

Mr. M. E. HUGHES began his business here in 1857, and was the first to introduce California laurel, Oregon maple, and Pacific rosewood, into the manufacture of Billiard Tables. Mr. Hughes conducted the business up to May, 1862, at which time he associated with himself Mr. George E. Phelan, under the style and firm of Phelan & Hughes, and under whose joint management the establishment was conducted up to May, 1864, when Mr. Hughes again came into possession of the premises as sole proprietor, and will continue, with every facility complete, the manufacture of Billiard Tables here, as a branch of the very extensive establishment of Phelan & Collender, of New York, which is thus described in the *Merchant's Guide* :—

“ It is one of the largest and most elegantly arranged billiard table manufactories in the world ; the premises have the desirable advantage of both light and air. It has a front of 75 feet, and a depth of 100 feet, and is five stories high. The five floors comprise 30,000 square feet. The building is most admirably and systematically arranged, one entire floor being devoted to each department of the business. The first noticeable feature of the establishment is the engine of twenty-six horse power, built expressly for this firm. The basement, which is well adapted to the purpose, is used exclusively for marble work. Here the beds for tables are formed and polished. The first or main floor is the exhibition or salesroom, where at all times may be found a great variety of tables finished in various styles, which in point of exquisite beauty of workmanship, cannot be equalled. Connecting with this floor are also two offices, both of which are neatly furnished and tastefully arranged. The second floor is the fitting room, where the various parts of the table are put together. Above this is the machinery room, where can be seen a large amount of useful and valuable machinery, such as planing, sawing, tenoning, mortising and moulding machines. The fourth floor is the veneering room, provided with a steam apparatus for veneering. The fifth floor is the varnishing and finishing room. Connecting with the principal workshops are adjoining rooms, used for such purposes as painting, making cushions, etc. The establishment throughout is complete in every respect, affording the proprietors every opportunity for the manufacture of tables on an extensive scale.”

Mr. Hughes has now all the modern improvements lately introduced by Mr. Phelan, Mr. P. having expressed his satisfaction so far with them, that he now thinks his cushions are as perfect as human skill and ingenuity can make them.