

## If You're a Japan Tea Drinker

Ask Your Grocer for

# TEA BALL

CEYLON NATURAL GREEN tea. It is absolutely "Pure" and as far ahead of Japan tea as "Salada" Black is ahead of all other black teas.

Sold only in sealed lead packets. By all Grocers.

## The FILIGREE BALL

BY ANNA KATHERINE GREEN

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Well! I was woefully done up by this sudden extinction of all hopes. They had been extravagant, no doubt, but they had sustained me through all my haps and mishaps, trials and dangers, till now, here, they ended with the one inexorable fact—death. Was I doomed to defeat, then? Must I go back to the states, where I had no proof, no real evidence to support them? I certainly must. With the death of this man, all means of reaching the state of Mrs. Jeffrey's mind immediately preceding her marriage were gone. I passed the night in a sobbing at the tent door. I stared at him curiously, and was hurrying on, when I felt myself caught by the hand.

"Take me with you," cried a choked and frightened voice in my ear. "I have no friends here, now I am gone; take me back to Washington."

Washington! I turned and looked at the lady who, kneeling beside the tent door, was looking at me with imploring hands. "Who are you?" I asked; "and how came you here? Do you belong to the army?"

"I helped care for his horse," he whispered. "He found me, and I was bound to go to war—and I was sorry for me and used to give me bits of his own ration, but—now no one will give anything. Take me back; she won't care. She's dead, they say. Besides, I wouldn't stay here now if I were alive and breathing. I have had enough of war since he—Oh, he was good to me—I never cared for any one so much."

I looked at the boy with an odd sensation for which I have no name. "Whom are you talking about?" I asked. "Your mother's sister?"

"Oh, no," the tone was simply itself. "Never had no mother. I mean the lady at the big house, the one that was married. She gave me money to go out of Washington, and wanted to be a soldier, followed Curly Jim. I didn't think he'd die; he looked so strong—What's the matter, sir? Have I said anything I shouldn't?"

I had him in a minute. I fear that I was shaking him.

"The lady?" I repeated. "She who was married—who gave you money. Wasn't it Mrs. Jeffrey?"

"Yes, I believe that was the name of the man she married. I didn't know him, but I saw him give you money."

"Where? And why did she give you money? I will take you home with me if you tell me the truth about it."

He glanced back at the tent from which I had slightly drawn him and a hungry look crept into his eyes. "Well, it's no secret now," he muttered. "He used to say I must keep my mouth shut; but he wouldn't say so now if he knew I could get home alive. He used to say I must keep my mouth shut; but he wouldn't say so now if he knew I could get home alive. He used to say I must keep my mouth shut; but he wouldn't say so now if he knew I could get home alive."

"Why Mrs. Jeffrey gave you money to leave Washington?"

The boy trembled, drew a step away, and then came back, and under those not Florida, but the tent, where he was, he heard those words: "Because I heard what she said to Jim."

I felt my heart go down, and then up, beyond anything I had ever experienced in my whole life. The way before me, which I had thought was witness yet remained, though Jim was dead. The boy was oblivious of my emotion; he was staring with great eagerness at the tent.

"And what was that?" said I. "His attention, which had been wandering, came back, and it was with some surprise he said: 'It was not much. She told him to take the gentleman into the library. But it was the library where she died, and he just went and died there, too, you remember, and Jim said he wasn't ever going to let her go. He promised not to, neither, but—when do you think you will be starting, sir?'"

I did not answer him. I was feeling very queer, as men feel, I suppose, who in some crisis or event recognize an unexpected interpolation of Providence.

"Are you the boy who ran away from the florist's in Washington?" I inquired when ready to speak. "The boy who delivered Miss Moore's bridal bouquet?"

"Yes, sir."

I let go of his hand and sat down. Surely there was a power greater than chance governing this matter. Through what devious ways from that unexpected source had I come upon this knowledge?

"Mrs. Jeffrey, or Miss Moore, as she was then, told Jim to send the gentleman in the library," I now said. "Why?"

"I do not know. He told her the gentleman's name and then she whispered him that I heard her, and that was why I got money, too. But it's all gone now. Oh, sir, when are you going back?"

I started to my feet. Was it in answer to this appeal or because I realized that I had come at last upon a clue calling for immediate action? "I am going now," said I, "and you are going with me. Run for the train. We take leaves inside of ten minutes. My business here is over."

CHAPTER XX.

"The Colonel's Own."

Words can not express the tediousness of that return journey. The affair which occupied my thoughts was as yet too much enveloped in mystery for me to contemplate it with anything but an anxious and inquiring mind. While I clung with new and persistent hope to the thread which had been put in my hand, I was too conscious of the maze through which we must yet pass, before the light

Jim told the man, whose hold upon his bride had been put to the test, to demand an interview with her just as she was on the point of descending to her nuptials, had been seated, or was about to be seated, in the room where death had once held its court and might easily be persuaded to hold court again.

This was the limit of my conclusions. I could get no further, and awaited my arrival in Washington with the greatest impatience. But once there, and the responsibility of this new inquiry shifted to broader shoulders than my own, I was greatly surprised and as deeply chagrined to observe the whole affair lag unaccountably and to note, that, in spite of my so-called important discoveries, the prosecution continued working up the case against Miss Tuttle in manifest intention of presenting it to the grand jury at its fall sitting.

Whether Durbin was to blame for this I could not say. Certainly his look was more or less quizzical when next we met, and this nettled me so that I at once came to the determination that whatever was on his mind, or in the minds of the men whose counsel he undoubtedly shared, I was going to make one more great effort on my account; not to solve the main mystery, which had passed out of my hands, but to reach the hidden cause of the equally unexplained death which had occurred from time to time at the library firelane.

For nothing could now persuade me that the two mysteries were not indissolubly connected, or that the elucidation of the one would not lead to the elucidation of the other. To be sure, it was well accepted at headquarters that all possible attempts had been made in this direction and with nothing but failure as a result.

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## LOOKING AFTER THE SCRAP SAVES VAST SUMS OF MONEY

Trans-Siberian Road Has Already Cost \$391,000,000.

Grand Trunk to Have Twenty New 900-Class Engines.

Improving the Intercolonial—The Tonnage "Debauch"—New Pass Agreement is Tight.

Many thousands of dollars are saved to the railroad companies each year by installing men to look after and care for their scrap, the pieces of iron and steel that fall off moving cars, that come from abandoned machinery, or from broken pieces of equipment, says the New York Sun.

Almost all of the big transportation companies in the United States maintain what they call scrap departments. At two or three points on the road, generally where there are any construction or extensive repair shops, this scrap is gathered from all parts of the system.

One of the duties of the track walkers and repair gangs is to pick up and throw in little heaps along the track all bits of iron and steel.

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