

THE ARKANSAS CONTEST.

It will be seen by the following verses that the present contest between the Brook and Baxter parties is not the first memorable conflict that has occurred in Arkansas:

There was a man in Arkansas
As hot his passions rise,
And not unfrequently peked out
Some other varmint's eyes.

His name was Tuscaloosa Sam,
And often he would say;
"There's not a cuss in Arkansas
I can't whip any day."

One day a stranger, passin' by,
Heard Sammy talking so,
When down he scrubbed from his nose,
And off his coat did go.

He korter kinder shut one eye,
And split into his hand,
And put his ugly hoed one side,
And twitched his trouser's band.

"My boy," says he, "it's my belief,
Whomever you may be,
That I can make you screech and smell,
Portkiler agony."

"I'm thar," says Tuscaloosa Sam,
And chucked his coat away;
"I'm thar," says he, and then he up
For to commence the play."

He thundered on the stranger's mug—
The stranger pounded ho,
And oh! the way them critter's fit,
Was singular to see!

They clucked like two rampajious bars,
And each tell on his fit.
They swore a stream of six-fish oaths,
And fit, and fit, and fit.

And Sam would try to work away,
And on his pegs to sit.
The stranger pulled him back: and so
They fit, and fit, and fit.

The stranger snapped at Sammy's nose,
And shortened it a bit,
And then they both swore awful hard,
And fit, and fit, and fit.

The mud it flew, the sky grew dark.
And all the Hensins fit;
But still them critters roiled about,
And fit, and fit, and fit!

First Sam on top, then t'other chap.
When one would make a hit,
The other'd smell the grass; and so
They fit, and fit, and fit!!!

The night came on, the stars shone out.
As bright as wimmen's wit;
And still them feters swore and gouged,
And fit, and fit, and fit!

The neighbors heard the war they made,
And thought an earthwike'd fit;
Yet all the while 'twas him and Sam,
As fit, and fit, and fit!

For miles around the noise was heard—
Folks couldn't sleep a bit,
Because them two rantankerous etaps
Still fit, and fit, and fit!

But just at cock-crow, suddonly,
There came an awful pause,
And no and my old man run out
To ascertain the cause.

The sun was risin' in the yeast
And lit the hull concern,
But not a sign of either chap
Was found at any turn.

Yes! in the region where they fit,
Were found to our surpris,
Two quars of butters, two big knives,
Some whiskers and four eyes.

It is said that Count Armin Bortzenburg, President of the district of Lorraine, has sent in his resignation to Berlin.

General Rada has been appointed to the command of the Central Carlist army in place of Don Alphonso.

Count Von Arnim's civil suit has been rejected by the Metropolitan Court of this city, but referred to the court of the second instance.

The *Daily News* says the Ultramontano members of the Reichstag have resolved to question Bismarck concerning his treatment of Count Von Arnim.

The Carlist Chiefs, Logana and Furten, have been arrested while passing through Cordova in disguise; probably Logana will be summarily executed at the depot where he recently ordered the shooting of several

ARMY CONTROL.

BY MAJOR GENERAL D. LYONS

(From *Blackwood's Magazine* for October.)

The organization of the administrative departments of the army is a subject on which, as on all others, there are a vast number of opinions more or less at variance with each other.

The diversity of opinion arises chiefly from the subject being contemplated under different influences and from different points of view.

In order to appreciate correctly the value of the opinions expressed, it appears to me necessary to analyse some of the causes or influences which have led to their conception.

The influence which has led to the strongest antagonism of opinion on this subject is the struggle for supremacy in the government of the army between the military and civil authorities connected with it.

For the last forty years the struggle has gradually, and at times almost imperceptibly, been creeping on, which has at length placed the government of the army immediately under the control of the House of Commons, with the Secretary of State for War, a civilian, at its head, and a numerous retinue of civil clerks of great influence and power around him.

I do not undertake to say whether this is right or wrong, but we are only uselessly beating the wind if we argue on this subject of control without first acknowledging the fact, and looking our real difficulty in the face.

The next cause of diversity in opinion arises from the different sources whence military men who write and speak on the control question have derived the information which has caused them to form their opinions.

These influences or points of view must be well considered in weighing the value of each opinion.

It is scarcely possible for a civilian fully to understand the system of carrying out strategical operations before an enemy; and without that knowledge, however clever he may be on other subjects, he cannot form a correct idea of the laws which should regulate the different departments which constitute the vast and intricate machinery of an army placed under the command of a general in the field.

The most elaborate and forcible arguments set forth by military men in time of peace emanate frequently from men extremely clever, remarkably scientific, and unanswerable in theory, but often entirely deficient in practical knowledge and experience may lack the ability of advocating his opinions by powerful writing and speaking.

Having had some experience in the field on active service, as well as in our peace manoeuvres, and having spent many years in constant contact with British soldiers, I think the opinion I have formed of the present organization of the control department may be of some use, and should it not point out the "fairway channel" it may at any rate warn our pilots of the rocks ahead.

In our present system, large departments have been created in the War Office, principally under the superintendence of civilians who have been placed in high positions, with high pay, which they naturally will be loath to relinquish. In order that their hold upon the army may be more complete controllers have been placed at every sta-

tion, who communicate constantly and directly with them. These controllers have been made independent staff officers; they communicate only with their general officers, and take their authorities and instructions direct from him in person. They have also been placed in direct communication with officers and soldiers, and have been intrusted with the greater portion of the duties formerly in the hands of the quartermaster general, the remainder of whose duties have been thrust upon the general officer—little more than the name of the office remaining.

In time of peace the great defects of this system may show themselves only in the shape of friction and occasional complaint; but in the event of war, the whole fabric must inevitably fall.

The operations of war may be divided under two heads.

First, The strategical and tactical movements of an army, by which the objects of a war are to be attained.

Second, The administrative duties, whereby the troops are clothed, fed, and supplied with ammunitions of war.

All the plans of operations included under the first head can alone be considered, formed, and carried out by military men. In the more delicate details of such plans, a general can scarcely allow his right hand to know what his left hand is doing; it would be unnecessary and unsafe for him to entrust the secrets connected with them to a man acquainted with military science, who could not appreciate their value.

On the other hand, a civil officer intrusted with the charge of the administrative departments of an army, could never find time to be constantly at the elbow of his general while he was studying and preparing the details of his military plans.

As the strategical and tactical operations included under the first head must be left exclusively under the direction of military or combatant officers, so must the duties included under the second be dealt with by officers especially appointed and educated for those branches.

As a military staff officer has access to his general at all times, to refer to him on matters relating to strategical or tactical movements, so do I consider the head of an administrative department should have free access to him to speak on subjects relating to his own branch of duty.

So far the distinction between the duties included under the two heads is clear and simple; and were it possible to keep them separate, no difficulties would arise, and the heads of administrative departments might be considered independent; but unfortunately this is not possible—the system breaks down on the very threshold.

The duties of the military and administrative departments are so closely interwoven that the one cannot be separated from the other. The very moment a camp is formed or a force is assembled, they come into collision; and the latter must, at every turn, be dependent on and subservient to the former. The position of the camps—the spots on which provisions, forage, and stores are to be placed—the amount of provisions or transport that can be derived from the country round—the very spot on which the controller himself is to be placed—must all be decided by military staff officers, with reference to strategical views and purposes.

It must be remembered that during a campaign the reconnaissance of country and the duties of the intelligence department must be carried out by military staff officers.