

ment, and should always be kept efficient by that corps, but should be entirely under the control and responsibility of the commanding officer of the regiment while attached to it. When not required for regimental purposes, they should be placed at the disposal of the control department, by an order from the officer commanding the garrison division or brigade.

There is something in a name and it is to be regretted that the name "control" was ever adopted: it has aroused jealousy and suspicion, and in some instances has caused officers of the department to take a very false view of their position and duties. Why not return to the old terms "commissariat department" and "store department," which everybody knows and understands?

In the transaction of all military business under the present system, there appears to be a link missing. If any service requires the action of several departments, such as the control, the engineers, and a military department, there is nothing to connect their work but the memory of the general officer commanding, for the independent departments cannot condescend to take instructions from each other; and as each complete its part, the subject has to return to the general before it can descend into the next department, to be carried on a step further. It is true that the general may read up the papers again each time a subject comes before him; but if his command is large, and the papers voluminous, which is very frequently the case, this is a great, and, I think, an unnecessary, tax upon his time, which should be devoted to more important and useful duties. On the other hand, if he trusts to his memory, and it is not perfectly correct, there is a great chance of the service miscarrying. The action of each department may require several weeks or even months of correspondence. I have known a correspondence to be lost on its tortuous journey, and be forgotten altogether, till the general happened to inquire what had become of it.

Again, all complaints from the troops about provisions, barrack damages &c., are forwarded to the head of the administrative branch, the "controller," and are submitted by him to the general commanding, he giving his own version and coloring to the subject. Should the general differ with him in opinion, he may refer the question to the Secretary of State for War; but the "controller" for and the correspondence, and the decision is returned, not to the general, but to the "controller," who instructs the general: "Can such a system be right? and will troops ever be satisfied with it? I think not."

We are then told by the civil element that the complaints are not against the controller. "Against the commissaries or contractors! But is not the 'controller' responsible for his subordinate officers and contractors? The troops only recognize the one department, which they are told comprises all the administrative branches under one head—the 'controller,' they have nothing to do with the subordinates. Moreover, is not the control department especially a branch of the war department? and are not its officers dependent on the heads of their departments, usually civilians, at the War Office, for everything including their own advancement and their stations? Is it not probable that their opinions may be biased by a consideration of what will be pleasing to their patrons?"

The link which is now missing existed formerly in the quartermaster general's department. It was the duty of the quar-

termaster general to connect the work of other departments when their action was independently required, and he stood between the civil and military departments, and from his knowledge of the requirements and feelings of soldiers, filled up the gap which now exists owing to the want of sympathy and knowledge on the part of the civil branches who are now called upon to act and judge on questions which they cannot fully appreciate, and the want of confidence on the part of the troops in their judgment.

The old organization of the commissariat department was sound and good; it stood the test of years of practical experience; it grew under the hard hand of necessity; it carried our army through all the difficulties of the Peninsular war, and led our troops to victories the most brilliant in the annals of our history. During many years of peace it was curtailed and cut down to the lowest ebb, till a mere shadow of the once complete machinery remained. As time rolled on, nothing was left of the once splendid army but our regiments, perfect in themselves, and supported by their incomparable regimental system, but unconnected by any of those departments which weld corps together and form them into an army. At length we found ourselves plunged in war, with no preparation to meet the difficulties. The brilliant victory of the "Ama" stands out in bold relief to testify to the excellence of the old regimental system; while the lamentable failures of the administrative branches in after months show too well how completely the system of those departments had been allowed to fall into decay.

As soon as peace was restored, every mind was at work to repair the damages which our parsimony had caused; but instead of re-establishing a system which had been proved by years of hard experience, and endeavoring to bring it to perfection, a new element appeared, and with powerful hands seized the reins, and has well nigh steered our once glorious bark into the channel of destruction.

REVIEWS.

The *Aldine* for November comes to us richly freighted with art and literary treasures, something after the manner of one of the argosies of old, that made periodical returns from distant lands, bringing the most valuable things that could be seized in all. Artistically, the place of honor is held by an exquisite picture called "Dinner-time," after the German Knauts, showing a dark-haired Gretchen feeding her ducks, and equally commanding respect in the charming rural subject, in the management of details in the original picture, and in the keen and elaborate engraving. The other full page pictures are "Rescued at Sea," a terrificly striking representation of the White Star-ship *Bahic* taking off the passengers of the wrecked ship *Assyria*, in the fall of 1872; and "Normandy Cattle," breathing the very atmosphere of the country and of the best artists of the French School, who have made such subjects their profitable study, beyond any other painters of the time. Of other pictures we have two magnificent views—outer and inner—of the Alhambra, at Granada, in Spain—the "North Wall" of that noble mosque, and the "Hall of Lularaj," being the points of illustration chosen; two fine pictures, nearly full page, by Hamner, "Under the Ems," and "The Stepping Stone," conveying the charmingly wild scenery of the Upper Delaware; a general view and two interiors of York

Minster, in continuation of the series of pictures of the great religious houses of England, now in progress in *The Aldine*; a very pleasant glance at dog-life, in "Master's Slippers," by Elwes etc.

Quite a material change is evident in the literary management of *The Aldine*, under what we must suppose the new editorial charge; and undoubtedly strength is added, without any apparent deficiency in grace and delicacy. The most notable changes are to be found in the appearance of a slashing editorial article under the editorial head, "America's Example," which reads as if there might be an intention to follow it with others of the same vigor,—and in the commencement of a continued story, "Lost Lillian Bracy; a Tradition of Charles II's Time," which opens with a graphic picture of a May-day of that period, and promises to possess a most absorbing interest, allowing few who commence it to lay it down unfinished. Rumor has it, that this story, which bears no name, is really one of the unpublished MSS. left by the late G.P.R. James; and the intrinsic evidence of style and incident would favor the supposition. There is another story of much power, compiled, by Mrs. H. G. Rowe,—"The Eagle in the Sea-Bird's Nest," &c., &c. Taken all in all, *The Aldine* presents a noble number for November, that must command attention in the literary and artistic worlds.

The Aldine Company has determined to establish an Art Union, similar to the well known Art Union in England, and distribute its works of art, both sculpture and paintings, which are constantly collecting, among its subscribers. Art premiums, valued at \$2 500, will be distributed among each series of 5 000 subscribers. Subscription tickets at \$6.00 each entitle the holder to *The Aldine* for a year, to the new chromo, and to a ticket in the distribution of art premiums. *The Aldine Company* publishers, No 55 Maiden Lane, New York City.

The Science of Health for November discusses in a sensible manner the questions of Beds, What They Should Be; The Temperance problem; Parental Responsibility; Regular Meals; Baneful Habits Affecting Health; Disease and Its Treatment; Infant Mortality; The Great Scandal a Possible Blessing; Kitchen Utensils, illustrated; How to Keep Warm; Suicides; Doctors and Quacks; with a variety of specially useful information in the Household Department and Answers to Correspondents. The present is a favorable time to subscribe for *The Science of Health*, which is one of the most useful of all our magazines. Price only 20 cents a number; or, \$2.00 a year, and three months free to all who subscribe at once for 1875. Address S.R. Wells, Publisher, 359 Broadway.

The contents of the October number of *Blackwood*, just issued by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41, Barclay St., New York, may be summarized as follows:

- I. "Alicia Lorraine." Part VIII.
- II. "The Abode of Snow." Part II.
- III. "Sir Barnastie Tarleton."
- IV. "International Vantier" No. VII.
- V. "Army Control."
- VI. "The Story of Valentino and his Brother." Part IX.
- VII. "School Board Religion."
- VIII. "Horatian Lyrics." A free version of three well known odes, respectively entitled by the translator, "The Golden Mean," "A Christmas Carol," and "To Milledred."
- XI. "The Founders of Modern Liberalism."