

ABDUR RAHMAN : COMMANDER OF THE FAITH

THE late Amir of Afghanistan, in that part of his Auto-biography which appeared in the first number of the MONTHLY REVIEW, spoke of "several books" written by himself, "which have been printed at the Kabul Press." A copy of one of these is now in the British Museum: it is a pamphlet on *Jehad* or the Holy War against the Infidel, which was issued in 1887, and was taken at the time by certain newspaper correspondents to be a symptom of trouble brewing between Afghanistan and this country.¹ Another pamphlet was published by the Amir some seven years ago, recording the proceedings of the Durand Mission to Kabul in November 1893. It was circulated among the officials and people of Afghanistan in order that they might understand the nature and advantages of the friendship then ratified between their own country and England. "That our interests may be identical and our hearts sincere," says the Amir to his people in his own report of his own speech at the great Durbar, "I have obtained verbal as well as written promises from her Gracious Majesty the Queen, her Government, and her officials, to help us as our friends to such an extent that should there be one rupee only in the British Treasury, half of it will be spent to help Afghanistan at any time of danger, and our friendship has advanced so far that we

¹ In 1888 appeared an *authorised* treatise on "The Establishing of the Faith," which was discussed by the *Times* in September 1897.