

HABIB ULLAH KHAN.

The New Ameer Who Has Just Succeeded His Father to the Throne of Afghanistan.

Habib Ullah Khan, who succeeds Abdurrahman Khan as the Ameer of Afghanistan, is the son of that late ruler, and the eldest of three brothers. The kingly houses of Afghanistan go back to remote obscurity. Its political history is inextricably entangled with that of India. The whole country was conquered in medieval times by Timur, the mogul, whose descendants retained possession of the realm for many centuries. In 1747 Nadir Shah, the Persian ruler of the country, was assassinated, and after his death Ahmad Shah confederated the provinces into a great dominion extending to Kashmir on the east and to the Oxus on the north. In 1838 the British forces under Sir John Keane interfered, and the trouble culminated in the terrible revolt of 1841. In 1878 Great Britain declared war on Afghanistan, and the end of the tragic business was brought about by the accession of the late Ameer and the maintenance of his rule by the twofold influence of Russia and England. The new Ameer is said to be a more tractable man than his father, a fact which will make his accession acceptable to the two European powers most nearly concerned.



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INSTANCE OF ROYAL TACT.

How the Duke Came to Plant a Tree in Toronto Himself.

A striking incident of their tact and desire to please the Canadian public was shown by their Royal Highnesses in Queen's Park on Friday afternoon, 11th Oct., in Toronto.

A resolution had been passed by the City Council at the suggestion of Mayor Howland, that Mr. Alexander Muir be asked to plant a tree in the park in the presence of their Royal Highnesses, in commemoration of their visit. Mayor Howland, after the review on Friday, had to attend the dinner to foreign newspaper correspondents. He left the latter function in his carriage in time, as he thought, to reach the scene of the tree-planting, but found



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that owing to a change in the route of the royal party to the university, due to the call at Bishop Strachan School, a change of which Mr. Howland had not been informed, the roads leading to the park were im-

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Dec. 21, 1900, dw&lyr.

passable. A detour was necessitated around the University Buildings, but here also there was a block, and when the Mayor finally got through he saw the royal party coming towards him. He waited to let them pass, and then went on to the tree, only to find that it had been planted by the Duke himself.

It seems that on arriving at the scene, the Duke's A. D. C. had asked for Mr. Muir, but that gentleman evidently not hearing the summons did not respond. The A. D. C. reported the trouble to the Duke, who asked the Duchess what he should do. "Plant it yourself," was the command of Her Royal Highness, and promptly the Duke alighted, and seizing the shovel, planted the tree with his own hands, amid the cheers of the surrounding crowd.

Relic of an Old Ship.

In the course of some excavations which were being made in the River Lea the other day, the old hulk of a ship, supposed to belong to the Anglo-Saxon period, was discovered sunk in the bed of the stream. From its resemblance to an old picture in the House of Commons it is thought that the hulk may have belonged to a fleet with which King Alfred fought the Danes. It has now been removed to the British Museum, together with some other curios, all found at the same time.

MISTAKES TO AVOID.

An English paper gives what it terms "thirteen mistakes of life."

It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong and judge people accordingly.

To measure the enjoyment of others by our own.

To expect uniformity of opinion in this world.

To look for judgment and experience in youth.

To endeavor to mold all dispositions alike.

To look for perfection in our own actions.

To worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied.

Not to yield in immaterial matters.

Not to alleviate all that needs alleviation as far as lies in our power.

Not to make allowances for the infirmities of others.

To consider everything impossible that we cannot perform.

To believe only what our finite minds can grasp.

To expect to be able to understand everything.

The Evolution of Warships.

A man need not be a scholar to be an inventor. One of the most successful aeronauts of old times who had made a study of aerial currents and the management of balloons once delivered an address in which he referred to "the anaconda" as "the largest bird that ever flew," and he also remarked that "the mental faculties of a man's mind is so constructed as to bring things down to a pin's point." He also referred to the currents of air as stretchums, meaning strata, and yet he was one of the foremost balloonists of his time.

He was an inventor also of many useful things and was the first man in the country to suggest an ironclad man-of-war with slanting sides. He built a miniature vessel on this plan of sheet iron, placing it in the water and fired musket balls at it at short range. Every ball glanced off. The Merrimac was built on a similar plan, and from that humble beginning the evolution or revolution in naval architecture took its start.

A Tall Smoke Column.

During the burning of the Standard Oil company's tanks at Bayonne, N. J., in July, 1900, an immense column of smoke, shaped at the top like an umbrella, rose into the air, where very little wind was stirring, to an elevation, measured by triangulation, of 13,411 feet, or more than two miles and a half. Above the column white clouds formed in an otherwise cloudless sky and remained visible for two days, the fire continuing to burn and the smoke to rise. After the explosion of an oil tank flames shot up to a height of 3,000 feet, and the heat radiated from them was felt at a distance of a mile and three-quarters, where it was more noticeable than close to the fire. A Youth's Companion.

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