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GREEN TEA

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The Gift Of The Gods

BY PEARL FOLEY.
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CHAPTER XIII.

"Niu Lang and Chih Nu are weeping buckets this morning," exclaimed Mrs. Claymore to Pep, her white Persian, as she gazed at the downpour from her sitting-room window. "That means Tu He will have to meet the Culvers under trying conditions. However, it's only me who'll suffer in looks—the child is such a fairy. My gracious, Pep, if that isn't a woman climbing the hill—why I declare it's Lun! She's coming to tell me, I suppose, that Tu He isn't a duck. Well, well, it's a disappointment, but—why, the pure creature can hardly get up the steps! I had no idea she was that old or feeble."

Mrs. Claymore ran to the verandah and helped the tottering, dripping Lun into dryness and warmth.

"Why, Lun, you are ill. Why in the world do you ever—"

But Lun let Mrs. Claymore get no farther. Clapping one of the hands that was removing her wet cloak she cried shrilly, "She's gone—gone—the Gift of the Gods!"

The pagan wall sent a chill through the American woman.

"Lun, you are ill, overwrought. Sit here while I get you some tea. No, not another word now. I won't listen."

In two minutes Mrs. Claymore reappeared with a steaming cup in her hand, but it was no use. The cup was only a receptacle for the Chinese woman's tears. Rocking herself back and forth, she gave vent to her emotion in heart-rending cries and wails.

Mrs. Claymore, deciding remonstrance useless, seated herself in a corner and let the woman's anguish have away. In a few minutes the paroxysm abated and she turned to the other with a little moan.

In an instant Mrs. Claymore was at her side. "Now, Lun," she said softly, "tell me what has happened."

In trembling, moaning tones she told of how Miss Tu He, her darling child, had come to spend two days and nights with Miss Leon Sheldon, a foreign school friend; that when Tu He did not return last night as she had promised, she, Lun, had set off at midnight to seek her. Had she aroused the foreigners from their beds and learned that their servants had taken Tu He home at eight o'clock. They had sent for the runners, but the men hadn't yet come back. Thinking per-

haps the festivities had tempted them, they bade Lun wait till their return. Lun waited and waited. When hours passed and they still did not come, the foreigners, becoming uneasy, went to the door and made inquiries, but could they find of Tu He or their servants.

Mrs. Claymore listened in alarmed amazement to Lun's strange tale. Horrible fears attacked her, which she tried in vain to thrust from her. Every conceivable horror she had ever read or heard of the Chinese committing came into her mind until the chery, practical woman was almost as frantic as Lun. She felt she must go out and search, but where could she go? And then a ray of relief came to her. She would go to David Marsden. He loved the girl and would move heaven and earth to find her.

"When do you expect the mandarin home?" she enquired of Lun.

"He home from Shanghai to-night."

Taking time only to cover her house slippers with overshoes and slip into her waterproof, Mrs. Claymore was soon ready to start on her pony for the city. Lun had already set forth on her return journey. It was agreed that if any news came to the mandarin's house, a messenger was to be dispatched to the American at once.

The streets of Peking presented a dismal sight after the night's festivities. Remnants of firecrackers and torn, dripping lanterns littered the road and walks. It was indeed a sorry spectacle. The rain came down harder than ever. The few natives who were forced out into the weather forgot their own discomfort in watching the dripping foreign devil flying through their midst. It required a decidedly optimistic nature to see even a flash of sunshine through the cloud that obscured Tu He. Even bright, cheery Mrs. Claymore left her last ounce of hope behind her in the dirty, littered streets. A presentiment possessed her as she entered the hotel that the little Chinese girl's bright face was lost to them forever.

She gazed in speechless amazement when the clerk at the desk informed her that Captain Marsden had left for England that morning. Curious eyes followed her as she staggered to the elevator. David gone—that was the last straw! Could it be possible? A ray of hope buoyed her an instant. But no, the ray turned to another cinder of disappointment. David was too level-headed. He could love a woman to distraction, but honor flew as high as his love. Besides, Mrs. Claymore knew that David's liking for the mandarin was too genuine for him to elope with his niece.

She felt too sick at heart to talk to anyone and hesitated when offered the Ashton apartments whether to go in or not. But her hesitation wasn't of long duration, for the door opened while she stood there and a surprised servant stepped aside for her to pass.

"Why, it's Helen Claymore!" exclaimed Grace, coming forward. "Good gracious, my dear, you are simply drenched! Come in quick and let me take those wet things off you."

Grace chatted as she unbuttoned the water-soaked cloak and heavy, sodden overshoes.

"China's taste for thorough old-fashioned things even extends to her rains, doesn't it? Poor David, it was a miserable send-off for him. But of course you haven't heard of his sudden departure for England? Why, Helen, you are ill."

Grace ran from the room and reappeared with a glass of wine. "There, that's better," she exclaimed a few minutes later. "You frightened me for a minute."

Mrs. Claymore smiled wanly. "I've received a frightful shock, Grace, dear. The mandarin's niece, Tu He, has disappeared."

"Tu He disappeared?" repeated Grace in shocked amazement.

Mrs. Claymore nodded, and explained briefly what Lun had told her.

Grace listened with horror-stricken eyes to the tragic story. Glancing at her wrist watch she said thoughtfully: "It's now eleven. David sailed at seven. Poor David! poor Tu He!"

Tears welled up in her eyes as she spoke.

Helen Claymore's eyes were not dry either. The memory of the Chinese girl's charm overwhelmed her. She felt her loss as keenly as she would that of a younger sister.

Grace wiped her eyes and her voice was husky as she spoke. "I feel this terribly, Helen. David loves her, as you must know, and I did my best to dissuade him from thinking of her."

She rose and walked to the window. "I don't know if my advice had any weight with him or not, but I can't help feeling partly responsible. Why, oh why, was I such an idiot as to interfere with two people's fate—their whole lives?"

"Don't talk that way, Grace, dear. You aren't the only one who felt that England or America would kill Tu He."

"No," acceded Grace, coming back and seating herself beside her friend

on the couch. "I know the Culvers and his Uncle Chess were against such an idea, but it was different with David and me. We were more than pals. He was just like a dear, only brother to me." And you, Helen, you always claimed Tu He would bloom like a rose on foreign soil, didn't you?"

Helen Claymore nodded. "I've studied the child closely. Deep down she is as much Anglo-Saxon as you and I. She has the Chinese veneer, but it is only veneer—her soul is white. I mean that literally. Her love for her uncle is the strongest link that binds her to paganism. That reminds me, Mr. Weng Toy returns to-night from Shanghai. If you'll put up with my company until then, Grace, I'll wait and see what he intends to do."

"O Helen! do we have to wait till then? Can nothing be done before?"

"I don't see how. Mr. Sheldon is doing everything possible. Remember, we are women in a pagan land, dear."

"Do you think," continued Grace, "that if we went to the mandarin's house we might find out anything? Even a tiny clue might lead to something."

Helen Claymore shook her head. "According to Lun, Mr. Sheldon interviewed every servant of the house who remained home last night. They were all at the festival. Even Lun was out till ten o'clock."

"Well, Helen, I can't rest here. It's terribly white the I feel I must be out and doing something."

"What do you propose?" questioned her friend.

"I shall send a messenger to the American Legation for Rowe and have him accompany us to the Culvers. Together we ought to be able to think out some plan."

So a messenger was despatched and the two women sat down and waited.

CHAPTER XIV.

When Tu He discovered she was indeed a hopeless prisoner, she felt there was nothing to do but pray for the gods to take her. But, she asked herself, would the gods hear her? They apparently had no pity on her or they would have saved her from this—the disgrace of being in Chu Sing's power. She crept back to the bed, where she sat with her head buried in her hands. She looked up fearfully when the door opened, but it was only the woman returning with a pitcher of water.

Tu He drained a glass eagerly and her parched throat felt for more, but the servant shook her head. Tu He pleaded, reached out her hand insistently, but even as she spoke drowsiness befogged her brain—a queer, helpless sensation took possession of her limbs and she sank back on the bed.

When she awoke, the rain beating against the window and the faint light entering the room, announced that morning and a storm had arrived together. Her head felt clear. The memory of the past hours rushed over her again, but not with renewed horror. She was the calm, stoic now. She would struggle no more. Death was always within reach. The sound of a chair moving caused her to turn her head on the pillow. The waiting-woman was approaching with a tray of food.

Tu He turned away. She knew there had been something in the water that had caused the deep sleep from which she had just awakened.

The servant, noticing the movement of aversion, bent over her charge and in quick, eager Chinese said: "I gave you sleeping medicine, miss, and need not sleep without it, and not sleep means very sick."

(To be continued.)

Flower Wisdom.

A garden cannot live entirely to itself. Even the finest stock needs fresh blood from the garden of another.

A few little parpie petals can spoil a whole bed of mammoth fringed beauties.

Some flowers must not be massed; they are so depressing when past their prime.

Before your roses blossom, sow their beds with forget-me-nots.

All pansies are gadabouts, and take fresh life from change of scene. It takes chrysanthemums two years to recover from one move.

The scarlet runner is worth while; it grows well, looks well and eats well.

Foxgloves are all on the surface; they are a joy if constantly renewed.

When your oriental poppies begin to sulk in the early fall—let them alone!

Fertilize deep, if you want strong roots for endurance.

What is easily grown and free flowing is never appreciated by the gardener; if the neighbors are successful with it, down goes its value another peg.

If flowers don't fill a bit of bare ground, weeds will.

He: I was once in love with a girl in this town. I understand she married a broker.

His wife: Surely not broker than you are.

The countryman is neither as sentimental nor as glib as the townsman. He takes longer to think, and he thinks deeper.—Lord Selborne.

Minard's Liniment for Dandruff.

Woman's Interests

CANNING THE UNUSUAL THINGS.

After the ordinary canning of the summer is finished, the housewife may turn her attention to the more unusual and artistic phases of the work and devise ways and means for storing the less familiar products.

Some of the less common garden vegetables, put into the cans, will help add variety to the winter meals.

Tomatoes canned whole for winter-time salads are not difficult to do, if one knows the secret of their success. This consists in making a thick sauce of some of the poorer tomatoes and pouring this into the jars, so that it entirely surrounds the whole tomatoes.

Select tomatoes that are ripe and firm; sort them, putting those of regular size in one pile for filling the jars, those of less perfect appearance or shape in another pile for making the sauce. Cut these into small pieces after washing them and place over the fire with enough water to prevent them from sticking to the bottom of the kettle. Then cook them briskly till reduced to a pulp. Strain this through a sieve, pressing well so that all the juices are obtained; then measure it and to each quart add two spoonfuls of sugar and one of salt.

Blanch the perfect tomatoes and cold dip them, then remove the skins and cut the cores neatly away. Place them in the sterilized jars, packing as close together as possible, but taking care not to crush them, and fill the jars with the thick, hot tomato sauce. Partially seal as usual and process under five pounds' pressure for fifteen minutes, or in the water bath for half an hour. When serving, pour the tomato liquid from the jars and use it for flavoring soups or sauces. The tomatoes themselves should be firm and in fine condition for baking whole or for serving in the form of a salad.

Vegetable Soup Stock will prove a convenient and savory thing to have on hand, for with it a steaming dish of soup may be made in the twinkling of an eye. To make a dozen quart jars of the stock one will require half a bushel of tomatoes, four heads of cabbage, one peck of onions, six green and three red peppers, twenty-four medium-sized carrots, six stalks of celery, two dozen ears of corn and a large bunch of parsley, with a cup of salt. Scald and peel the tomatoes and cut them into small pieces, or run them through the food chopper. Boil the corn, which should, of course, be young and tender, for ten minutes; then cut it from the cobs. Chop the cabbage and peppers after removing the seeds from the latter and cut all the other vegetables but the parsley into small pieces. Then mix all together and cook without adding any water, or only enough to prevent burning, until the vegetables are a very tender. Remove the bunch of parsley and fill the mixture into sterilized jars; process under five pounds' pressure for fifteen minutes, or in the water bath for forty-five minutes.

A quart of this stock added to a quart of boiling water, then cooked for ten minutes and nicely seasoned, will make a quick vegetable soup; or a pint of it, added to a quart of meat stock and cooked for the same length of time, will provide an appetizing dinner soup.

Carrots in Butter are delicious. Wash and scrape tender young carrots of small size and blanch them for three or four minutes in boiling water. Then fill them into sterilized jars and pour over them a dressing made by adding three tablespoonfuls of fresh butter to a quart of water; bring to the boiling point and stir in four tablespoonfuls of sugar and one tablespoonful of salt. The dressing should be used while boiling hot and the jars filled to within one-quarter of an inch of the top. Partially seal the jars and process forty minutes under ten pounds' pressure, or one hundred and twenty minutes in the water bath. If the carrots are not very young and not very tender, give them a somewhat longer time for processing.

Cauliflower is not often canned, but there is no reason why it should not be. Only the flower should be used. Break the flowerets apart and crisp them in cold water, then blanch in boiling salted water, using a tablespoonful of salt to each quart. Arrange immediately in the jars and fill with boiling water, adding a teaspoonful of salt to each jar. Process thirty-five minutes at ten pounds' pressure in the steam cooker, or fifty-five minutes in the water bath.

Canned Fruit Salad requires large, ripe, firm peaches, tender juicy pears, white grapes, and—if possible to secure them—several ripe pineapples and a bottle of maraschino cherries. Canned pineapple may be substituted for the fresh, and the cherries may be omitted.

As to the proportions to be used in this salad, one may use one's own discretion, selecting for the foundation the fruit which is most plentiful at the time of making. Peaches and pears may be used in equal quantity, with just enough of the other fruits to give the desired variety. A pint bottle of the cherries will be ample for six quarts of the other fruits combined, as the cherries are merely ornamental.

Scald, peel and halve the peaches

Woman's Interests

A Lifebuoy bath

Cool, fresh, rested skin tingling with health and comfort—Feeling cleaner than you ever felt before—Because of the big, creamy lather of Lifebuoy.

Tradition is a sort of starch with which we stiffen up our prejudices.

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The Pattern is cut in 5 Sizes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. The Dress requires 2 1/2 yards of material, the petticoat 1 1/2 yards and the combination 1 1/4 yards 36 inches wide for a 2-year size.

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but it must be Keen's

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a good thing to remember

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2 IN 1 WHITE Shoe Dressing

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