Tea as a Beverage

Tea first became known in China nearly 3000 years before Christ. In that country tea was greatly prized, both for its remarkable qualities as a beverage and for the almost religious ceremony attached to the drinking of it. Up to the sixth century, tea was used only for medicinal purposes. Even in the seventeenth century it cost \$25.00 to \$50.00 per pound. All tea caddies were constantly kept under lock and key. Today when even fine quality like "SALADA" costs less than one-third of a cent per cup, it is not surprising that the consumption of tea is increasing tremen-



CHAPTER IV.

When Baree ventured forth from under his rock at the beginning of the next day, he was a much older puppy than when he met Papsyuchisew, the young owl, in his path near the old windfall. If experience can be made to take the place of age, he had aged a great deal in the last forty-eight hourse. In fact, he had passed almost of the world. It was a big place. It was filled with many things, of which kazan and Gray Wolf were not the most important. The monsters he had seen on the moonlit plot of sand had roused in him a new kind of caution, and the one greatest instinct of beasts—the primal understanding that it is the strong that prey upon the weak—was wakening swiftly in him.

If he could only find something to eat! That was the master thought that possessed Baree. Instinct had not yet impressed upon him that this which he saw all about him was staryation. He went on, seeking hopefully for food. But at last, as the hours passed, hope began to die out of him. The sun sank westward. The sky grew less blue; a low wind began to

ride over the tops of the stubs, and now and then one of them fell with a startling crash.

Baree could go not farther. An hour before dusk he lay down in the open, weak and starved. The sun disappeared behind the forest. The moon rolled up from the east. The sky glittered with stars—and all through the night Baree lay as if dead. When morning came, he dragged himself to the stream for a drink. With his last strength he'went on. It was the wolf urging him—compelling him to struggle to the last for his life. The dog in him wanted to lie down and die. But the wolf-spark in him burned stronger. In the end it won. Half a mile farther on he came again to the green timber.

In the forests as well as in the great cities fate plays its changing and whimsical hand. If Baree had dragged himself in the timber half an hour later he would have died. He was too far gone now to hunt for crayfish or kill the weakest bird. But he came just as Sekoosew, the ermine—the most bloodthirsty little pirate of all the wild—was making a kill.

As Baree lay under his tree, Sekoosew was creeping on his prey. His game was a big fat spruce-hen standing under a thick of black currant bushes. The ears of no living thing could have heard Sekoosew's movement. He was like a shadow—a gray dot here, a flash there, now hidden behind a stick no larger than a man's wrist, appearing for a moment, the next instant gone as completely as if he had not existed. Thus he approached from fifty feet to within three feet of the spruce-hen. That was his favorite striking distance. Unerringly he launched himself at the drowsy partridge's throat, and his needle-like teeth sank through feathers into flesh.

Sekoosew was prepared for what happened then. It always happened when he attacked Napanao, the wood-



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