

AFGHANISTAN AND ITS UP-TO-DATE AMIR

Buffer State between Great Britain and Russia has a Ruler who does not disdain the Luxuries of Western Civilization

Few parts of the British empire have caused Great Britain the anxiety she continues to feel about her Indian possessions. Every movement Russia has made in Central Asia looking toward the concentration of the innumerable states added by force to the Russian empire has been watched from the Indian frontier by argus-eyed Britons. Both Russia and England have made careful surveys of the frontiers, and each government has built and continues to build strategic railroads along the enormous and difficult boundaries. Russia is known to have long been in possession of several plans for a descent upon India, and the British have for years been evolving quite as many plans intended to checkmate any movement of the kind.

At the present time the British are engaged in the pleasant task of assuring the northern neighbors of India of their friendship, with the object of forestalling any similar device upon the part of Russia. Old treaties long since in abeyance or quite inactive, have been renewed, and new ones signed. Last year two missions were sent out from India to carry this ob-



The Amir of Afghanistan

ject into effect. That commanded by Younghusband, which invaded Tibet, was ungraciously received, and although a treaty was signed in the Forbidden Land, Lassa, it is admitted that the success of the enterprise was not unaccompanied, by serious inconveniences.

Late in November a British mission was dispatched to Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, where better luck is believed to have attended it. The mission is headed by Louis Dane, Foreign Secretary for Simla, who is accompanied by H. R. Dobbs, his secretary; Major W. Mallison, R. A.; Capt. Victor Brooke, Ninth Lancers, and a British doctor. The necessity for this visit arises from the fact that the agreement made with the late Amir, Abdurrahman, terminated at his death in 1901. Since that time the son and successor of the late Amir, Habibullah, has been proving himself loyal to British interests in the absence of any binding documents. He has repeatedly dispatched assurances to the Viceroy of India of his devotion to the British. Nevertheless it was considered that his affection would be more convincing if he set his royal hand and seal to it.

Several matters need discussion, and one of them is the question of the British subsidy, to which the Amir is entitled. The present Amir has not drawn the annual subsidy of 180,000 rupees (about \$80,000) since he ascended to his kingly dignity. He had no agreement with the British and did not need the money, for he is rich and life in Afghanistan is not expensive.

Afghanistan, which is about twice the size of the United Kingdom and has a population of about 4,000,000, has been an independent state since the beginning of the eighteenth century, prior to which time it was part of Persia, while its province of Kabul was in the Mogul empire. It is walled in by some of the highest mountains in the world, which almost completely surround it, leaving less than half a dozen so-called passes by which the country may be entered. Only half

of these are of use for strategic purposes, and even they are so treacherously situated that a large army might be annihilated by a comparatively small force.

The Afghans, all of whom are Mohammedans, are a warlike people, which fact, added to their strong position, renders their independence comparatively safe. England has burned her fingers more than once in dealing with the Afghans, and Russia has not succeeded in winning them over, although she has spent a quarter of a century coaxing.

There are few countries on the globe, not excepting Tibet, which are more inhospitable to foreigners than Afghanistan. Placed by nature as a buffer between two powerful rivals, Afghanistan is a country where every one is suspected as a spy of either Russia or the British. In Kabul there are no foreigners. The last one was a Mr. Freischer, a German gunmaker, who was murdered in a mysterious manner a few months ago. A woman physician, an Englishwoman, has been in Kabul for three years, and declares that living in the capital is like being on a different planet. "The universal atmosphere of suspicion, the ever-present knowledge that keen Afghan eyes are watching every movement, combined with the knowledge of isolation from the civilized world, have not a beneficial effect upon one's nerves, and after a prolonged stay one comes perilously near a breakdown."

A British agent, a Mohammedan officer of the Indian army, resides in Kabul, but he might as well reside at the North Pole for all he is allowed to do. He seldom goes out, no one dares visit him and the only opportunity he has for displaying himself is to be present once in a while at a durbar or levee of the Amir. It is admitted that he is entirely without influence. The Russians, however, have not even a "sneered" at an agent, and two Russian spies were only recently caught and sent to prison—and disappeared. Habibullah Khan, the present Amir, has seen something of the world. He and his brother visited London in 1896, and both were made G. C. M. G. As far as may be, in a country without a single mile of railway, the Amir may be said to be progressive and up-to-date. He has surrounded himself with the latest inventions in lamps, stoves, phonographs and bicycles. He is also to be seen driving out at times in an English automobile, while a sewing machine has been introduced into his harem.

Habibullah Khan is a very busy monarch, and while he loves sport, a weakness which endears him to the British, he never permits his private pleasures to interfere with public business, a virtue which he might impress upon his more civilized friends. He takes a commendable pride in his gun factory at Kabul, which daily produces 20,000 cartridges, fifteen rifles and two guns. For nearly two years little work has been done in this factory for lack of material, but apart from this enforced stoppage the factory has been in constant operation since 1886.

It is the Amir's custom on Naw Roz—the Mussulman's new year—to examine all the guns, rifles and apparatus turned out of the workshops during the year. The guns, etc., are laid out for inspection at Shahrara, a summer palace, which lies about a mile from the city.

Among the sports held in high favor by the Amir are hawking and cricket. He usually has his falcons with him when out shooting, to fly at wounded birds; but on some days he will mount horse and go away to the neighboring hills. He seems insensible to fatigue on these occasions, but his suite usu-



Amir inspecting Troops at the Feast of Sacrifices.

Educator Decries Militarism.

Chancellor McCracken of New York university will not allow his students to accept the invitation of an inaugural committee to go to Washington with a brass band and flying colors and march in the inaugural procession of President Roosevelt. The chancellor said: "There is altogether too much of a trend in the United States toward marching and drilling and armies and navies. I am not so much objecting to the cost of army and navy as I am to this attempt of the inaugural committee to make holiday soldiers out of college students. We don't want college students to turn soldiers. I believe the president, if consulted, would tell the students to stick to their work."

Didn't Notice It.

She was fat, but very little more than half of 40. Standing directly in front of her, but not facing her, in the crowded West Madison street cable car was a feather-weight man hanging to the end of a strap. Small as he was, his weight snapped the strap

when the car jerked forward after stopping at a crossing, and the feather-weight fell into the fat girl's lap. She seemed to pay not the slightest attention. The little man leaped to his feet, turned and bowed, and apologized profusely. He went on talking to the young woman for about thirty seconds, assuring her that he would not have had the accident happen for anything in the world.

"What happened?" snapped the fat one, as she glared at the little man.

"Why, I fell into your lap. I'm—awfully sorry."

And she put her nose in the air and turned away.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Germany's Auto Corps.

Germany's recently organized volunteer automobile corps is already rejoicing in a new service uniform. It is khaki in color, and is accompanied by yellow boots, or shoes and gaiters, and the weapons worn with it are a navy revolver and a large deerkife. This addition to the German fighting forces will take part in the maneuvers to be held this year.

Only One Way to Save Him.

"While the religion of some men is intellectual," said a well-known New York clergyman, "the religion of many is a thing of emotions."

"Back in my boyhood days I remember a man in the country who used to go to camp meetings; after singing a few inspiring hymns he would become to outward appearance the happiest and most pious man in the camp. But his emotion wouldn't always die over to the next meeting."

"A cynical neighbor of this man's once remarked that the only way to save his soul was to get him happy and pious in one of the meetings and then kill him."

Royal Bridge Players.

The popularity of bridge shows no sign of abatement, says the London Express. Both the King and Queen find in the game a great recreation of an evening. Their majesties play for low points and always pay their losses before rising from the table.

Theatrical

Cecelia Loftus Explains.

"Look at those letters and telegrams," Cecelia Loftus in Cleveland last week pointed to a table on which were scattered many communications of both the mail and wire variety. "There is a pile of inquiries and admissions, all to the effect of 'You're not going back to vaudeville, are you?' They came as the result of an announcement made a few days ago concerning my appearing in vaudeville for five weeks at the conclusion of my present season. But I don't believe I'm 'going back' to vaudeville even if I am going to vaudeville. People have been considerate enough to say they enjoy my imitations. I can't make an entire evening's entertainment of them. Therefore they belong in vaudeville. And so it is with many entertaining acts. They are worth fifteen or twenty minutes in themselves, and six or eight of them make an interesting performance. Yes, vaudeville is a worthy institution, and, as its patrons continue to demand better grades of acts, it will continue to rise in standard, and be where it should be, side by side with the so-called legitimate. However, as I said before, many of my friends are shocked at my 'going back.' And this makes me look forward to what I may expect in criticism from some of our satirical reviewers."

"Picture," she said as she poised an imaginary pencil over an imaginary pad, "picture my reviewer writing with the satisfaction of self-smartness something after this fashion: 'Cecelia Loftus, erstwhile 'Cissy' is back in vaudeville, where she has always belonged. She tried to be an actress, but it wouldn't go, and now she's doing her imitation stunt again, and it's really very good. Come again, Cissy, but always in vaudeville!'"

"I'm going to keep on trying to become a recognized real-for-sure ac-

tion of 'The Shepherd King,' and will manage the young star for five years."

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" is being booked for several years ahead. The demand for the play is enormous in all sections of the country.

Ethel Barrymore is an accomplished musician and pianist, and whenever there is an afternoon concert of note where she is playing she is sure to be present.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is to make another tour of the United States, this time under the management of Liebeler & Co. The tour is scheduled for the coming fall.

Grace Filkins is to return to the stage. She has affixed her name to a contract with Fred C. Whitney for his "The School for Husbands" company, to be produced in April.

Four stars of the near future are playing in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Boston. They are Madge Carr Cook, Helen Lowell, Bessie Barriscale and Will T. Hodge.

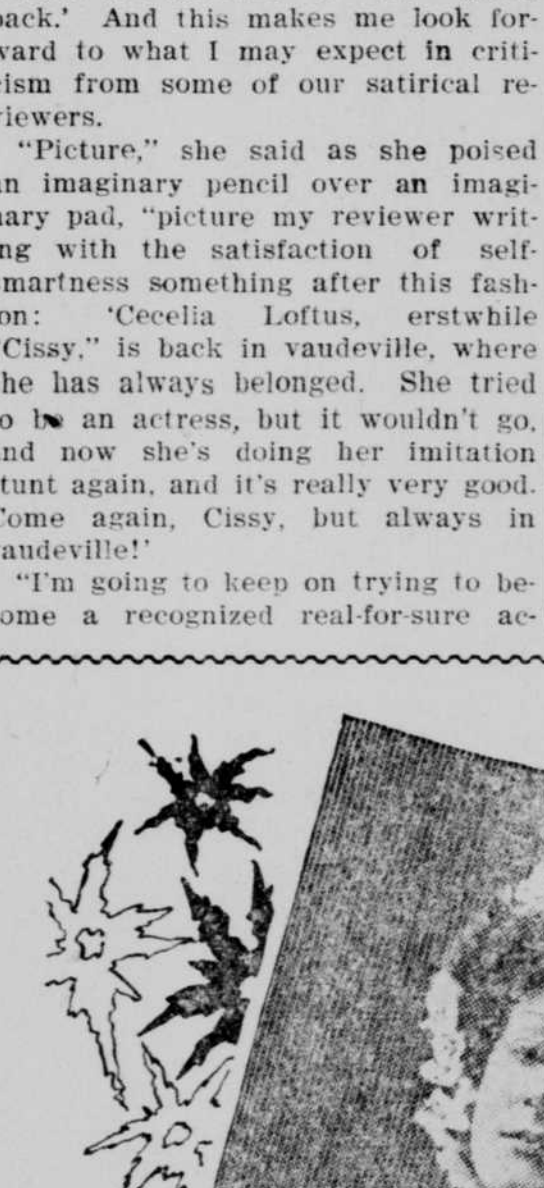
Ward and Vokes have announced their intention to dissolve partnership. Mr. Ward will stay under the Stair management in a new play, while Mr. Vokes will continue in former pieces.

Fritz Williams is one of the leading members of the cast of "Letty" with William Faversham. He has not been seen in Boston since he played in "Little Mary" at the Park last winter.

Amelia Bingham is playing an engagement with the stock company at the Alvin theatre, Pittsburg, controlled by Harry Davis. She began her visit with a revival of "The Frisky Mrs. Johnson."

Laura Burt has secured the right of a play founded upon the book "John of Strathbourne." The dramatic version is being made by her husband, Harry Stanford, now with Sir Henry Irving's company.

The starring tour of Ida Conquest has been brought to a close and her company disbanded. Her play, "The Money Makers," was a noisy farce



Afghan Irregular Soldier.

your wickedness. Hereafter, whenever you tell a falsehood something terrible will happen to you."

"Will my boot heel always come off?" asked Jerry.

"Quite likely. If it isn't that, it will be something equally bad."

For several days after that Jerry talked but little, and what few statements he did make were carefully weighed beforehand. One day upon his return from school he became less cautious and entertained the family with the account of an incident that had enlivened his trip home. The story seemed quite plausible, and nobody would have even thought of doubting his veracity had not Jerry, after looking at the heel of his shoe explained triumphantly:

"There! It didn't come off that time! Better look at yours, mamma."

Monument to Lord Baltimore.

The Society of Colonial Wars will erect a monument to Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, in the city named after him.



CHRISTIE MACDONALD

and utterly unsuited to the actress methods.

M. Antoine has taken "King Lear" off the bill at his famous theater in Paris because his voice could not stand the continued strain of the part. He will soon do a modernized version of "Tartuffe."

David Belasco is seeking a new star to send out next season in "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" to succeed Henrietta Crossman. The latter closes her season in the play in April, and will then leave Mr. Belasco.

The engagement of Agnes Ardeck, leading woman with Creston Clarke, and Malcolm Bruce Milne, barrister, Middle Temple, London, England, is announced. The wedding will occur early in the spring.

Oswald Yorke, who is in a congenial character with Annie Russell's company in "Brother Jacques," played her lover in both "Mice and Men" and "The Younger Mrs. Parling" last season. Then he married her.

The organization presenting Ibsen's "Ghosts" under the direction of the George H. Brennan company, is making its farewell tour this season. Next year the management has completed plans for a prolonged season in London.

Frank Vernon, the English producer, who is a member of Miss Viola Allen's company, is an interesting personality. He has made nine productions of the classics in London and has essayed important roles in nine revivals.

Paula Edwards, the star of "Wings and Wheels," will appear next season in a musical comedy, "The Maid and the Mask," which has been written with her talents in view. The production will be made on an elaborate scale.

After participating in the dismal failure of "In Newport" in New York, Fay Templeton is preparing to appear in a revival of "Florodora" at the New York Casino. She will have the role of the widow, created by Edna Wallace Hopper.

"Letty," the title role in Pinero's new play, is an interesting companion study to the manicure girl in "The Gay Lord Quex," by the same dramatist. The part will be played here by Carlotta Nilsson in William Faversham's company.

Isabel Dumont and Janet Beecher have been selected, with the approval of Charles Dana Gibson, to portray the two American girls in "The Education of Mr. Pipp," a play founded on Mr. Gibson's series of pictures bearing the same title. The two men in pursuit of these girls will be played by Rene Brayton and Herbert McKenzie. Digby Bell will appear as Mr. Pipp.

WHAT TUBERCULOSIS COSTS

Immense Monetary Loss Caused the Country by Its Ravages—How to Retain Health and Bodily Vigor

Cost of Tuberculosis.

Dr. Harmon Biggs of New York (American Medicine), after a careful estimation, places the annual expense of tuberculosis to the people of the United States at \$330,000,000. He first calculates the loss to New York city by putting a value of \$1,500 upon each life at the average at which deaths from tuberculosis occur. This gives a total value of the lives lost annually of \$1,500,000.00.

But this is not all. For at least nine months prior to death these patients cannot work, and the loss of service at one dollar a day, together with food, nursing, medicines, attendance, etc., at one and one-half dollars a day, results in a further loss of \$8,000,000.00, making a yearly loss to the municipality of \$23,000,000.00. For the whole country the 150,000 deaths from tuberculosis represent in the same way a loss of \$330,000,000.00.

Dr. Biggs also states that the total expenditure in the city of New York for the care of tuberculous patients is not at present over \$500,000.00 a year; that is, it does not exceed two per cent of the actual loss by death, etc. "If this annual expenditure were doubled or trebled it would mean a saving of several thousand lives annually, to say nothing of the enormous saving in suffering." Further evidence of this is afforded by the fact that in the last twenty years the total number of deaths from tuberculosis in New York has decreased instead of increasing, although there has been an increase of 70 per cent in the general population.

Oil Rubbing.

Clothing exposes us to great dangers. We wear too many clothes. We dress too warmly, so the skin becomes relaxed, and loses the power to take care of itself, and this is the reason oil rubbing is necessary. The simple removal of a thin layer of oil by a hot bath may be sufficient to cause a man to take cold, so this must be replaced by a special oiling, or some other treatment, in cold weather.

People who are very susceptible to cold, should be rubbed with oil after each bath. Oil rubbing is especially needed in cases in which the skin is dry, through deficient activity of the oil glands of the skin. Great care, however, should be taken to avoid too vigorous rubbing in the application of the oil, as sweating is very easily produced, to the disadvantage of the patient. In the treatment of infants and children, a marked and most favorable effect upon nutrition is produced by oil rubbing. Application of oil after cold baths encourages reaction. In most cases of chronic dyspepsia when accompanied by emaciation, in diabetes, and in most cases in which malnutrition with dryness of the skin is a prominent feature, oil rubbing is a valuable curative agency.

Plato called a man lame because he exercised the mind while the body was allowed to suffer.

Horrors of the Cocaine Habit.

The following illustration of had advice in the lecture room is probably not an exceptional case. A professor of materia medica lecturing on cocaine called it one of the greatest of all stimulants and perfectly harmless. He cited his own experience of its good effects, and advised the class to try it personally in debility and exhaustion. Of a class of thirty-two who listened to this advice, five became cocaine takers within two years. Ten years later thirteen of this class were drug and spirit takers. In all probability, the use of cocaine was the starting point of their addictions. Four died from the direct use of this drug. Evidently more than half the class had followed the advice of the teacher and were wrecked. A few years after, the professor became an invalid and retired from the profession, a victim of his own counsel and confidence in cocaine.

When anything is growing, one reformatory is worth more than a thousand reformatories.—Horace Mann.

Tuberculosis Rightly Classified.

The Health department of the city of Philadelphia has decided that in future tuberculosis shall be classed with other diseases that are dangerous to the public health, such as smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and other contagious maladies. The law in Pennsylvania and most other States of the Union requires that every case of contagious disease shall be reported to the Health department. Hereafter all cases of tuberculosis must be so reported by the attending physician. The purpose of this law is to enable the Health department to take necessary steps to prevent the extension of this disease by disinfection of the apartments which have been occupied

What They Were There For.

Admiral Dewey tells of certain ceremonies once held in connection with the erection of a tablet to the memory of a naval hero, during which a well-known clergyman of Baltimore, a relative of the deceased, was invited to deliver the dedicatory sermon.

Among the interested spectators present on the occasion in question was an old colored woman, a servant in the employ of a friend of the admiral's, who was much put out by what she deemed the excessive length of the imported preacher's discourse.

"I declare to goodness," said she, in speaking to some one on the subject, "dat Baltimore preacher cert'n'y did carry on like he thought he was de whole thing! Don't you s'pose dat man could see ever 'one come to hear de Marine Band?"

More Than He Ordered.

Diner—I say, waiter, there's a chicken in this egg. Hello, what are you doing?

Waiter—Changing your check, sir. Chicken is 50 cents.—Boston Transcript.

Sure to Please.

When the stage manager told the heavy man he was to play a certain part the actor said:

"I have never seen the play. Do you think I shall please the audience?"

"Sure," said the manager. "You die in the first act."

by the patient, and by instruction of the patient and the patient's friends how infection from the disease may be avoided.

This law is a good one, and ought to be enforced in every civilized community.

Body and mind are both gifts, and for the proper use of them our Maker will hold us responsible.

Simple Living and Longevity of the Brazilians.

According to a writer in a contemporary magazine, "The Brazilians, when first discovered, lived the natural, original life lived by all mankind, as frequently described in ancient histories, before laws, or property, or arts made entrance among men. The Brazilians lived without business or labor, further than for their necessary food, by gathering fruits, herbs and plants; they knew no drink but water; were not tempted to drink or eat beyond common thirst or appetite; were not troubled with either public or domestic cares, and knew no pleasures but those simple and natural in character.

"Many of these were said, at the time the country was discovered by the Europeans, to have lived as long as two hundred years."

This was without doubt an exaggeration, but that they were very long lived is evidenced by the fact that within the last quarter of a century there was an old woman living in Rio Janeiro at the remarkable age of one hundred and forty-one years.

Beauty of form and face are the natural results of right living, and to try to get them in idleness by the aid of massage, drugs, or physical culture, is to undermine the foundation for all charm. Nature intended that we should be of use, whether we are genius or common clay, and nature rules. We can't cheat her.

The Quiet Way Best.

What's the use of worrying, Of hurrying, Of scurrying, Everybody hurrying, And breaking up his rest, When everything is teaching us, Preaching, and beseeching us, To settle down and end the fuss, For quiet ways are best?

The rain that trickles down in showers— A blessing to the thirsty flowers— And gentle zephyrs gather up Sweet fragrance from each brimming cup, There's ruin in the tempest's path, There's ruin in a voice of wrath, And they alone are blest Who early learn to dominate Themselves, their violence abate, And prove by their serene estate That quiet ways are best.

Exercise gradually increases the physical powers, and gives more strength to resist sickness.

HEALTHFUL DISHES.

Fruit Nectar.—Take Concord grapes or any kind of berries and put into a stewpan with a small amount of water; boil ten minutes, stirring occasionally. Strain first through a sieve and then through a cheese cloth. Add one-third sugar to two-thirds juice and boil briskly for fifteen minutes. Put in bottles and seal. When used add either hot or cold water, to suit the taste.

Macaroni au Gratin.—Break enough macaroni into inch lengths to fill a cup and cook in one and one-half pints of boiling water in a double boiler until tender. When done, drain and separate by dashing over it a little cold water. Mix with the macaroni one cupful of cottage cheese, one tablespoonful of cracker crumbs, rolled fine, one-fourth cup of cream and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Put in an oiled greaseware dish and bake until brown.

Vegetable Bouillon.—To one and one-half pints of bran (pressed down), add two and one-half quarts of boiling water. Allow this to simmer for two hours or more; strain, add one pint of strained tomato, one stalk of chopped celery, one large onion and one-half teaspoonful of powdered mint in a muslin bag. Let this simmer together for half an hour to an hour. Add water to make two and one-half quarts of soup. Strain, add one teaspoonful of salt, or more if desired, and reheat for serving.

On each bread-and-butter plate put a pat of coconut butter, two nut cheese straws, and a couple of bread or cream sticks tied together with yellow and white ribbon.

Golden Salad.—Prepare eggs by hard boiling them. Cut, when done, into two parts; remove the yolks without breaking the whites, mash them and mix with enough mayonnaise or boiled salad dressing to bind them. Fill the egg-white shells with the prepared yolks, and stick the two half whites together, thus forming stand an egg on a lettuce leaf on each salad plate. Around each egg put a circle of mayonnaise.

A Literary Confidence.

Not long ago the Toastmaster, according to the Atlantic, happened to overhear a worthy nursemaid exchanging literary confidences with the cook, apropos of a historical novel, which was then the best-selling book of the minute. "Sure," it's a fine book," testified Maggie heartily, and soon, as if puzzled by her own inaptitude, "but somehow I ain't very far with it." Exactly. Neither was the Toastmaster very far with it. Between a book written to be sold by the hundred thousand and a book written to be put away in a drawer, like "Pride and Prejudice" and the first draft of "Waverley," it is tolerably easy to say which is the more likely to prove permanently readable.

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