

To play the game of Billiards you've got to learn a lot,
It isn't simply "cannons," "loser," or a "pot";
It will take you all your time to learn to make a decent "screw,"
And when you think you know a bit, just try a "follow through."

But when you come to using "side," it's really almost worse,
It's years before you get to know the "running" from "reverse";
And though you think you've judged it right, it's wholly on the cards
That your side has spoilt your aim, and so you miss your shot by yards!

In considering the cushions, your head will fairly swell
When you wonder "Is it fine with just a trifle side as well,
Suppose I hit it nearly full, and if so will it "kiss"?"
And shall I play with "drag" on that or drop down on to this?

You will learn to know the cannon when it always will be found
That whatever spot you play for, the ball will travel round!
You try to do a "forcing shot" and nearly smash the pocket,
Or put on too much "screw" and make it swerve like any rocket.

You must peg at "losing hazards" for several hours a day,
And cram up dusty Billiard books when you're too dog tired to play;
And when you've read and practised till your mind becomes a blur,
You may get briefly mentioned as a "useful amateur."