

# WILLIAM SEXTON IS DEAD

## The Old-Time Billiard Champion and Sporting Man Succumbs to Heart Disease.

### HE DEFEATED MANY CHAMPIONS

For a Year He Was Champion of the World—Record for the Best Run in the Cushion Carrom Game Still Stands.

William Sexton, champion billiard player of the world at one time, and considered by many the best round-the-table player that ever lived, died suddenly at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon in Johnson's Hotel, better known by its former name, as Trainor's Hotel, Sixth Avenue and Thirty-third Street.

Thousands of dollars had passed through Sexton's hands, from prizes won and the earnings of his billiard rooms, but his generosity to others less fortunate was so extensive that he suffered from it in the end, his latter days being spent almost in indigence. Some three months ago he took up his residence in Trainor's Hotel, where his feeble health had frequently been noted. Yesterday he went out for a walk, and returned feeling poorly. He took a chair in the barroom, and soon asked to be carried to his chamber, but before he could be put to bed he died. Heart disease is thought to have been the cause. He leaves a wife, with whom he had not been living of late.

Almost from his birth, April 8, 1854, in Burlington, Vt., Sexton was identified with billiard playing. It was erroneously supposed that Sexton was a hunchback, owing to the results of an accident in Boston in 1871, through which one shoulder was unduly raised. Sexton fell and broke his collarbone, but neglected the injury, with bad result. It did not affect his playing, however. Sexton was not of age when he came into notice as an expert player. When he was twenty years old he defeated Charles E. Effier, the Albany champion. Two years later he first met George F. Slosson.

In 1875 Sexton encountered A. P. Rudolphe of France, and through the meeting was first classed as a first-class player. Rudolphe objected to Sexton entering the Garnier-Lorillard tournament, in November, on the ground that he was not a first-class expert. Sexton challenged Rudolphe in answer, and defeated him thirty-three out of thirty-five games. The following year Sexton won his first victory over Slosson in a match in Tammany Hall for \$1,000.

Early in 1876, Sexton took a trip to France under peculiar conditions. Maurice Vignaux, the French champion, had won the Collender Challenge Cup on this side the ocean, and had failed to return it on leaving this country, as the conditions of the challenge demanded. So Sexton was sent to France to win it. The match was played under difficulties on Sexton's part, and he lost, but he always considered that he was defrauded of victory. Many of the American colony in Paris coincided in his belief, and made up a purse, which Gen. Daniel E. Sickles presented him. Sexton accepted it only when assured that no Frenchman had contributed.

After a big tourney, in which he took most of the honors, Sexton, on his return from Paris, started to tour the country with Slosson. In Tammany Hall in 1877 he met Joseph Dion, who was then coming into prominence as a billiard player, and defeated him, winning a one-thousand-dollar purse. In December the same year, he played Dion again for \$4,000 a side, again for the championship, and won, giving his adversary 200 points in a 1,000-point game.

In 1879 he defeated Slosson in a preliminary game for the world's championship, and in the final match for the championship played at Tammany Hall, he won it with a cash prize of \$2,000. His championship honors were retained but one year, when Schaefer played him for the championship and \$5,000 a side, winning by a score of 600 to 585.

In the cushion-carrom game his list of victories was also a long one. In playing with Schaefer in 1881 in a match game for \$2,500 a side, he not only defeated Schaefer, but made the record that stands at present for the best run—77 points, against Schaefer's best for the game of 23.

During his early years Sexton kept a billiard room and bar on the Bowery, that was in high repute with sporting men. It was called the "Gold Mine," and Sexton admitted that \$250 was an average day's receipts.

Of late years Sexton had managed several billiard rooms about the city. He once had a place at 1,202 Broadway. A benefit had been arranged for him in Boston, and was to have been given last night, and at which he expected to be present.

## THEOSOPHISTS AT WAR.

Justice Werner, in an Action Between Rival Societies, Calls It a perplexing Entanglement.

Alexander H. Spencer recently, through his counsel, Messrs. Shipman & Larocque, sought in the Supreme Court, Special Term, to have an injunction continued which he had secured as Vice President and Treasurer of the Theosophical Society in America, in his suit against Katharine A. Tingley and E. August Neresheimer, to restrain them from their alleged endeavor unlawfully to obtain possession of the society's property for the purpose of turning it over to another society, known as the Universal Brotherhood, and for the appointment of a receiver. Justice Werner, before whom the hearing was had, yesterday refused the application.

"It would be difficult to imagine," Justice Werner said, "a more interesting or perplexing entanglement than that presented by the record herein. The disciples of Theosophism, in their zealous study and practice of occultism, seem to have overlooked some of the formalities which ordinarily govern men in their dealings with each other. Whether these formalities are deemed of controlling force in their exalted realms of philosophy, it is not our purpose to inquire, because, however that may be, we must determine the question before us in accordance with the prosaic and practical rules which flourish in our own atmosphere."

The complaint alleged that the defendants as members of the "Universal Brotherhood," an organization formed for the study and practice of the principles of "Theosophy," had wrongfully taken and converted certain property belonging to the plaintiff's society, an organization formed for the same general purposes. The court holds that the plaintiff does not show that he legally holds any office which entitles him to maintain an action for or on behalf of the unincorporated association which he claims to represent.

It was perfectly competent and legal, Justice Werner said, for the society to attach itself to, and become part of a larger body and transfer the records to it, if this was done pursuant to a resolution regularly adopted. The plaintiff did not show that it was not done. If such action was sought to be accomplished by unlawful methods the court should be clearly and explicitly informed of the particulars in which the alleged illegality consisted.

## TEACHER BECAME INSANE.

Mrs. Gillette of Pratt Institute Taken to Kings County Hospital.

Mrs. Mary Gillette, an instructor in domestic science at Pratt Institute, was taken yesterday to the Kings County Hospital, suffering from insanity. She is forty-five years old, and has been employed as instructor in the institute for several years. She lives with her married daughter, Mrs. Vance, at 361 Classon Avenue. Yesterday morning she became ill, and soon after began to show symptoms of insanity. She finally became so violent that it became necessary to summon Surgeon Merriman of St. John's Hospital, who took her to the Kings County Hospital.

Dr. Merriman thinks that Mrs. Gillette's trouble was caused by overwork. She has been engaged on the writing of a book on domestic science, and it is thought that this, coupled with her other duties, may have been too much for her.

## Smallpox on the Moravia.

Johannes Becker, a child, four and one-half years old, was removed at Quarantine from the Hamburg-American Line steamer Moravia, which arrived yesterday from Hamburg, to the reception hospital suffering from smallpox. Thirty-nine passengers who occupied quarters in the same steerage compartment as the patient were removed to Hoffman Island for observation, and all passengers were vaccinated. The steamer was detained for disinfection, and was then allowed to proceed to her dock.