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SECOND EDITION,

WITH CORRECTIONS AND NUMEROUS ADDITIONS,

OF THE

NOBLE GAME OF BILLIARDS;

WHEREIN ARE EXHIBITED

EXTRAORDINARY AND SURPRISING STROKES, WHICH HAVE EXCITED THE ADMIRATION OF MOST OF THE

Sovereigns of Europe.

Yr,

Translated from the French of the celebrated

M. MINGAUD,

FORMERLY CAPITAINE D'INFANTERIE IN THE SERVICE OF FRANCE.

Dedicated, by Permission, to
THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF CLEVELAND.

This Work is elegantly got up, and comprises 43 well executed Copper-plates; with Directions for performing, with precision, nearly 70 of the most masterly Strokes, of all the celebrated Proficients of the present day. It is, in this respect, a great desideratum, to all the Admirers of this elegant Diversion;—no Work having appeared, in the English Language, which can be compared with it, for the Beauty and Precision of its Rules and Illustrations; and none which comprise the great Improvements and Discoveries, made in the Game, within the last Twenty years.

LONDON:

TRANSLATED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN THURSTON,
BILLIARD TABLE MANUFACTURER, 14, CATHERINE-STREET, STRAND;
AND TO BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1831.

AN EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT OF BILLIARD TABLES ALWAYS ON SALE.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORK.

"Who so competent to translate Captain Mingaud as Mr. Thurston, whose own excellently constructed Tables afford facility and certainty for the execution of the finest strokes? The Work itself is eminently entitled to the attention of Billiard-players.—Upon the game, as previously played, Captain Mingaud has made some extraordinary improvements, insomuch that we considered them impossible, and deferred noticing the book till enquiry satisfied us of their reality.—We are bound seriously to say that it is an exhibition of science altogether wonderful. In practice we are inclined to think most of the appaparently impossible hazards may be made even by players of no great pretensions; and we are sure that by trying them they will become better adepts in the game.—The lessons upon these achievements are not only useful, but very curious and interesting, and the results produced such as cannot be believed without actual proof, shewing performances hitherto deemed contrary to the rules of motion in bodies."—The Literary Gazette.

"Here is a work that may be expected, sooner or later, to produce something like a revolution in the whole style of play, and consequently in the general character of the game. Captain Mingaud has here given directions and diagrams, by a due attention to which certain strokes may be performed, which at first sight may seem almost ludicrously impracticable, but every one of which may in fact be executed, and the most difficult of which we ourselves have seen executed repeatedly. Some few of these strokes are perhaps known in this country; but the greater part of them will be found entirely new to English players.

"To the Owners of private tables in particular, we would recommend this Book, as an appendage almost as necessary to their table as a marking-board."—The Court Journal.

"The English Player is indebted to Mr. Thurston for making him acquainted with a work so much esteemed on the continent. The numerous plates (41) supply him with abundant examples of difficult strokes, on which to exercise his utmost skill and nicety."—The Athenæum.

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"Knowledge of such points as are illustrated in this Treatise would materially improve the general play, and consequently attach to the Game even more importance than it now pos-

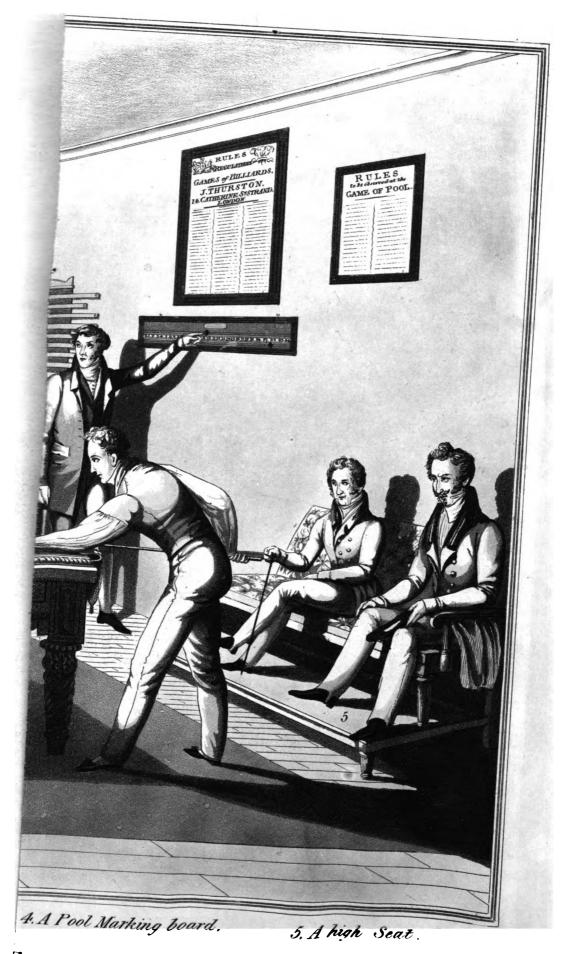
"Mr. Thurston's Translation, we should mention, is in a handsome form, and must, sooner or later, find its way into the rooms of amateur-players."—The Minkon.

"Mr. Mingaud a fait un bon onvrage où tous les coups sont expliqués avec clarté et démontrés à l'aide de figures. Aussi le succès du manuel de Mr. Mingaud, a—t—il été très grand. C'est ce même manuel dont Mr. Thurston vient de donner au public Anglais un excellente traduction, où l'on trouve pas moins de quavante trois planches parlaitement exécutées. S'il appartenait à quelqu'un de se charger de cette traduction en Angleterre c'était bien à Mr. Thurston des ateliers du quel sont sortis les meilleurs billards qui soient a Londres. L'ouvrage de Mr. Thurston, dédié au Marquis de Cleveland, a été imprimé avec beaucoup de luxe."—Le Furet de Londres.

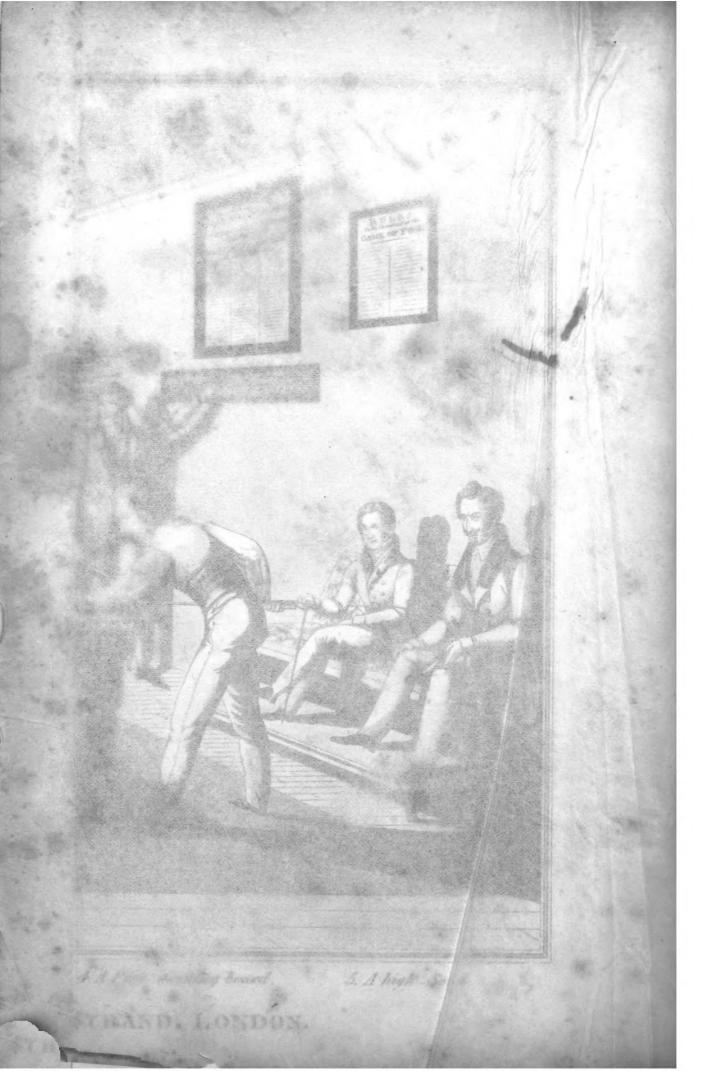
"This Work exhibiting the strokes which so surprised their Majesties, is one of the greatest treats that the Billiard-Player has probably ever received, and we may add, that it is calculated greatly to extend the Science of the Game.

"Several of the Strokes delineated are exceedingly curious, and really quite astonishing."

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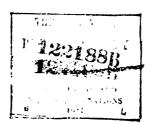
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Billiard Table Manufacturer,

LONDON,

1831.

SECOND EDITION.



THE MOST NOBLE

THE MARQUIS OF CLEVELAND,

&c. &c. &c.

THE FOLLOWING WORK,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HIGH CAPABILITIES OF THE FAVOURITE

Game of Billiards,

AND OF THE DEXTERITY AND SKILL OF A

Most eminent Master,

IS, BY PERMISSION, INSCRIBED,

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT,

VERY HUMBLE AND OBLIGED SERVANT,

JOHN THURSTON.

ADVERTISEMENT OF M. MINGAUD.

THE first Billiard Table known in France was of a Triangular form. It was introduced at the Château de Blois, during the residence of Henry III.

It was called "THE NOBLE GAME OF BILLIARDS;" probably, from the Prince being the first who practised it, as a regular Diversion. It was not less entitled to this high designation, on account of its intrinsic excellence, and the interest excited by its various and complicated operations.

From whatever cause, this Game has formed, and will ever continue to form, the Amusement of all ranks of Society, as well as of the Sovereigns of France. It combines Utility with Pleasure;—exercising the Body, and affording a most agreeable relaxation; whilst, at the same time, it calls forth all our Skill and Address. In such general estimation is it held, that every one, in the present day, desires to be acquainted with it.

MM. Persicors and Espolard have enjoyed in France, the highest reputation at this Game; but they have made few Additions to what was before known. To the Author of this Work, are to be ascribed the brilliant Discoveries of Modern Times.

PREFACE.

To France we are indebted for the elegant and interesting Game, which it is the object of the following pages to illustrate. In its infancy it presented to the polite circles of Society an Amusement, which combined the interests of Hazard with the exercise of Skill and Address. It was speedily hailed, as a favourite Diversion, at the Court of Henry III., of France; and was thence communicated to all the Courts of Modern Europe.

Practice and experience have imparted to the Game itself, what they alone can confer upon the Practitioner. To the novice it would appear as, peculiarly, a Game of accidents and chances; but experience has enabled us to deter-

mine the effects of innumerable Strokes, with amazing precision; and has conferred on the Play the interest of Science, and the accomplishment of Art.

Many Noblemen and Gentlemen, at home and abroad, had acquired great skill and reputation at the Table; and every proficient had his collectanea of rules, directions, and advices, before the growing interest of this elegant Pastime had called for regular Treatises, pointing out the different modes of play, laying down general rules, and tracing the systematic operations of which the Game is susceptible.

Such Works, however, have, for many years, been circulated and studied, both on the Continent and in England. The Practical Treatise of E. White, Esq. of which a new edition was published in 1818, comprises nearly all that was known or approved on the subject, at the time of its compilation. This Work deservedly maintains its reputation, as a systematic Treatise; but, like every other work, now in use, it has been left behind by the great improvements, and striking discoveries, which have been since made by the great masters of the Game.

To supply this deficiency was the object of the Publication of M. Mingaud; who justly claims the merit of "the most brilliant discoveries of modern times;" and who has thus conferred on his Nation the honour of perfecting, in addition to that of introducing, an elegant Diversion, which has obtained the patronage, and commanded the admiration, of the most elevated and polished societies of Europe.

Fully impressed with the great merits of M. Mingaud's Illustrations, the Translator has felt anxious to lay them before the British Public. He is aware that, to the novice, many of the strokes, the effects of which are described in the Work, may appear impracticable. He has, however, not only had the satisfaction of seeing them performed on his own Tables, at his Ware-rooms, 14, Catherine Street, Strand, by M. Mingaud himself; but has been surprised to perceive, how readily the results have followed, when attempted, according to the Rules laid down, by Gentlemen who boasted no superiority of skill. Q

JOHN THURSTON.

14, Catherine Street, Strand.

April, 1830.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE SECOND EDITION.

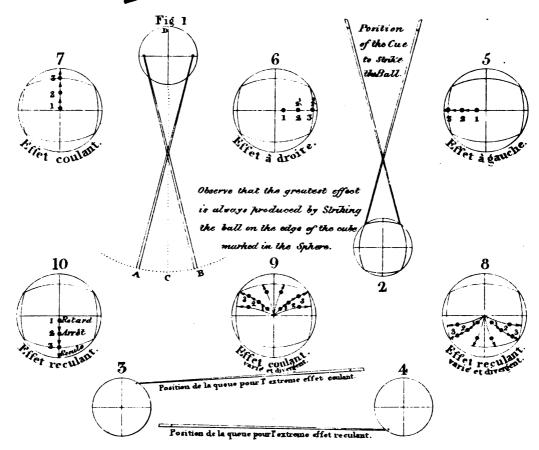
THE rapid Sale of the first Edition of M. Mingaud's Diagrams, and the pressing call for a Second Edition, within a few months after the original publication, have more than justified the sanguine expectations of the Translator, and evince the high estimation in which the Work is already held by the Public.

No professions of the Author,—no reiterated assurances of the Translator, could possibly have advanced or maintained the reputation of a novel system of play. Experience, the grand test of merit, and the criterion of truth, could alone sustain the pretensions of such a System. Accordingly, since the publication of the first Edition, the Strokes of M. Mingaud have been daily submitted to this test by amateurs and professors in town and country. The result of which is, that the Translator has been honoured with a vast number of communications from Noblemen and Gentlemen, eminently skilled in the Game, expressive of the highest admiration and the warmest applause.

To those Noblemen and Gentlemen the Translator begs leave to present his grateful and respectful acknowledgments, as also to the Public in general, for their very favourable reception, and liberal patronage, of his humble efforts. His gratitude he has further attempted to express by numerous corrections, and by incessant endeavours to render this Edition as perfect as possible.

If any Gentleman should doubt the practicability of any of the strokes laid down in the following Diagrams, let him rest assured that they are daily performed by others with certainty and precision; and let him repeat his endeavours.

BILLE SYNOPTIQUE

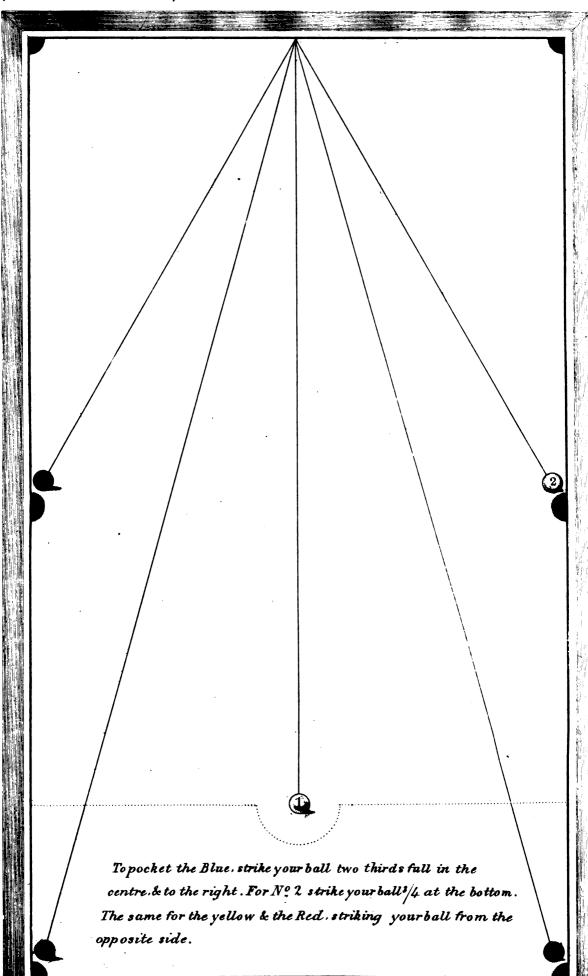


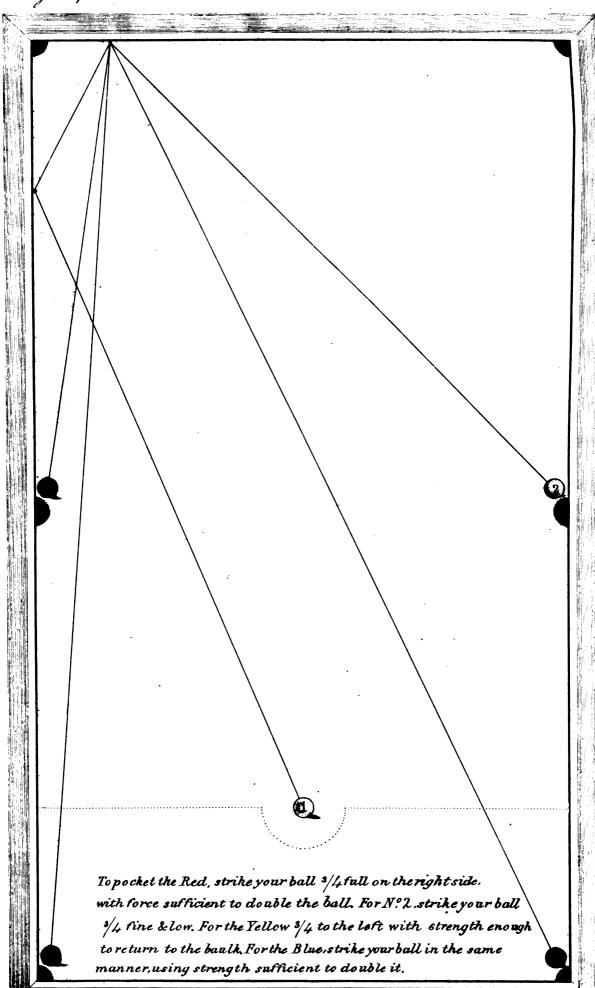
The sphere divided into Six aides is thus disposed of, in order, to duadate the effects of rotation, which will be produced by Striking the bull on the spots marked on the Figures. Angles right, obtuse, a cuteor curvilinear, may be made, according as the ball may be struck more or less distant from the central point, and in proportion to the strength of the blow, either by elongating, or drawing back the arm.

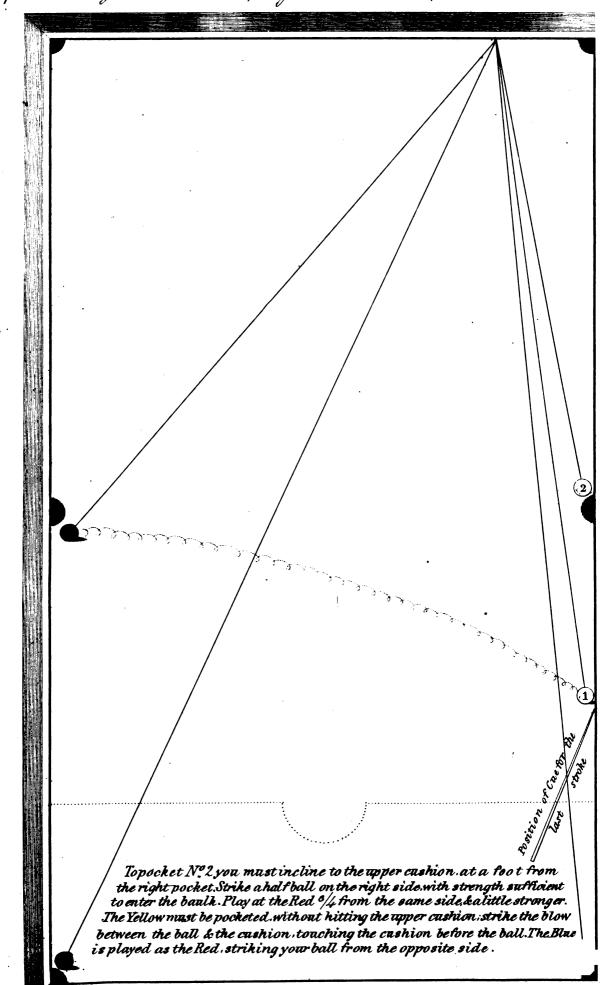
The numbers 1. denote the least effect. 2. the moderate and 3. the extreme effect. The way to increase these effects is by not holding the Gue parallel to the axis or central line of the ball but by Striking it at an acute angle agreeably to the position of Figure 1. where the perpendicular line C.D. represents the axis of the ball and left angle of the bue.

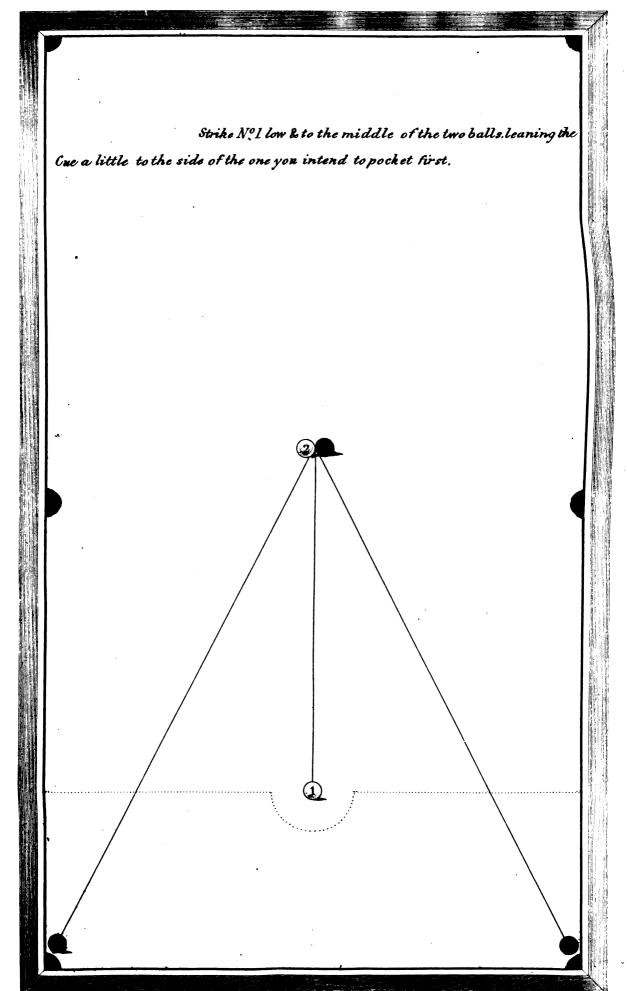
The greatest degree of effect can be produced in no other way than by Striking the ball above the line of the ails marked on the





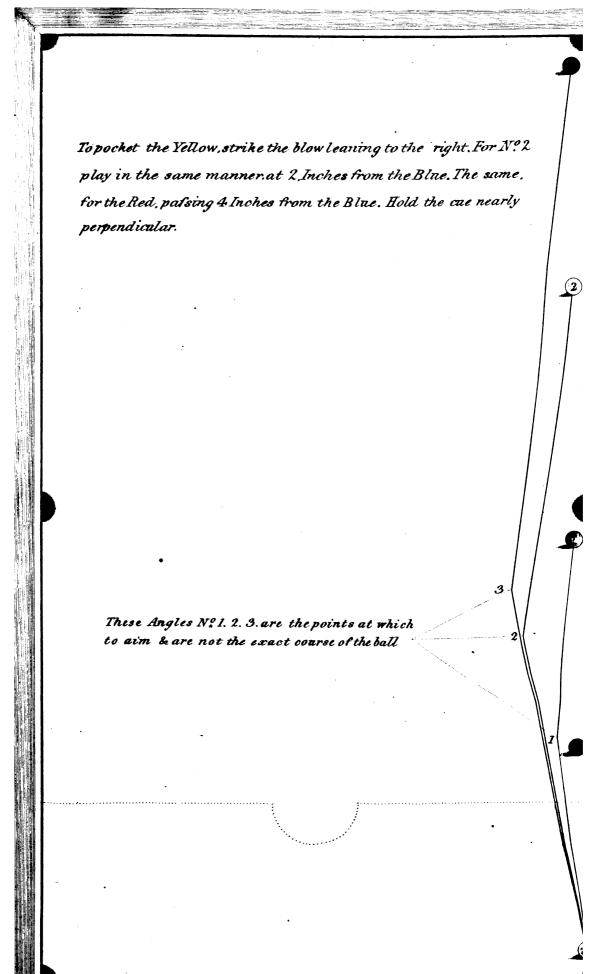






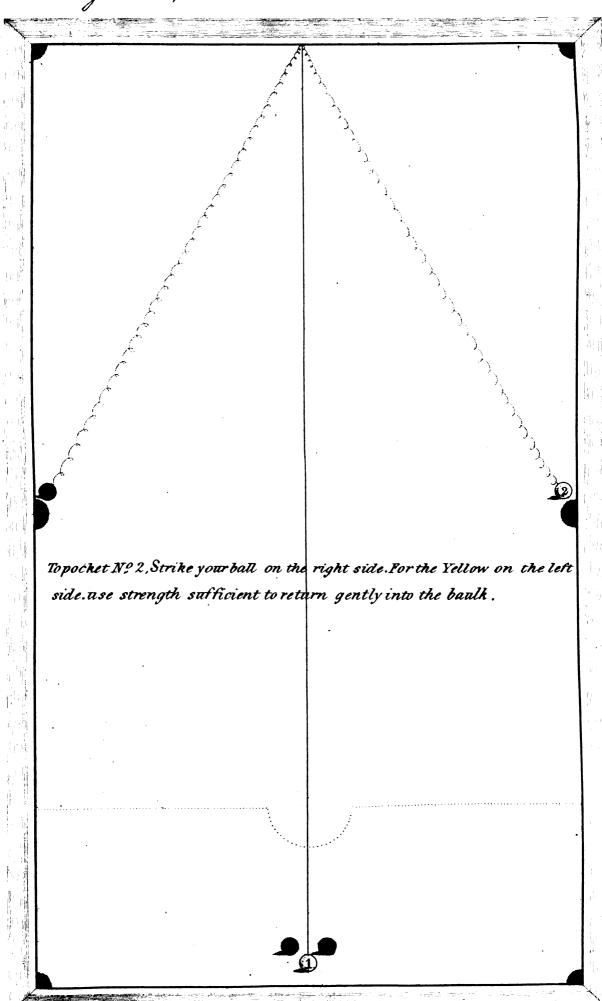
Strike N.º1 high, in the centre, with moderate strength, at the cushion as the cue directs; sequickly withdraw your hand, to make N.º1, hop over the other balls.

Strike N.ºI, high on the left, as the Cue directs, Equickly withdraw your hand, to make Nol hop over the other balls. The position of the Cue.

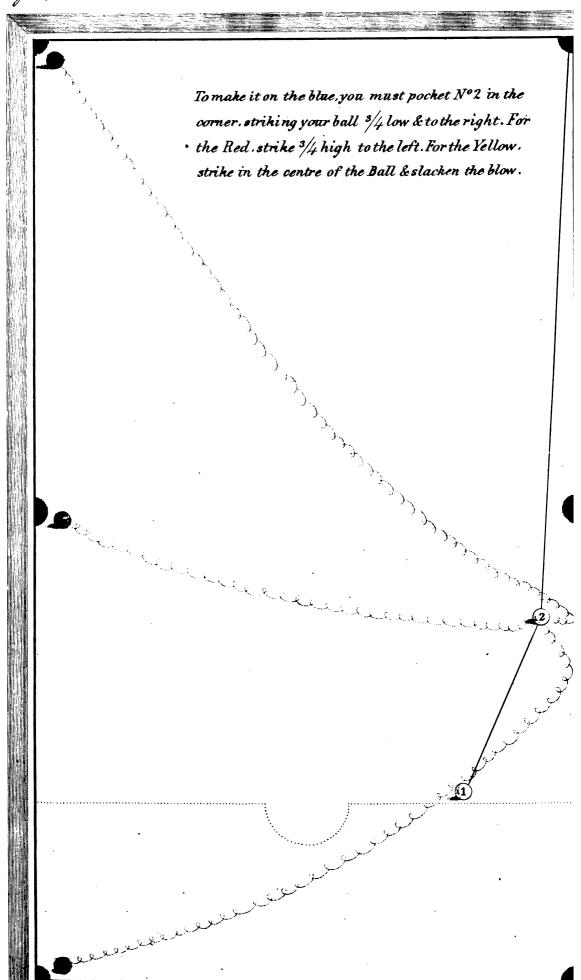


To play N.º1 on the Yellow, to carambole, and to pocket either ball you desire without changing the position of N.º1.

To pocket Nº 2, strike yourball on the top & to the right. For the Red, touch it on the top, in the centre & to the left. For the Blue, strike your ball leaning to the left.



To carambole on the Yellow attack Nº 2.3/4 full touching your ball high on the right. To make it on the Red. strike Nº 2. half full & in the same manner playing with a little more strength .

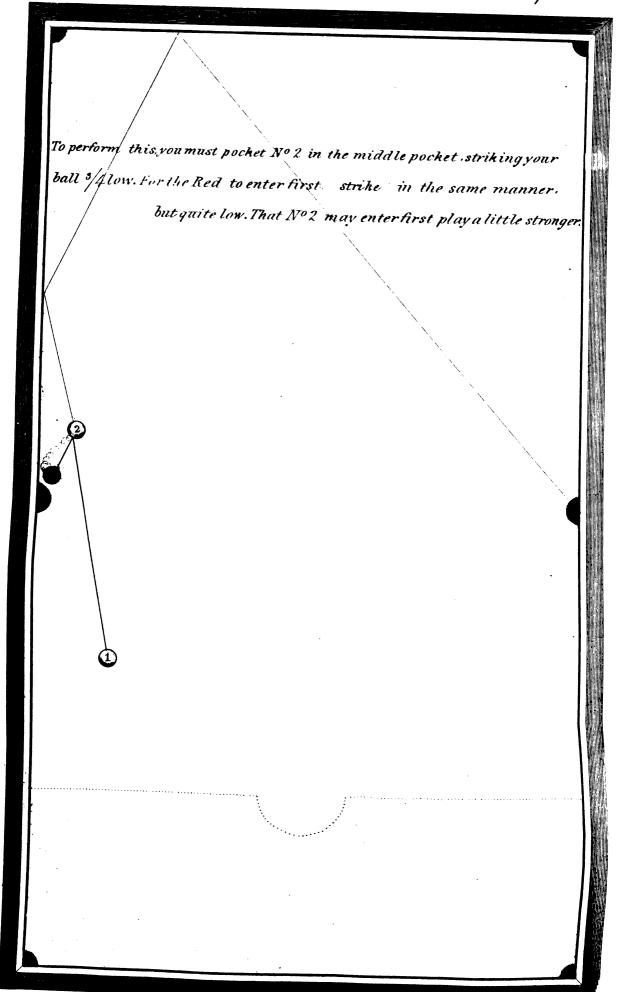


In any part of the table.

D

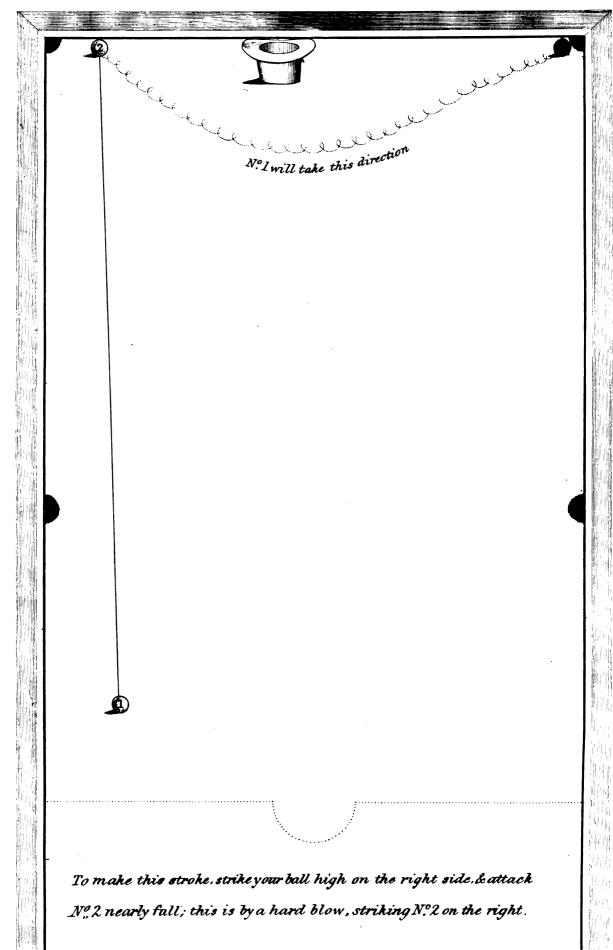
This stroke, which is one of the prettiest, cannot be made until you have placed N° 2.

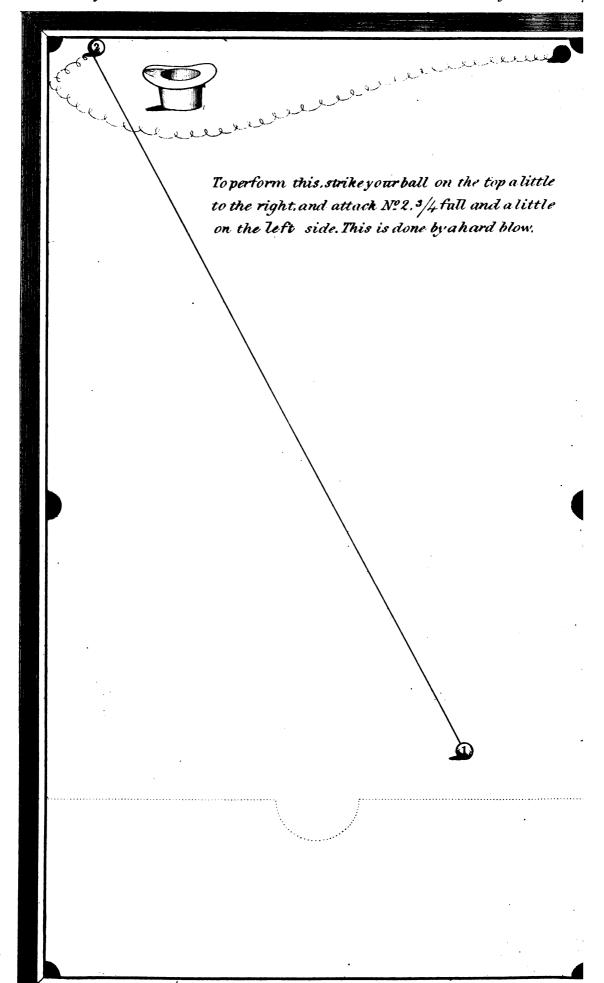
balls is pocketed first: Choice may decide to pocket either Red or White first. 14.

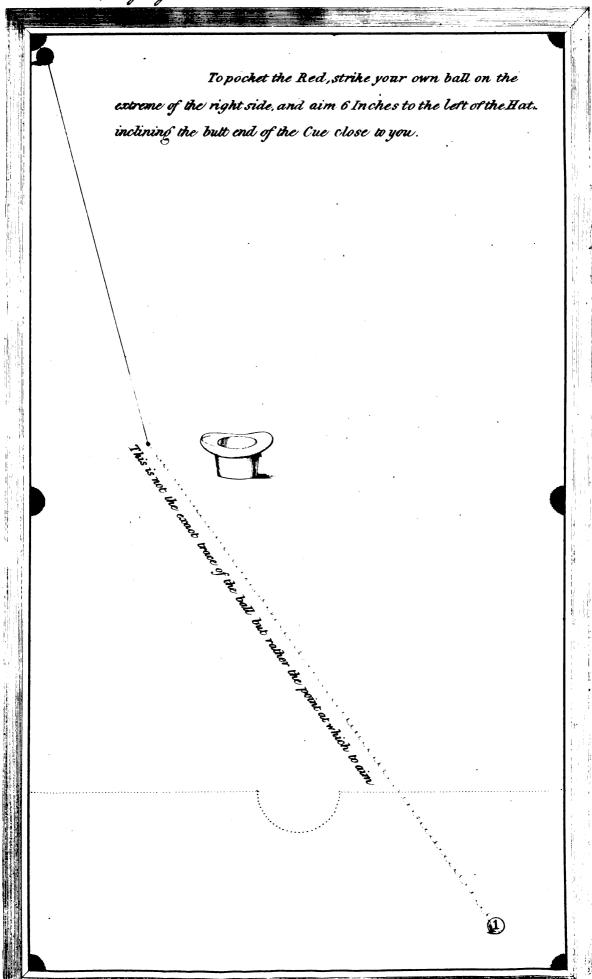


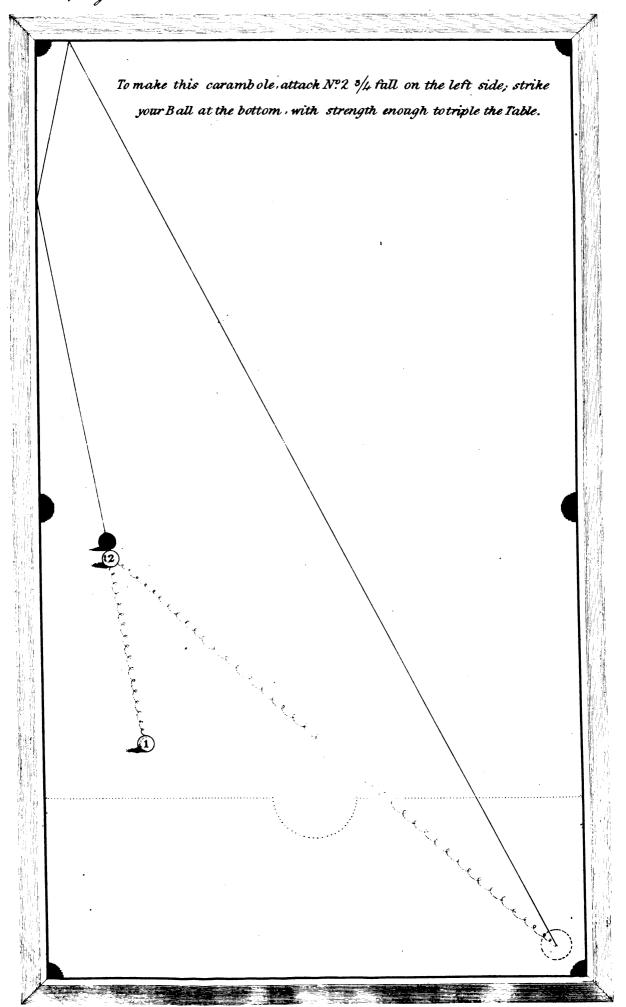
To make this stroke of seven, you must pocket No. 2, striking your ball high, & a little on the right, N.02, must be struck full. NB. Another way to play this, is to strike the Cushion first, about one inch on this side of N.º2.

To play $N_{\cdot}^{o}1$ on $N_{\cdot}^{o}2$, and to score 5, without touching the hat.

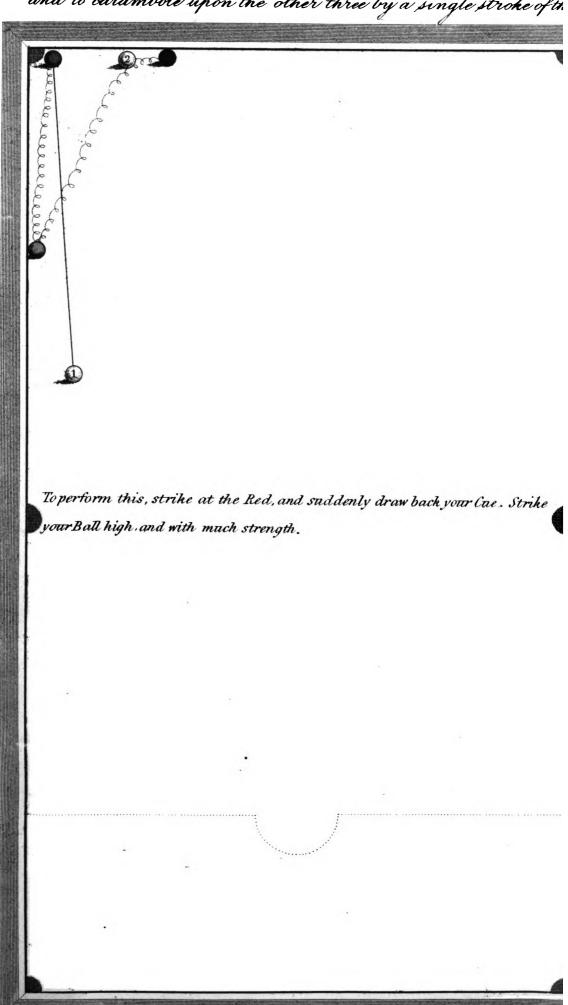


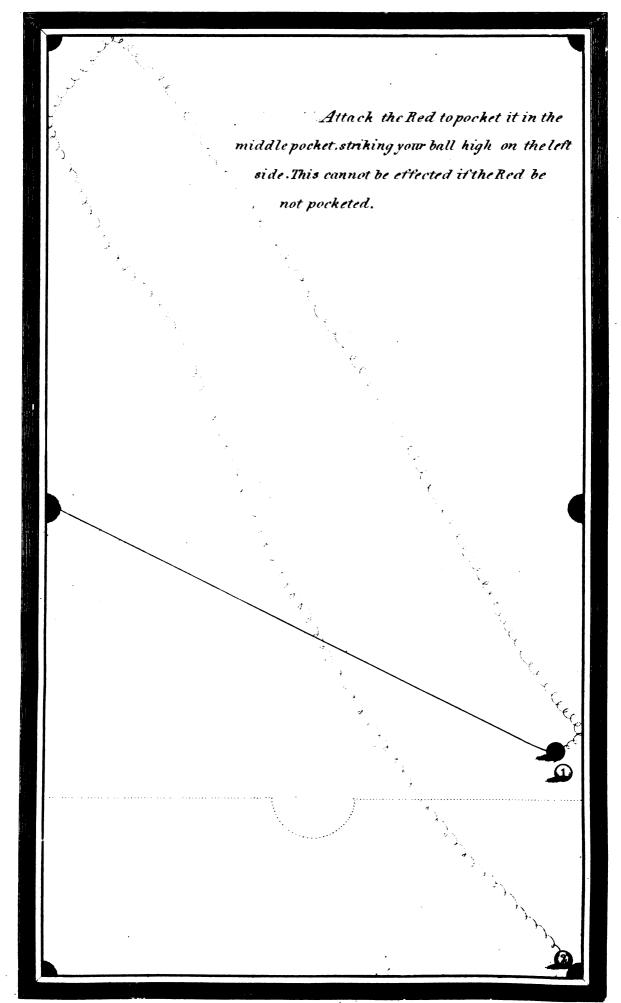


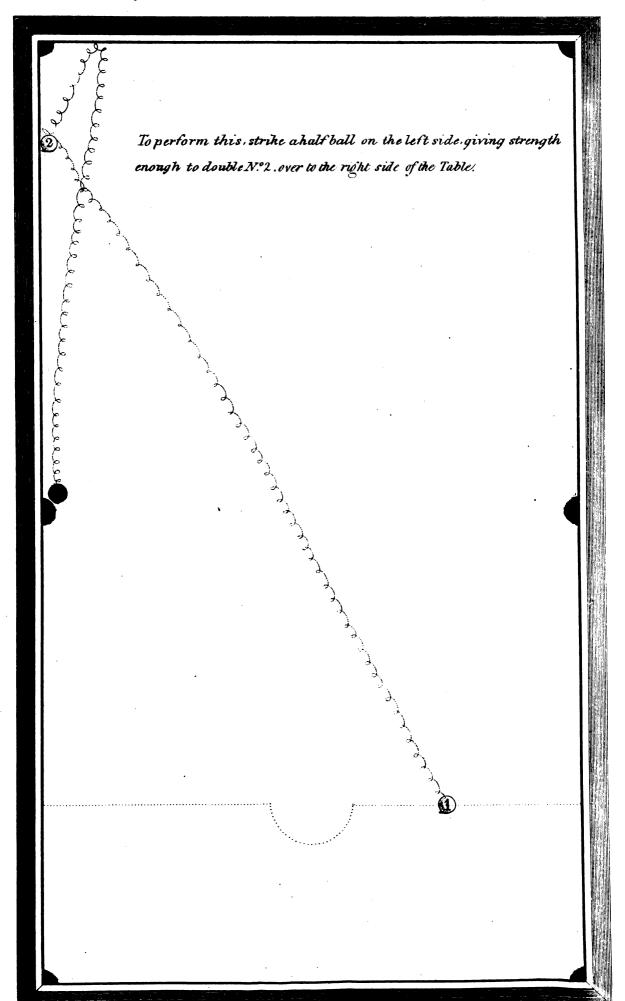




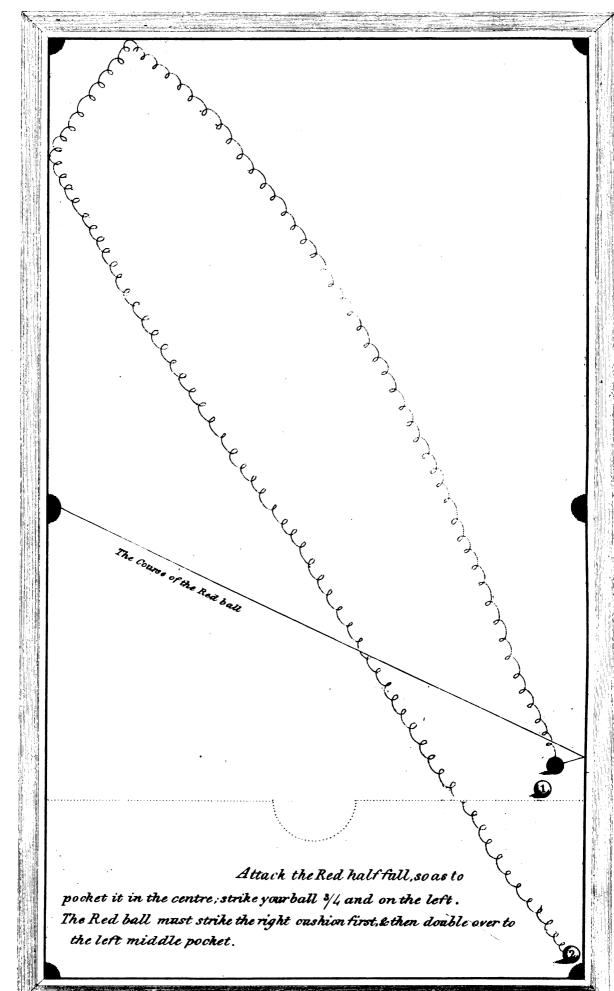
To play No. 1 on the Red ball, to pocket it in the corner pocket and to carambole upon the other three by a single stroke of the

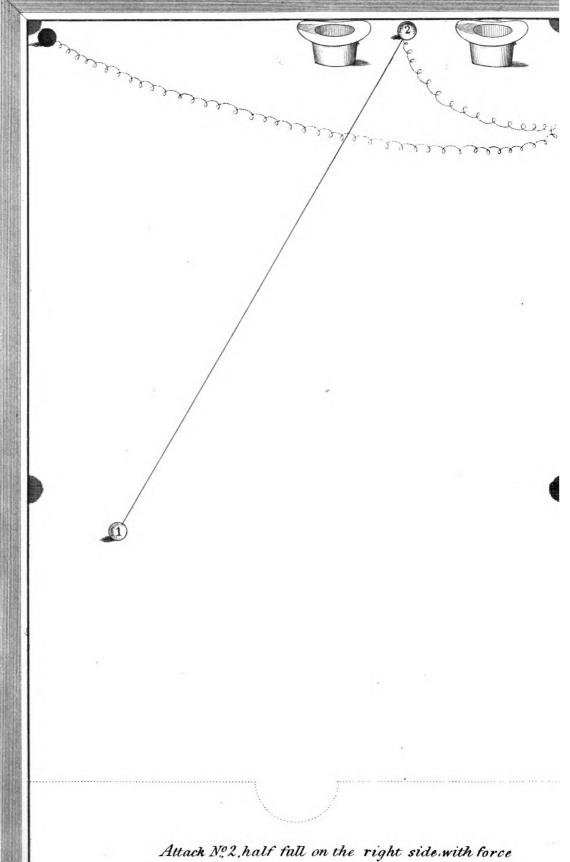




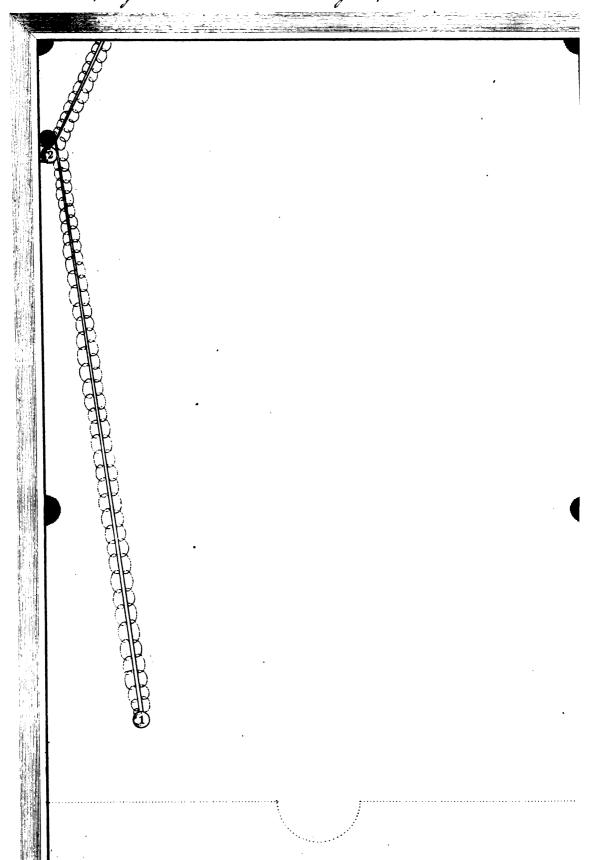


Strike Nº 1 so as to make it jump over Nº 2, and elongate the stroke, that N_{i}^{o} 2 may follow the Ball played. NB. This ball must be struck 34, full on the top & touch N.º 2. in passing over so that N.º1,& the Red are holed in the corner pocket. Strike Nº1 full &very low quickly drawing back your Cue . This is what the English call Twisting back.



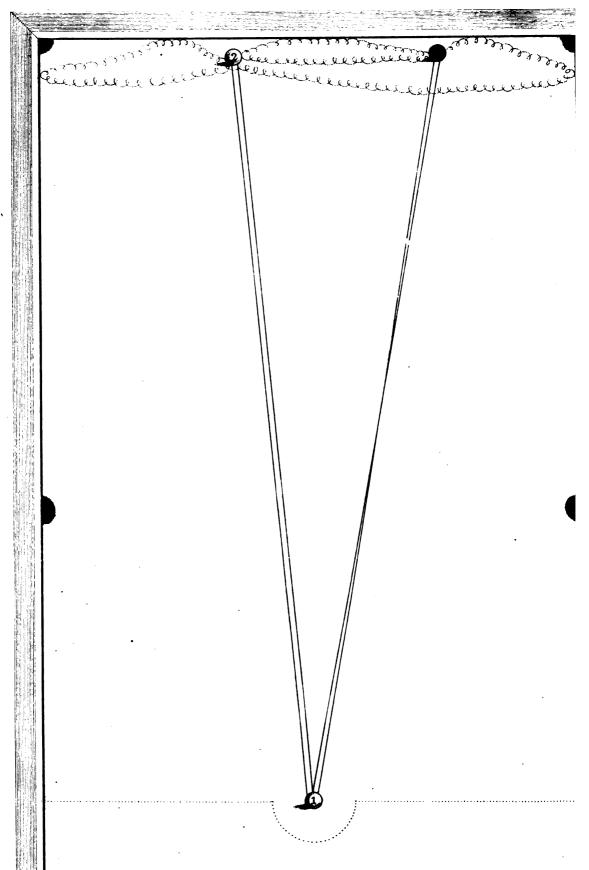


Attack Nº, 2, half full on the right side with force sufficient to triple the Table, This is done by a hard blow.

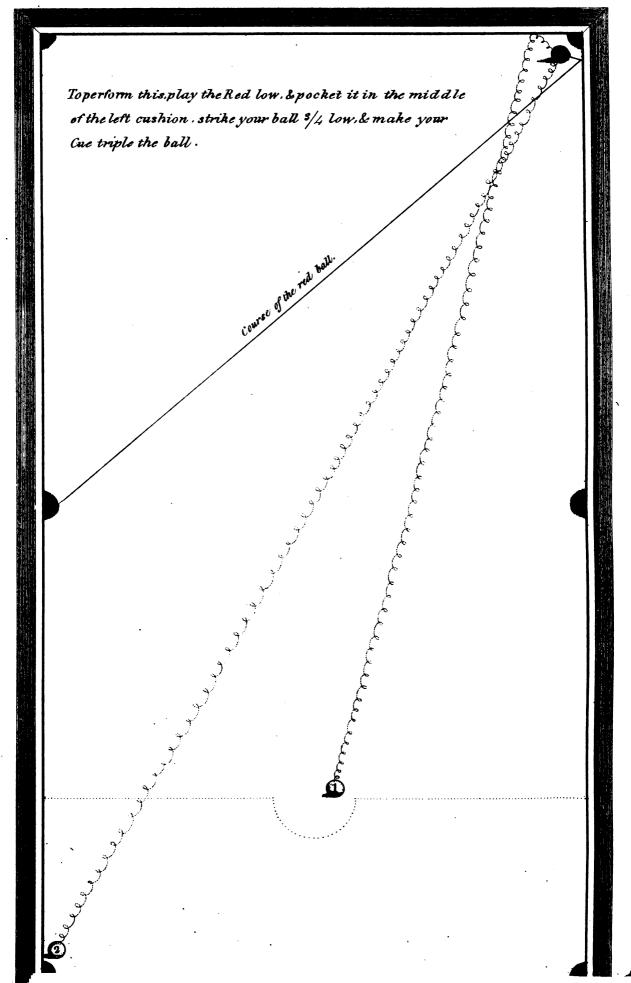


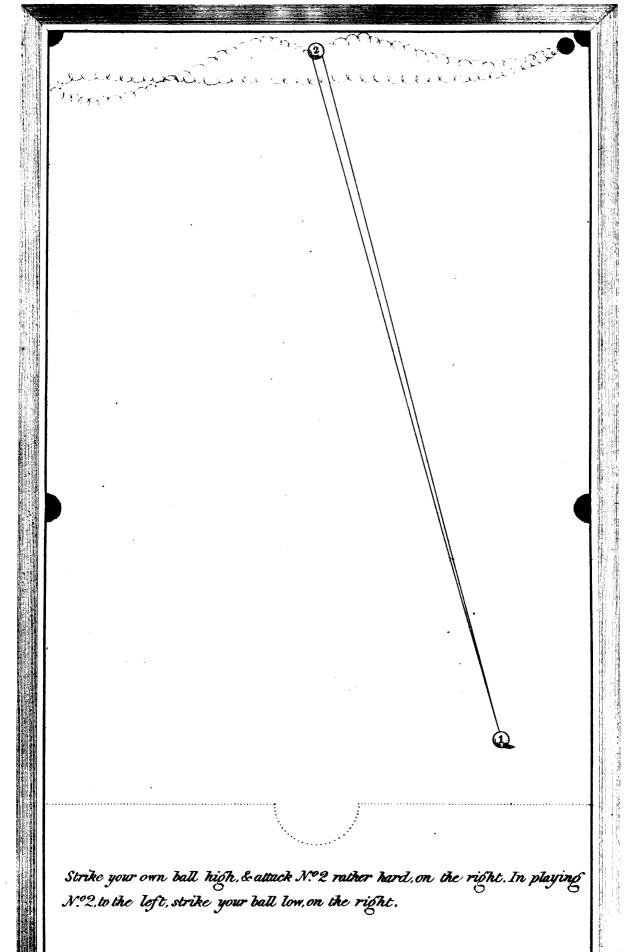
To carambole on the Red. you must strike your ball $^5/_4$ low on the left side & aim an In oh to the right of the Red ball. The same for $N^{\circ}2$ aiming $^{\prime}2$ an inch to the right.

To play $N_{\circ}^{\circ}1$ on $N_{\circ}^{\circ}2$ or the Red to strike to the right or left, and to carambole.

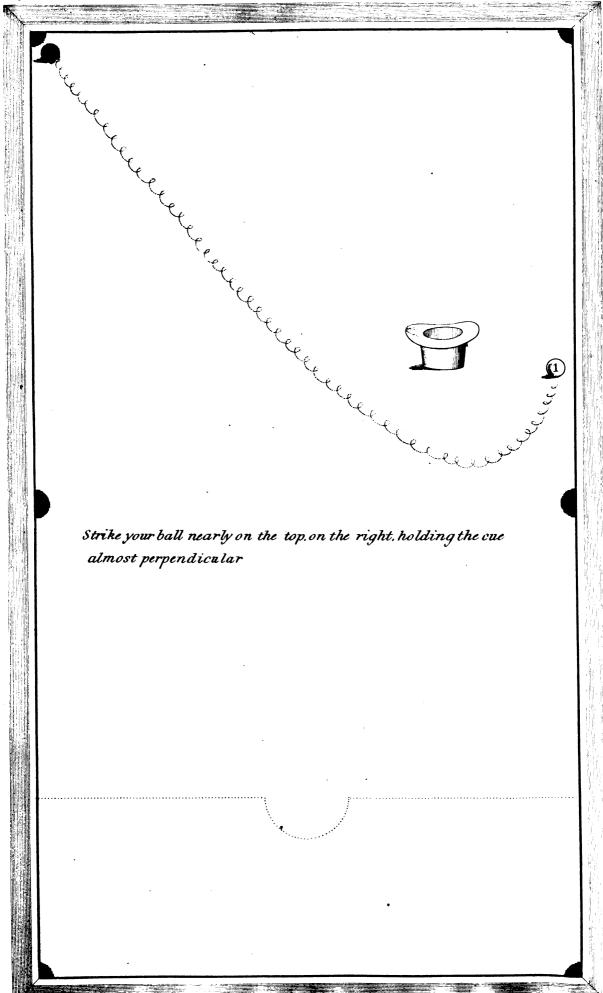


To carambole on the Red, draw back your own ball in an easy stroke on N_* °2, from the opposite side; strike your ball $\frac{3}{4}$ high on the right, with strength enough to triple the ball. The same for the Red to N°2 using the opposite side.



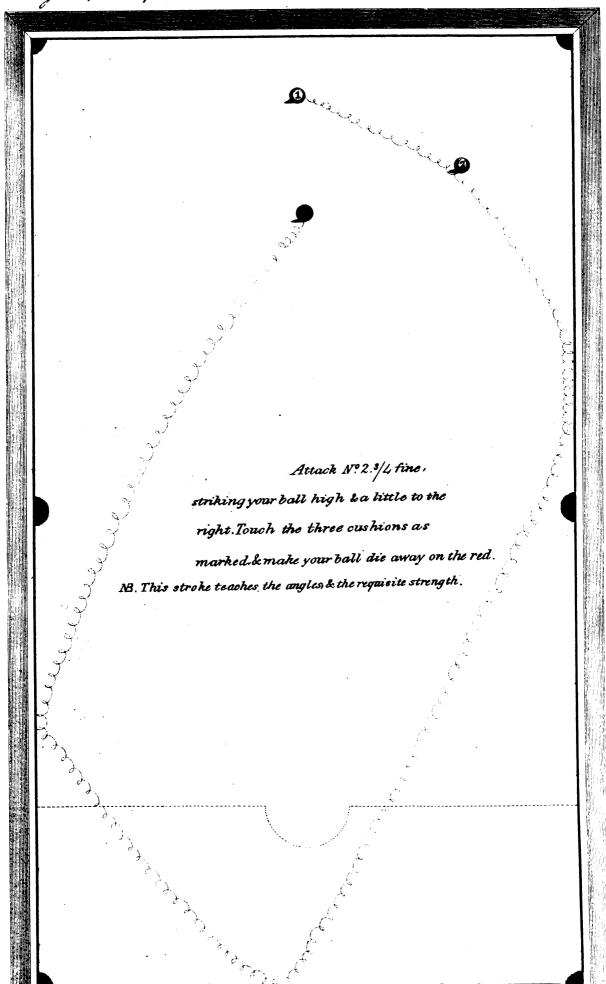


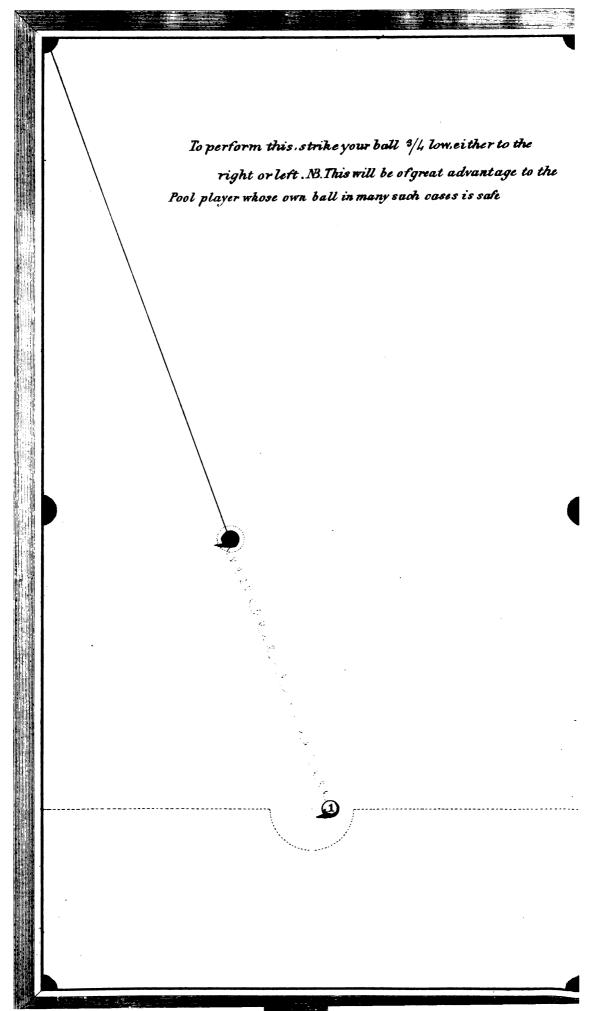
To make this stroke you must pass behind $N^o_* \mathcal{X}$, touch the cushion first and strikeyour ball low on the right side.

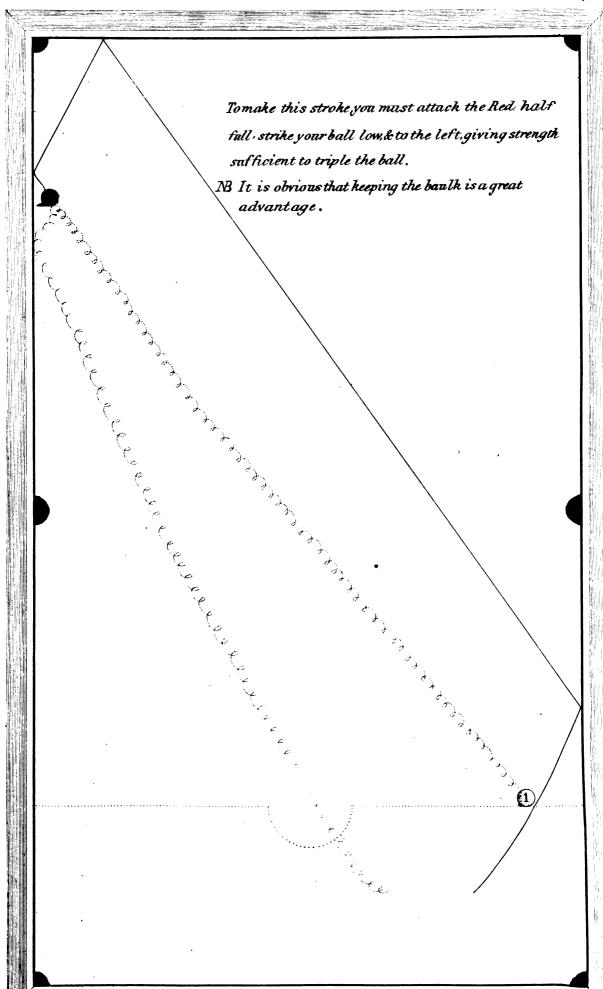


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	n the right. This is called a dead continued the continue of the cue is drawn back
	the Red ball not passing the middle
pooket, if you mij	s, a hazard is not left for your
adversary.	
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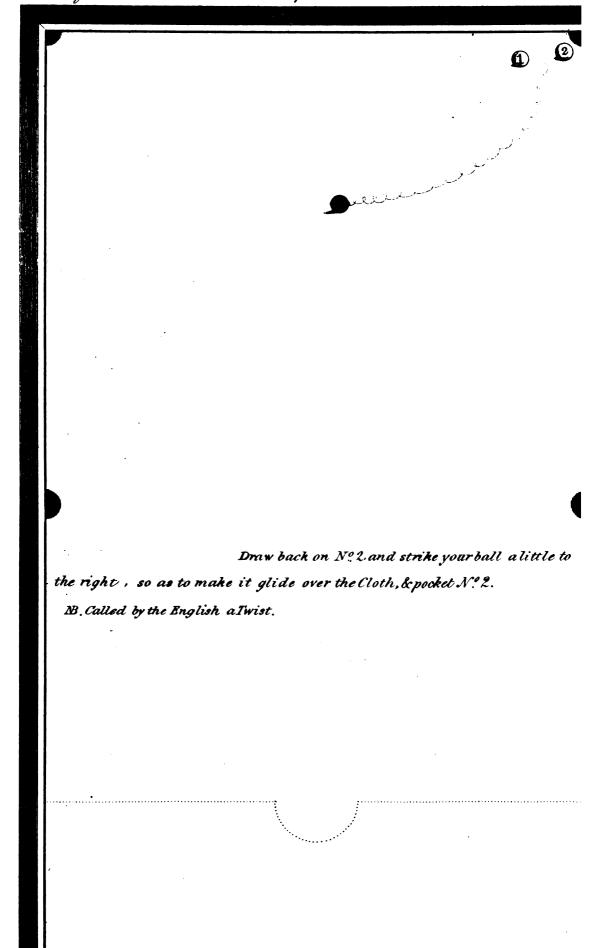
To effect this stroke, you must hold the left hand very high, strike your ball 1/4 high & make it hop over the Red, to leave your own ball in the circle.







Attack Nº2, to pocket it in the corner pocket, strike Nº1, very suddenly & low, in order that the ball may hop round the hat.



Place a ball on the Ground take it between your feet. It throw it on the Table having your back turned towards the table and score 7.

NB. The ball should fall about the spot Marked



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