



**SOUND THE GLAD TIDINGS.**

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All.**

This is the happiest season of all the year—the Holiday Season. It is the gift season, and in every home throughout this great land it will be celebrated. The little ones will be made happy by their toys and candy, the older ones will be remembered with more expensive and useful gifts. We shall all be happy and our degree of happiness will depend on how happy we make those around us.

We take pleasure at this joyous season in calling your attention to our

**Union Brewed Beer, Ale and Porter.**

The equal of these beverages cannot be found in this or any other country. The greatest care is used in selecting the malt and hops, none but the best that can be procured being used. Our process is conspicuous for skill and cleanliness. Our ten large plants are of the most modern construction and under the supervision of experienced brewers, who insist upon thorough cleanliness from start to finish.

Our goods enjoy the special favor of the people of the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys because they are the products of Home Industry and Union Labor.

Ask for Our Pure Union-Made Beer, Ale and Porter.

DEPARTMENTS.			
<b>E. ROBINSON'S SONS</b> Celebrated Old Stock Pilsner Beer.	<b>CASEY &amp; KELLY</b> Munster and Bohemian Beer. Carbonated Ale.	<b>LACKA BREWING CO.</b> Standard Pale Ale.	<b>SCRANTON ALE BREWERY.</b> Sparkling Ale.
<b>REICHARD &amp; WEAVER</b> WILKES-BARRE, PA. Extra Pale and Budweiser Lager Beer.	<b>HUGHES' ALE BREWERY.</b> PITTSBURGH, PA. Hughes' Celebrated Ale.	<b>HUGHES &amp; GLENNON</b> PITTSBURGH, PA. Pure Deep Rock Lager Beer and Porter.	
<b>PETER KRANTZ</b> CARBONDALE, PA. Krantz Famous Beer.	<b>JOHN ARNOLD BREWERY</b> HAZLETON, PA. Pilsner Lager Beer and Porter.	<b>A. HARTUNG BREWERY</b> HONESDALE, PA. Lager Beer, Ale and Porter.	

THE PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL BREWING CO., BUSINESS OFFICE, 431 NORTH 7th ST., SCRANTON, PA.

**QUEER TRIBE OF INDIANS**

**INDEPENDENT IN THE HEART OF MEXICO.**

For Three Hundred Years the Amatecos Have Kept Their National Characteristics, Their Traditions and Their Individuality—Are Today Virtually a Little Nation by Themselves.

From Modern Mexico.

Buried in the heart of a civilized, powerful and progressive foreign people a little handful of Indians have lived for 300 years, and have contrived to keep, during all that time, their national characteristics, their traditions and their individuality. If you seek them you will find them in Amatlan de los Reyes, a village in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico. They are known as the Amatecos. A visit to Amatlan will well repay any one who has any interest whatever in solving curious people with individual habits, customs and civilization.

It is no uncommon thing in Mexico to find a tribe of Indians that has made a determined effort to maintain its individuality against the encroachments of a higher civilization. But the Amatecos are perhaps the only people in the republic who have succeeded in retaining for themselves what is practically self-government. It must not be understood that they make any pretensions of being independent of the control of the federal authorities in Mexico City. They long ago gave up all hopeless and struggle against the power of the Spaniards, and later on the Mexican nation, and this submission is responsible for the fact that they have been able to retain their ancient customs, habits and modes of government.

**MYSTIFIED BY THE SPANIARDS.**

When the Spaniards, under the conqueror Hernan Cortez, landed in Mexico, near Vera Cruz, and began the march to the Aztec capital, the emperor, Montezuma, sent several messengers and spies to bring news of the mysterious strangers. Among others sent was Ocelotl, or the Tiger Prince, as he was known in history and legend. Ocelotl was one of the best Aztec artists, and the emperor commissioned him to make sketches of the invaders, so that he might judge of them by their appearance. He was also to bring back a detailed report of the strength of the forces of the Spaniards, who were believed to be the warriors of the Fair God, who had come from the Land of the Sun, as they were to do, according to an old and universally believed tradition.

Ocelotl brought back a complete report to the emperor, and gave it up his opinion, from what he had seen of the strangers, that it would require all the strength and cunning of the Aztec empire to contend against them. Montezuma was so angry at this unfavorable report that he ordered Ocelotl to be publicly flogged as a coward who wished to frighten with childish tales the courage of his warriors, who had until then been ever successful. Ocelotl, however, had many friends at the court

of the emperor, and through their aid he succeeded in escaping from the city, and in getting to the land of Tlaxcala, which was the hereditary enemy of the Aztec empire.

Now there is a curious legend still told by the Amatecos to the effect that Ocelotl stopped at Amatlan, on his way back from Vera Cruz, and that the people of that town heard him tell what he had to say. Ocelotl told them of the fair faces of the strangers, their garments, which shone as bright as the sun itself; the great beasts they rode, and how they came armed with the weapon of the god of thunder and lightning. The people of Amatlan held a meeting in the public square, and when the chiefs had heard the story of Ocelotl they decided that the newcomers were indeed the warriors of the emperor of the sun, and that there was, therefore, no use whatever in opposing them. So they sent a message to Cortez saying that they had decided to become his friends.

Whatever truth there may be in this legend it might well have been true, for it has embodied in it the characteristics of the Amatecos as a people. They have ever been clever diplomatists. When the Aztecs were at war with all the people around them the Amatecos succeeded in making a treaty of peace with them, which protected them from invasion by the Aztec army. At the same time they had treaties with two other rude nations to the south and east that were at war with the Aztecs. There is another legend among the Amatecos to the effect that the people of Tlaxcala did not treat Ocelotl, the tiger prince, well, and that he soon left their city and wandered south until he came to Amatlan, where he was warmly welcomed by the people. He remained with them many years and became their chief, not their king, for Amatlan had never been, in its form of government, republican, and is still so today.

**THEIR INDEPENDENCE.**

The people of Amatlan practically govern themselves today without any interference on the part of the Mexican government. They pay their federal taxes promptly, as they have done for the past 300 years, under one name or another, but their duties stop there. They may be said to constitute a little Aztec nation in the heart of the Mexican republic. They have their own hereditary chiefs, their own aristocracy in direct line, reaching back beyond the Spaniard conquest. They retain their own customs, habits, manner of dress and modes of thought. They are nominally Catholic, but the ancient Aztec mythology is largely mixed with their religious beliefs. They have hundreds of charms which are supposed to be effective against certain diseases, dangers or accidents. And there is a spirit of some kind connected with almost every charm. This spirit was, not so many years ago, an Aztec god or demigod. The Amatecos is therefore a most curious combination of Christian and pagan, civilized citizen and savage. He has his own schools, but his teachers are all Amateco Indians; he has his own churches, but his priests are also Amatecos.

Amatlan is a little piece of China in the heart of Mexico. It has built a barrier wall without the permission of the authorities. In Amatlan strangers are looked upon with suspicion and mistrust to such an extent that not even traders are allowed in the city without a special permit from the authorities. All these things have con-

tributed to keep Amatlan the curious community it is. It cannot be called a nation or even a tribe, for the estimate of the size of the population of the whole people is variously put at from 5,000 to 15,000. The town itself is not over 3,000, but considerable territory around it is, in a tribal sense, tributary to it.

The people of Amatlan, especially the women, are very fond of dress and they are skillful in needlework. Upon their holiday dresses they lavish a great deal of patience, time and labor. Some of the Amateco women, when young, are very beautiful, and in general they have much better features than those of most of the other Indian tribes that surround them. Even the women when they get older, possess pleasing features. Their industry, the tranquillity they lead and the better food they receive and have received for at least three generations are probably responsible in a great degree for this.

**THE INDIA RUBBER TREE.**

From the Forest Philippines.

One of the greatest popularities is the India rubber tree of the Central American forests. It will often begin its career at the very top of a forest giant like the wild fig; it sends forth its thick leaves and pushes its roots down to get nourishment from the big tree. Gradually, as it obtains the required nutriment, its little roots descend the bark on the outside and get into the earth; it might get its food now from the ground, but it retains its grip on its victim, sucking and squeezing it till it is dead, and the India rubber itself has taken the place of the big tree, the crumbling remains of which it survives. With a young and vigorous tree the murderer would have very little chance, but its victim is usually old and consequently less healthy.

In the tropical forests we have the best opportunities of watching plant robbery and murders, but we can see many instances on our own islands. The elegant mountain is a pretty plant with a profusion of white starlike blossoms; its beauty attracts everybody; yet it fastens itself on any tree, and deliberately smothered it, shutting out the air as effectually as a beautiful woman might stifle with a pillow any man who had not returned her love and had fixed his attentions on another. You may see a Scotch fir now being killed in this way near Esdhill.

The mistletoe is a notorious slayer; its berries contain a sticky substance for the very purpose of enabling them to adhere to the rough bark of trees—they would not live if they fell to the ground. Once in a cranmy of the bark, it develops, throws out roots which pierce the tree and drink in the juice. It is slow death for the tree, for mistletoe does not grow rapidly, the involuntary host is situated somewhat in its own development and has a hard struggle to find food for both; it is a long and lingering death.

The broomrape is a family of small thieves, the members of which fasten on to the roots of broom, turn, clover and other plants; they are more insidious than most others, as they get at the roots of the plants on which they fasten. It is, perhaps, an example of poetic justice to find that the ivy is one of their victims, for ivy itself must come under the head of murdering plants; it throws its tendrils around trees as well as walls, and so envelops them that at length they are smothered.

**WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO BUY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Is the leading question. We simply suggest that our stock is intended to make everyone happy.

**Games of all Kinds, Skates, Sleds, Polo Sticks Sweaters**

Everything for Winter Outdoor Sports, and Everything for Indoor Sports.

**The Burrows Portable BILLIARD and POOL TABLES**

Or Combination "Balletto" Game Boards.

**VERY MANY ADVANTAGES.**

Why pay \$140 to \$300 for a Billiard or Pool Table and then go to top of the house to play, when you can have both games (and various others) and play in any room in the house, and at only a small fraction of the expense? On account of the skill required and the beautiful plays possible, the games become interesting, instructive and fascinating for people of nearly all ages. Games with balls and cues have been in use for more than 3000 years and are now fast growing in favor. This is no toy and not fit for small children. It is for boys and girls, young people, men and women, and will greatly aid in making home attractive. At Y. M. C. A. Associations and Clubs the young men stand in line waiting turn to play. Clergymen and professional men are also using these boards in every state of the Union. The tables are made in several sizes, at different prices.

**Archarena Star Combination Boards**

STILL LEADING IN POPULARITY WITH 55 GAMES.

THE ONLY BOARD with the new Billiardette.  
THE ONLY BOARD with a pin Cuban Carrom Game.  
THE ONLY BOARD with patented Concave Carrom Rings.  
THE ONLY BOARD with 25 New Top Games.  
THE ONLY BOARD combining Crokinole with game "Flags of the Nations" and 50 other games.  
TOP GAMES on all boards.  
CARROM REBOUND beats them all.  
REVERSE THE BOARD and play all the Carrom Games.  
THE BEST NEW CENTURY GAMES.

**CARROMOLA and CROCKINOLA**

Are Found Only on the Celebrated Archarena Boards.  
No. 1 24-in. Board, 50 Games, \$2.25.  
No. 2 28-in. Board, 55 Games, \$3.50.  
No. Cues with No. 1 Board.

**CAMERAS**

No. 2 Brownie Cameras, \$2.00, latest novelties. Photo Calendars for mounting your own pictures, all sizes, 5c. each. New Sterro Cameras using 3 1/2 films. Reinhart's Indian Calendars. A full line of Camera supplies.

Headquarters for Everything in the Line of Sporting Goods.

**FLOREY & BROOKS**

211 Washington Avenue.