

HISTORY

THE origin of "The Noble Game" has forever been a mystery and a contested point, and its invention has been attributed by various authorities to several nationalities. As an antique date we might mention that Shakespeare, born in 1564, and who died in 1616, would have us believe that when Antony revelled in the charms and the luxurious love of the Egyptian Queen that billiards was even then a well known pastime, for at this period, 30 B. C., he makes Cleopatra summon Charmian to billiards. In O'Reilly's English translation of the Abbe McGeoghegan's "History of Ireland" is given the substance of the will of Cathire More, a sub-king of Ireland, who reigned over the district of Leinster, and who died A. D. 148. To quote from that will: "To Drimoth I bequeath fifty billiard balls of brass, with the cues of the same material."

The late Rev. Archbishop Hughes, who was himself a patron and warm advocate of the refined pastime, attests that he read in the Confessions of St. Augustine, born A. D. 430, an allusion to billiards. In France, Germany, England, and in this country (the game having been brought here by the Spaniards, who settled in St. Augustine, Fla., in 1565) women have for many years been steadfast patrons of the fascinating pastime.