about eighteen months, then on October 29, 1873, he opened the large room 1,239 Broadway, formerly Thomas Exchange. Joseph was not a partner here, but superintendent, and they closed out this room December 12, 1874. In the spring of 1875 both Joseph and Cyrille went to Europe, visiting London and Paris, remaining away about two months, and upon returning home they opened the present place of business at 605 Sixth avenue. Cyrille Dion has played exhibitions and matches in Canada, California, New Orleans, England, France, New York, and all over the United States. He has undoubtedly played more matches than any other player, and his prowess and stubbornness are well known, not only to the professionals who have been his antagonists, but to the public at large. His first match was played with Crown, at Belleville in 1864, whom he easily defeated. His first tourney was that which was played in Montreal, commencing July 12, 1865,



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1000 Prizes of \$50,000	50,000
1000 Prizes of \$25,000	25,000
1000 Prizes of \$10,000	10,000
1000 Prizes of \$5,000	5,000
1000 Prizes of \$2,500	2,500
1000 Prizes of \$1,000	1,000
2000 Prizes of \$500	2,000
1000 Prizes of \$100	1,000
2000 Prizes of \$50	2,000
5000 Prizes of \$20	5,000
10000 Prizes of \$10	10,000

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1867 Prizes, amounting to \$110,400

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CONDITIONS.—Owners of stallions desirous of the privilege of the get of their horses running in above stakes, must be subscribers to the stake on or before January 1, 1879, of \$50, that amount to accompany the nomination, which subscriptions, along with \$— added by the Association over whose track the race is run, shall form the total stake money. Entries for the race will close on June 1, 1879, with the Secretary-Treasurer of the Stake at the Sporting Times Office, Toronto.

The following owners of stallions have already made nominations:

John White, Esq., Milton, for the get of Terror, by Rurio, dam Maratana by Flatcatcher.

J. L. Lyon, Esq., Toronto, for the get of Hyder Ali, by imported Leamington, dam Lady Duke by Lexington.

P. COLLINS, Sec. Treas., pro tem.

303-ut

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1878.

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Service money payable at time of service. Mares not proving in foal can be returned the following season, free of charge for services.

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