

THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN.

A Cheerful Picture of a Central Asian Ruler—How He Spends His Time.

A correspondent of the Journal des Debats sends the following account of the Amir of Afghanistan: "Abdurrahman in the first part of his career was a soldier; when he was raised to the Amirship he became a bureaucrat, a new role for an Afghan ruler, and one not likely to be popular. Each day with him has its appointed work. Two days a week are devoted to his correspondence, Monday for that with the upper country (Herat, Candahar, etc.), Thursday for that with the lower country (Cahul, Peshawar and India). On Tuesday he holds his military darbar and receives the officers of the garrison, all of whom dine with him. It is also the day of private reception or Diwan-i-Hass. On Wednesday and Saturday he administers justice, and admits the public to his presence, even to the last beggar. This is called the Diwan-i-Am. Friday is treated as Sunday in London—all the bazaars, shops and the palace itself are closed, the mosques alone remaining open. Sunday is devoted to the Amir's private affairs. The two most important days are those of the Diwan-i-Am, for the Amir is above all a dispenser of justice. He dispenses it with hand on the hilt of his sword. Highway robbers are brought before him and he hears the charge. Then he says one of two things: 'Bekoushid,' and they cut their throats, or 'Gargara koumid,' and they lead them off to be hung. If an article is lost on the road no one is allowed to pick it up. If any one does so his hand is cut off. The Amir has only one wife, Bibi Malika or the Queen, but he has 101 concubines called kaniz. By the Queen he has no children (they died), but he has five by four of the kaniz. The eldest, Habibullah, is sixteen years of age, and in default of a legitimate successor is the heir apparent. He was recently married to the daughter of Mohammed Ameen, Brigadier of Cabul, an officer, despite his high title, possessing no authority. The Amir is writing his memoirs, beginning with his ninth year, and he is now forty-two. They will be full of interest if the Ghilzais will only allow him to finish them."

A Dress Society.

The Washington Capital is responsible for the following: "Driving down the avenue one bright afternoon in the winter, a newspaper man espied advancing toward him, a big womanly figure, handsomely dressed in velvet and silk, fashioned in the latest style. As he neared the young woman, what was his astonishment to recognize in her the wife of a printer in his employ, in whom he had been especially interested. Calling the driver to stop, the editor hastily alighted, and with an inquiring countenance approached the young woman. 'Mary, how is it that you can dress in this style on Tom's wages, which I know are all he has to depend upon?' I have always taken such an interest in your husband that this evidence of extravagance distresses me greatly. 'Well, you see, sir, I don't own the suit; it belongs to a club; there are six of us, all about the same size. Each one has the suit for a day at a time, when we go out calling. I generally have it on Mondays, because I like the receptions held by the justices' families. Tuesday is representatives' day, but they are such a mixed lot that we just go through with the list because we have to, taking down their address without bothering over the names. Wednesday is the favorite day, because then the cabinet ladies receive in grand style, and always have such a fine spread. So you see we all have a pleasant time and make a good appearance for the season, with only a small expense to each one.'"

Fashion Notes.

Boys from eight to thirteen have Scotch wool suits for general wear. Rough straw sailor hats with stiff brims, long black ribbed stockings and high buttoned gaiters, or else laced shoes, complete the costumes of most small boys. For boys merely in trousers there is nothing so popular or fashionable as sailor suits. They are of white serge or linen with blue square-cornered sailor collar and showing a shirt of blue and white stripes. Other dresses are of canvas striped woolsens of bright scarlet or blue on white and are made up with sailor blouse and round skirt. A blue cloth sailor jacket and straw hat in sailor shape complete those pretty toils. In the white sailor suits for small boys the contrasting blue is dark if he is a brunette, light if he is a blonde. The trousers are long and widen at the ankles, and the sailor cap is of white serge with a ribbon bearing the name of some man-o-war. Chall dresses are also in great favor for misses and small girls. Those with cream white grounds strewn with roses or with sprigs of blue, green or brown are made with a basque and slight drapery, with velvet ribbon trimming in rows around the skirt and as vest or revers. Girls from eight to fourteen wear white flannel or striped wool dresses made with a Norfolk jacket and kilt-plaited skirt. The jackets are of frilled flannel with many rows of narrow white braid, or else wide Hercules braid for trimming. They

are buttoned with big bullet pearl buttons.

Gingham dresses are best liked for the every-day wear of little girls. The plain low waist with pointed front and short puffed sleeves, over a white guimpe, is a simple and pretty way to make them. The striped ghinghams and those with large checks are used in high colors and delicate shades of pink, blue or lavender. The tendency in children's frocks is towards longer waists than last season, making them down to the waist line and sometimes below it. The skirts are full, with a hem and tucks, or else deep embroidery below a cluster of tucks, or there may be two fulls, one plain and one of embroidery. Most dresses have a sash of the material sewed in the seams under the arms and tied in a large bow.

Monsieur gloves should be worn by ladies travelling any distance, as the tightly buttoned English walking glove becomes very uncomfortable and frequently produces headache. For short distances, however, where appearance may be consulted rather than comfort, the mahogany-colored English glove of four buttons and broad black stichings down the back are decidedly better style. A remarkably pretty tea gown is made of soft gold colored 'sunshiny,' a very fine, transparent quality of India silk, with antique sleeves, shirred unslip of golden-brown sarah, with the open fronts turned back with revers of golden-brown velvet. At one side is knotted a sash of the India silk with peplum points. The sash is barred with shades of yellow and velvety brown found in the heart of a marigold.

Another of these fawn-colored cloaks had a sort of trellis pattern in golden brown silk, forming a delicate woven stripe down the front and on the collar, cuffs and edges of the pointed hood. This wrap, while stylish, was certainly effective as a means of protection against dust, and the color would not show easily any clinging marks of the same, as a thorough shaking after a dusty journey would remove everything clinging to it.

Some of the new dust cloaks for summer wear are very handsome and stylish.

Those of dull soft tones of green and blue, lined with pink and lighter blue, are worn by women who are perfect in every toilet detail. Among the really useful models lately exhibited are those of dove-gray or beige mohair, cashmere or armure stuffs. Another was of fawn-colored canvas, extremely fine in quality and of close Newmarket shape in the back, with semi-loose fronts buttoned to the waist and tied with brown satin ribbons.

Brain Diet.

In an interesting essay, Dr. Dana has said of the diet of brain workers: When persons train for athletic sports the diet is mainly a nitrogenous and rather a dry one. For those training for mental work, and for brain workers in general, the best diet is also a nitrogenous one, but it should contain also considerable fat, and should not be dry. Water should be drunk plentifully, while the total amount of food should be a little less than when severe muscular exercise is taken. The best foods are meats, fish, eggs, milk, buttermilk, green vegetables and stale bread with plenty of butter. If there is a tendency to constipation, farinaceous foods and green vegetables may be made the prominent articles of diet in one of the daily meals, and stewed fruit and some alkaline water added. The drinks of brainworkers should be mainly plain and alkaline waters. "Tea and coffee are for scholars, wine for artists," according to Moleschott, and these substances can be taken in moderation by most brain workers without harmful results. They may even secure an increased capacity for work. Some brainworkers have been tremendous feeders. Goethe was an immense eater; so was Samuel Johnson and William Wordsworth. Peter the Great ate only two meals daily, but they were very hearty, and his daily consumption of alcohol was, on an average, four bottles of beer, and from one to two bottles of brandy.

Nails and Character.

He who keeps his nails well rounded at the tips is a proud man. Nails which remain long after being cut level with the finger ends are a sign of generosity. The owner of very round and smooth nails is of a peaceable and conciliatory disposition. He who keeps his nails somewhat long, round, and tipped with black, is a romantic poet. He who has white spots on his nails is fond of the society of ladies, but is fickle in his attachments. Transparent nails, with light red, mark a cheerful, gentle, and amiable disposition. Lovers with transparent nails usually carry their passion to the verge of madness. He who has the nail of his right thumb slightly notched is a regular glutton. He who keeps his nails irregularly cut, is hasty and determined. Men who have not the patience to cut their nails properly, generally come to grief. He whose nails are detached from the finger at the further extremities, and when cut showing a larger proportion of the finger than usual, ought never to get married, as it would be a wonder if he were master in his own house, for short nails betoken patience, good nature, and, above all, resignation under severe trials.

Read THE SATURDAY GAZETTE.

THE SILVER GIRLDE.

The Maiden's New Way of Hinting That She Loves to be Squeezed Real Hard.

(New York Herald.)

Ever since Eve first put on her corsets there have been flirtatious allusions made to a supposed fondness that young ladies cherish of having their waists squeezed. No visible proof of that weakness has ever been offered to the public gaze until recently. But it's here now, and the girls can't dodge it. The silver girle business has become fashionable, and young men who are addicted to the arm act are as blue as policemen. It's hard enough to make an impression through corset armor, but when a silver log-chain is added mashivite humanity gives up and takes to lamp-posts. The new girle is just such an arrangement as the Grecian maidens used to wear (B. C.) to keep their Mother Hubbards from soaring over their heads and leaving them in the highly ridiculed and embarrassing position of a reversed umbrella. It is made of silver links of plates, and is worn outside of everything, for the simple reason that it would be a very uncomfortable thing to wear inside, and would seriously interfere with the fit of a dress. Again, more people see it on the outside, and that's what it's worn for. As an article of clothing the girle is not a practical success. It affords very little protection in a rainstorm or a blizzard, and is calculated to breed corns on the hips.

Naturally, it is worn around the waist, because it's too big for the neck, and a girl couldn't grab her skirts with one hand and her back hair with the other if she wore it around her arms. A smelling-bottle, a box of caramels, a powder puff, or, in fact, almost anything can be hooked to the front end of the girle as an excuse for wearing it. It is a convenient place to carry surplus hair-pins.

But with all their drawbacks they have many advantages. When a girl is drowning a girle is a much surer thing to lift her out with than her hair. Hair is liable to come off.

Important Discovery of Paintings.

The Christian Globe states that a very remarkable discovery has recently been made at Greenwich, and some gems of rare value have been brought to light. These consist of valuable oil paintings by Hogarth and Sir James Thornhill, whose daughter was married to Hogarth. They were discovered in an old butcher's shop in Church-street, in that town, and it appears that whilst painting his magnificent work of art on the ceiling of the dome of Greenwich Hospital, Sir James Thornhill lived in this house. The discovery consists of twenty-seven panels, and those by Thornhill are entirely seascapes, representing men of war of the type of the period in action, whilst those of Hogarth are allegorical pictures. Some of the panels are signed by Sir James Thornhill. This house, in which Sir James resided, was originally built of wood. In course of time the greater part of the wooden structure was demolished and replaced by a brick edifice, which was afterwards converted into a butcher's shop. The particular room, however, containing these panels was left intact. The butcher painted all the panels over a rich drab stone colour, and so they have remained for years. The varnish on them, however, was so hard that they are entirely unpeeled off they are now in almost as perfect a state as when they were painted. Some of them are as large as ten feet seven inches by five feet six inches, the others smaller. They are now in the possession of Mr. Edwin S. Stodolph, Langdale House, Greenwich, and Mr. W. T. Manning, Clyde House, 73, Blackheath-road, Greenwich.

Hangers-on in Journalism.

"I hate to see a man enter that room," said the city editor of a morning paper to an applicant for work. "Look at those young men sitting round that table; they are all waiting for me to give them assignments, and I have none to give. Why don't they come in here and suggest something themselves?" Most city editors in New York have the same feeling, writes the metropolitan correspondent of the Philadelphia Record. They are over-run with applicants for places, and two-thirds of those who present themselves are utterly unfit for the work they wish to do. The space system of pay for local newspaper work intensifies this pressure. Any man with paper and pencil can write what may be published and paid for, and so when a man finds other doors closed against him he goes to a newspaper office. A good many women seek the same refuge. The patience of city editors under the influx is marvellous. Perhaps it is partly accounted for by the fact that most of them do not have to edit the manuscript turned out by these beginners. It is handed over to those luckless wretches, the copy readers, and they generally make short work of it. 'If young men, ambitious of entering newspaper life, could learn something of the failures that strew the path they wish to tread, perhaps they would seek other lines of work. Scarcely a week passes without the hat being passed here for some needy journalist, his widow or his orphans. Not unrequently, too, the needy are remembered by a score or two of former fellow-work-

ers as clever men in their lines, once able to hold up their heads and earn good pay. Every office, too, is haunted by its chronic pensioners, who live by odd bits of work, given in half-charity, and by the undisguised alms of more fortunate men.

He Had "Em Bad."

A gentleman, after a farewell dinner at his club, joined his wife on the steamer that was to sail in the early morning, taking the upper berth. Suddenly his wife, in the lower berth, and those in the adjoining staterooms, were alarmed by his exclaiming in drunken tones, "I've got 'em! I've got 'em! Black things are crawling all over me!" "Go to sleep and you'll be all right," stonily replied his better half. But by this time he had risen to a sitting posture, and was hurling to the floor black, squeaking objects, which caused his wife to exclaim: "Steward! lights! lights!" Steward and lights arrived, and disclosed the fact that the ship's cat had deposited a litter of kittens in the berth occupied by the gentleman, whose presence between the sheets had caused them to investigate the surroundings.

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