

**INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
FORMATION AND EXERCISE
OF
VOLUNTEER
SHARP-SHOOTERS**

BY CAPTAIN BARBER,
COMMANDING THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND'S
CORPS OF SHARP-SHOOTERS

LONDON:
MINTED FOR T. EGERTON, MILITARY LIBRARY,
NEAR WHITEHALL
1804

PART I §. 3. OF THE TARGET, AND DISTANCES.

THE TARGET which appears to me best adapted for the practice of firing, is one made of two deal boards nailed together, and roughly shaped into the outline of a man's figure. The height should not exceed six feet, and the breadth ought not to be less than two feet in the wide part. A target thus formed is sufficiently large to show the deviation of the shots, in tolerable firing, and is more satisfactory than a round or square target, inasmuch as it serves to exemplify more plainly how often the marksman would be able to hit his enemy. Besides, as it is generally considered that a deviation of two feet perpendicularly over or under a given point, is a better demonstration of a marksman, as well as more likely to do execution in service, than an error of one foot sideways, a long-proportioned target, is on that account, to be preferred.

The target should be covered with white paper (for the convenience of receiving the numbers of the shots, as well as showing them more plainly), with a black circular spot of about eight inches diameter in the center:—external colored rings are troublesome to make, and materially confuse the fight, without being of any essential service. A single foot to the target, drove into the ground, will generally be found to hold it sufficiently steady, but in windy weather, or where the earth is unfavorable, a prop, to be placed behind, must be resorted to. For those marksmen who are sufficiently advanced to fire at a moving object, a target may be fixed on a sledge, or a truck upon wheels, and by a proper contrivance be drawn backwards and forwards by a person placed under shelter.

Before a man is allowed to fire with ball he should be instructed how to load methodically, and practiced in the firing motions, with a wood or horn driver in his piece, while leveling at a mark, in order that he may acquire a habit of firing without jerking.

A man should never be allowed to fire at a long distance, until he is capable of hitting his object with tolerable certainty at a short one, nor should he be permitted to fire from a rest (unless for the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of his fights), until he can fire steadily from the shoulder.

The following are the regulations for firing established in the Duke of Cumberland's Sharp-Shooters:

“No man who is not classed as a marksman shall be permitted to fire at a greater distance than 100 yards.

A man that puts five shots out of six in the target two days out of three, firing from the shoulder at the distance of 100 yards, will be placed in the third class.

The THIRD CLASS will fire, at the distance of 150 yards, six shots each day—three from a rest and three from the shoulder, when equally successful in this class, he will be placed in the second class.

The SECOND CLASS will fire, from a rest, at 200 yards distance from the target, six shots

each day; upon similar success in this class, he will be placed in the first class.

The FIRST CLASS will fire, from a rest, at 300 yards and at smaller distances, at a moving object. As a distinction, useful and honorable, this class will wear a green silk cockade in their caps.

As a further inducement to the acquirement of skill, and to its retention, a gold medal will be fired for once, monthly, by the first and second classes. They will fire six shots from 150 yards, and the same number from 200 yards distance. The man that puts the greatest number of shots in the target, will be presented with the gold medal, but he will retain it no longer than he continues to be the best shot on those days of trial; accordingly, should another man be more successful on a future occasion, he will receive the medal from the first who obtained it, by the same rule it will be surrendered to a third, and to on, as may be proved necessary. But the medal will be finally presented to the man who shall prove entitled to it, on six monthly trials, when a new one will be produced to the corps."

As a sharp-shooter is obliged to take a different level at his object, at various distances, it is evidently essential, that he should be a good judge of distances, in order that he may know which sight to make use of, or what allowance will be necessary in taking his aim. He should, therefore, be accustomed to step all sorts of distance within the range of a gun. It is an advantageous practice, for a platoon to be formed into a single rank, and for an officer, pointing to a distant object to which they can march, to ask every man's opinion of the distance, proceeding from one end of the rank to the other. They may then be ordered to step out in ordinary time, and marched to the spot, and the measure thus ascertained. Two objects are in this way affected by one operation.

OF LOADING, AND FIRING AT THE TARGET.

FOR LOADING a rifle, the best powder is not only to be preferred, as not clogging the touch-hole, but is almost equally economical with the common; a fourth of the weight of the ball I have always found sufficient: the same load should be preserved for all distances, as, in service, a man does not know at what distance his object may present itself. The ball should be placed exactly in the middle of the patch, which will be used with the greased side next the barrel, and when fairly rammed down, the pressure should not be repeated, as that would compress the powder to close in the touch-hole as to occasion it to miss or hang fire. Some rifles are particularly liable to this inconvenience, when that is the case, the touch-hole maybe filled by a pin, picker or feather while loading, and afterwards primed. In all cases, the hammer must be shut on the pan, as otherwise the air pressed down by the ball would force all the powder out at the touch-hole. The patches maybe either of thin chamoy leather or rags: I have found a closely woven calico the best, and considerably cheaper than leather. The balls should fit, to as (with the patches) to require a considerable pressure to force down, but derive no advantage from being to tight as to require the rifle to cut them. The mark of the neck of the shoulder on the ball should be downwards

Should there be a necessity for drawing the ball, the application of the instruments provided for that purpose is obvious. It may be necessary to observe, however, that the

screw should be worked into the ball with some considerable pressure, and nearly forced through, before it is attempted to be withdrawn. The ball may be afterwards separated from the instrument by beating it between two hard substances. I must here remark, that the worm on the ball-drawers is generally cut too fine, which occasions them to frequently to tear out the lead.

In TAKING AIM, the rifleman will bring the foresight into the notch of the back-sight immediately, then, if his object is stationary, he will begin to level at the lower part of it, and bring it up to the point he means to strike, he will do this without drawing his breath, gliding the piece steadily to the point desired. In firing, he will press gradually on the trigger without jerking or withdrawing his eye, or attention from the object. If his mark is moving, he will follow it, and press on the trigger, while following, when he has got a satisfactory aim. The cheek should be firm against the stock, and the stock pressed close into the shoulder. The piece should not be taken from its level for the space of a second after the trigger's having been pulled, in order to provide against its hanging fire. I often hear it questioned, whether taking aim with one or both eyes open is the best, but, in fact, the aim is never taken, but with one eye—for the ray that passes along the two sights can never enter both eyes: there is no objection, however, to a man's having both eyes open, if it is more pleasant to him, than otherwise.

A rifleman should practice firing in all positions ;—standing, kneeling, sitting, laying on the ground, on the belly and the back: for the precise forms of these different attitudes, he may chiefly consult his own ease and firmness, but it appears to me that when standing, the position is firmest when erect, and the feet only about twelve inches asunder, the left elbow in the sling when kneeling, the position should incline to be extended, the elbow on the left knee: when sitting, a position something like that of a tailor's, I have found very steady, with an elbow on each knee: in laying on the belly, the fore part of the gun may rest on the man's hat, and be drawn close to it by pulling the sling with the left hand: when on the back, the sling should also be held tight, or the toes may be endangered: other positions may be occasionally resorted to, but whatever they be, ease and firmness are indispensably requisite. Loading whilst lying on the ground should also be practiced, but this can scarcely be done, except with cartridge.

While a man is unacquainted with his rifle, it may be well for him to fire a few shots from a rest, in order, more clearly to ascertain whether there is any error in his sights, and what the deviation is. If a man takes a correct aim—fires—after firing, continues it, and then finds his aim correct, he may fairly infer that it remained so while he fired, and, therefore, that if there is an error, it is the fault of the piece. I would strongly recommend this rule of continuing the level, after firing, for a second or two, to the attention of beginners, as well calculated to correct any habit of unsteadiness. If the piece throws uniformly to one side or the other, and the man is satisfied that it is not owing to the wind or any other accidental cause, the sights (which are left moveable for the purpose) must be altered. If the gun carries to the right, the back sight must be moved to the left, about the sixteenth of an inch for every foot deviation at the distance of 100 yards. Or, the fore sight may be moved as much to the right. Or the necessary alteration may be divided, by moving both sights in contrary directions, to the required degree. A great deal of time, and a waste of

ammunition, is generally spent in changing and shifting sights, which might easily be avoided, were the business of ascertaining the true situation of the sights proceeded with in a regular manner.

A man for this purpose should go out on a clear serene morning, provided with forty or fifty charges, and, if he can, the company of an experienced rifleman. He should then take aim, lying on the ground, with a rest, as being the most steady position, and fire several shots before he ventures to move his sights. When he has at length fixed upon the critical point, and is assured of it, by the success of repeated shots at different distances, he should scratch distinct lines across the shoulder of the sights, and the barrel, and, without further hesitation, take the piece to the gun-maker's, and have them permanently fixed. This would at once prevent that common inconvenience, which is felt from the sights being accidentally displaced.

PART II. OF THE EXERCISE, AND MANOEUVRING.

§1 FORMATION OF THE COMPANY, AND GENERAL ATTENTIONS

1. THE company fall in two deep, sized from flanks to center.
2. The files are six inches asunder when in line.
3. The company is divided into a right and left platoon and each platoon into two sections.
4. The files are told off, right and left, beginning with the right of each platoon.
5. Each flank of the platoons is marked by a corporal.
6. When the company is in line, the place of the captain is in the center unless mounted, that of the first lieutenant on the right flank, and that of the second lieutenant on the left flank; each covered by a sergeant.
7. A horner is on each flank of the company.
8. The surgeon, sergeant major, and quarter master sergeant, are four paces in the rear of the center of the company.
9. They also follow in the rear, when the company is on the march, whether in line, column, or file.
10. But when drawn out for the purpose of review, the horners are on the right of the line, and the surgeon, sergeant major, and quarter master sergeant in a single rank on the left.
11. The medical staff and non-commissioned officers in shifting from one flank or point to another, invariably move in the rear.
12. When the company faces to one flank, preparatory to marching in file, the captain shifts from the center to the leading flank with his sergeant (who regulates the time), the lieutenant, originally placed on that flank, and his sergeant, move to the center. The captain places himself on the left of the right file, if the right is in front, when each officer steps with him.
13. When an officer's party moves in file, a sergeant always leads.
14. When the line breaks into column, or is on the march in file, the horners are in front, preceded by the captain's covering sergeant, who regulates the time, unless a flugelmann is expressly ordered to that service.
15. When the company breaks into open column of platoons, the lieutenants place themselves on their proper pivot flanks, their sergeants cover the second file from them. But in close column the sergeants cover their officers.
16. But if the company is acting in battalion, and the captain takes the command of the first platoon, the first lieutenant then commands the second platoon, and the second lieutenant places himself on the reverse flank of the first platoon.
17. In column of sections, the first lieutenant leads the head section, his sergeant the second, the second lieutenant's sergeant the third, and the second lieutenant the rear.
18. During the manoeuvres, the captain places himself at discretion, one of the horners is with him.
19. The captain's covering sergeant then occupies his place in the center of the front rank. But when the company is divided in the manoeuvres, he is with the right platoon.
20. If there be a supernumerary officer he is with the officer commanding, ready to obey any instructions that he may receive from him.

21. In wheeling, upon the order being given, the officers commanding divisions place themselves in front of the center of their respective divisions,, and on the word “march”, they face to the right about, and incline to the standing pivot, and halt and dress their division from it, if the wheel is backward, and from the wheeling flank, or pivot of the next division, if forward into line.

22. In dressing, when wheeled into line, they place themselves at the third file of the platoon from which they dress, and from hence correct their own division to the camp colour thrown out.

29. When acting with closed ranks, the arms are shouldered, and all commands given by word, but when extended, the arms are trailed, and signals given by the horn and whistle.

24. All movements, when the contrary is not ordered, are in quick time.

25. The company is never to run, unless particularly directed, and in that case, they are only to run at that pace in which they can preserve their order, and it is a rule that the two men of the same file never separate.

26. All movements should be in line, when conveniently practicable.

27. In all formations of front, from file movement, the file which first halts, is the one for the others to dress by.

28. The utmost care must be taken to avoid confusion, which too much hurry, even in the smallest bodies, will certainly occasion. It ought to be strongly impressed upon the mind of every soldier, that nothing is so dangerous to troops as disorder. If any accident has thrown a body of men into some degree of confusion, the officers must exert themselves to get a few files formed as quickly as possible, and to these the other soldiers will soon connect themselves.

§ 2. THE PREPARATORY EXERCISE.

BEFORE a man is instructed in the manoeuvres of light troops, he should be taught part of the usual exercise of regular infantry, viz.

THE POSITION OF A SOLDIER.

DRESSING.

FACING.

MARCHING—in ordinary time, quick time, in line, in files, lock step, side step, oblique step, stepping out, stepping short, marking time, and changing feet.

TURNING—right, left, and right and left about.

WHEELING—to the right and left forwards, on the right and left backwards, on the center, right and left, and right about.

§3. THE MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE RIFLE.

THE rifle is to be carried in the right hand, at arm's length, as in advanced arms the cock resting upon the little finger, the thumb upon the guard, and fore finger under it, the upper part of the barrel close in the hollow of the shoulder, and the butt pressing upon the thigh.

The manual exercise being ordered to be performed, the flugelman, or corporal on the

right, steps six or more paces to the front, opposite the center of the company.

PRESENT ARMS. (3 motions.)

1st. The rifle is raised about two inches by the right hand, and brought forward a little from the shoulder, at the same time the left hand is brought briskly across the body, and seizes the rifle with a full grasp even with the shoulder.

2d. The right hand brings the rifle even with the face, and opposite the left eye, grasps the small of the stock, turning the lock outwards, the left hand seizes it by the stock, so that the little finger touches the hammer spring, on a level with the chin, the left elbow close to the butt.

3d. The rifle is brought in a straight line to the present, the lock turned inwards, and even with the bottom of the waistcoat, the right foot is placed about three inches behind the left heel, the right hand holding the small of the stock between the fore finger and the thumb, the knuckles upwards, the three other fingers shut in the hand.

SHOULDER ARMS. (2 motions.)

1st. The rifle is brought quickly across the body to the right side, the right hand slipping round into the original position when shouldered, the left quits its hold, and seizes the rifle again smartly, even with the right shoulder, at the same time the right foot is brought up in a line with the left.

2d. The left hand quits the rifle, and is brought as quickly as possible flat upon the left thigh.

ORDER ARMS.

At the word arms, the left hand seizes the rifle even with the right shoulder, the right hand quits its hold, grasps the rifle round the muzzle, and brings it gently to the ground, even with the toe of the right foot, the wrist pressing against the side, and elbow as close as possible. The left hand is brought as before on the left thigh.

SHOULDER ARMS.

At the word arms, the rifle is thrown at once into the right shoulder by a jerk of the right hand, the left catches it till the right seizes the rifle in the proper place, and is then instantly brought to its original position on the left thigh; but this must be done with the quickness of one motion.

In the performance of this, as indeed of every other motion, the greatest care is to be taken to prevent the rifle falling to the ground, as it is a weapon easily damaged, and in the field, where time and opportunity can not always be found to repair it, the service of a rifleman is lost by every such instance of inattention.

SUPPORT ARMS.

The rifle is brought across the body, with the guard upwards, by bending the right arm,

the left hand is laid across the right.

CARRY ARMS.

The rifle is brought smartly on the right side, and the left hand on the left thigh.

TRAIL ARMS.

The left hand seizes the rifle at the second pipe, the right at the swell, and trails it on the right side at arm's length, the left falls back on the left thigh.

SHOULDER ARMS.

The rifle is brought to the advance, as from the order.

From the Order to Trail Arms.

TRAIL ARMS.

The right hand seizes the rifle as low as possible without constraint, then raises and holds it just above the sight.

From the Trail to Order Arms,

ORDER ARMS.

The rifle slides gently through the right hand to the ground, when even with the right toe the right hand again grasps the muzzle.

FIX SWORDS.

The rifle is pushed forward with the right hand, at the same time the sword is seized back-handed with the left, drawn, and fixed on the piece, when the hand is quickly replaced on the left thigh, and the rifle returned to the order.

SUHOULDER ARMS.

As already described.

PORT ARMS, OR PREPARE TO CHARGE.

At one motion the rifle is thrown across the body, the lock turned to the front, and at the height of the breast, the muzzle slanting upwards, so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder, the right hand grasps the small of the stock, and the left holds the piece at the swell, the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle.

CHARGE SWORDS.

A half face is made to the right and the rifle brought down to nearly a horizontal position, the muzzle inclining a little upwards; and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the thigh, just below the hip.

SHOULDER ARMS.

The soldier faces to the front, and throws the piece to its position on the shoulder: the left hand quits the piece briskly, and returns to its place on the left thigh.

ORDER ARMS.

As already described.

UNFIX SWORDS.

The rifle is pushed from the body and the left hand (seizing the sword back-handed) presses on the spring; when relieving the sword, it is returned into the scabbard, without shifting the grasp of the hand, and the position of order arms briskly returned.

SHOULDER ARMS.

As already described.

SLING ARMS. (2 motions.)

1st. The rifle is brought quickly across the body as at the port.

2d. The left elbow is put within the sling (in order to do which it is sometimes necessary to slip the hand a little up the stock), the butt is then thrown under the arm, and the sling steadied on the shoulder by the right hand, which, instantly replaced by the left hand, returns to the right thigh, and the piece is slung with the muzzle downwards.

DRAW SWORDS.

The sword is drawn with the right hand, and held against the right side, nearly at arm's length, the edge towards the front.

RETURN SWORDS.

The sword is returned, and the right hand quickly brought to its place on the thigh.

CARRY ARMS. (2 motions.)

1st. The last described motion in slinging arms is exactly reversed.

2d. The piece is thrown into the shoulder, and the left hand quickly brought to the left side.

ORDER ARMS.

As already described.

Excepting the present arms and the shoulder that follows (the time of performing which, ought to correspond with that of other troops, who might be drawn up in review order with sharp-shooters) the orders are generally performed in one motion. Simplicity and facility being great objects in the exercise of light troops, it is certainly desirable, that their versatile and often rapid movements should not be accustomed to wait for the aid of a flugelman : slinging and unslinging are, however, best performed in two motions, it is, therefore, necessary that a flugelman should step out in front of the company, when the ceremony of presenting arms, or the manual exercise are to be performed, but no longer. The recruit, nevertheless, should be taught all the parts of each motion distinctly and separately.

§ 4. OF LOADING AND FIRING WITH CARTRIDGE.

THE words of command for loading are as follows:

1. THE COMPANY WILL PRIME AND LOAD.
2. PREPARE TO LOAD.

The soldier half faces to the right, and in the motion brings down the rifle to an horizontal position just above the right hip, the left hand supports it at the swell of the stock, the elbow resting against the side, the right thumb against the hammer, the knuckles upwards, and elbow pressing against the butt, the lock inclining a little to the body to prevent the powder from falling out. The officer now warns the men in going through the loading motions.

WAIT FOR THE WORDS OF COMMAND.

At the word—PAN,

The pan is pushed open by the right thumb, the right hand then seizes the cartridge with the three first fingers.

CARTRIDGE,

The cartridge is brought to the mouth, and placed between the two first right double teeth, the end twisted off and brought close to the pan.

PRIME,

The priming is shaken into the pan, in doing which, to see that the powder is properly lodged, the head must be bent, the third and little finger are then placed behind the hammer.

SHUT PANS,

The pan is shut by the third and little finger, the right hand then seizes the small part of the stock between the third and little finger and ball of the hand.

ABOUT,

The soldier fronts, the rifle is brought to the ground with the barrel outwards, by sliding it with care through the left hand, which then seizes it near the muzzle, the thumb stretched along the stock, the butt is placed between the heels, the barrel between the knees, which must be bent for that purpose: the cartridge is put into the barrel, and the ramrod seized with the forefinger bent and thumb of the right hand.

ROD,

The ramrod is drawn quite out by the right hand, the left quits the rifle and grasps the ramrod the breadth of a hand from the bottom, which is sunk one inch into the barrel.

HOME,

The cartridge is forced down with both hands, the left then seizes the rifle about six inches from the muzzle, the soldier stands upright again, draws out the ramrod with the right hand, and puts the end into the pipe.

RETURN,

The ramrod is returned by the right hand, which then seizes the rifle below the left.

SHOULDER,

The left hand brings the rifle to the right shoulder; turning the guard outwards, and holds it until the right has its proper hold round the small of the stock, when the left is drawn quickly to the left thigh.

When the recruits are sufficiently perfect in firing by these distinct and separate words of command, they should be accustomed to go through the motions with the following words of command only.

1. THE COMPANY WILL PRIME AND LOAD,
2. PREPARE TO LOAD.

The company half face to the right and bring the piece down to the priming position.

3. LOAD.

Every motion in loading as described above, is to be performed; and here officers are required to pay particular attention, that no single motion be omitted, as it is of more consequence that a rifle should be properly, than expeditiously loaded.

Riflemen must at first be accustomed to make ready, and present methodically; and in this they should be thoroughly practiced, for they will seldom be in a situation to fire by word of command.

The firings may be divided under three heads, viz. on the spot, in advancing, and in retreating,

To fire on the spot with closed ranks, the following words of command will be given:

- I. THE COMPANY WILL FIRE.
2. COMPANY.

At this word, the right hand file of each platoon takes three quick paces to the front, the rear rank man steps to the right of his file leader.

3. READY.

At this word, the rifle is brought by the right hand before the center of the body, the left seizes it, so that the little finger rests upon the hammer spring, and the thumb stretched along the stock, raising it to the height of the mouth, the right thumb on the cock, and four fingers under the guard, when cocked, which must be done gently, the right hand grasps the small of the stock.

4. PRESENT.

The soldier half faces to the right, the butt is placed in the hollow of the right shoulder, the right foot steps back about twelve inches behind the left, the left knee is bent, the body brought well forward, the left hand without having quitted his hold, supports the rifle close before the lock, the right elbow raised even with the shoulder the fore finger on the trigger, the head bent, and cheek resting on that of the rifle, the left eye shut, the right taking aim through the sight, as soon as the rifleman has fixed upon his object, he fires without waiting for any command. When he has fired, the right hand quits its hold in facing to the right about, the left swings the rifle round into an horizontal position with the barrel downwards, the rifleman resumes his post in the platoon, in fronting to the left about, bring his rifle into the position to prime and load, half cocks, and proceeds to load, going through the motions as above, without further words of command.

As soon as the riflemen are perfect in this, they will be instructed, that at the signal of the horn to commence firing, the right hand files of each platoon or section, according as the company may be told off, are immediately to take three paces to the front, the rear rank men step to the right of their file leaders, present, and each fires as he gets a proper aim, then resumes his place in the company as above-mentioned, and loads again: when the first files have fired, the next advance, and so on through the company.

This mode of firing is necessary to prevent the whole from being unloaded at the same time, when the company therefore has fired once according to the above regulations, every file on being loaded again will advance three paces, and each man will take his aim and fire, and then immediately resume his place in the company, load, &c. When it is required that the firing should cease, the signal to cease firing will be made by the bugle, after which not a shot must be heard. The officers who must invariably remain in the line during this firing, are on no account to stir from the spot, and when the signal to cease firing is made, and every man loaded and shouldered, they will dress their platoons. Too much attention can not be given to the above rule, for the preservation of the alignment will entirely depend upon a strict observance of it.

N. B. The above regulations for firing with cartridges, will only be applicable when a corps of riflemen is required to act in close order, an instance which will very seldom occur, provided this arm is put to its proper use, and officers will observe in all cases, where riflemen act as such and whenever it is practicable, their men are to load with the powder measure and loose ball, the principal instructions therefore for recruits, will be how to load with the loose ball and to fire at the target, the loading with cartridge is a secondary object. To this end, the rifle recruit must, from the first, in addition to his other exercise, be constantly practiced in firing at the target, as already described.

§ 5. OF EXTENDING AND CLOSING.

WHEN the company is formed at close order, and is required to extend from the right. The words of command will be given as follows :

TO THE LEFT EXTEND.

At this word of command the company, except the right hand file, faces to the left, moves on in quick time, casting the eyes over the right shoulder, so that each file when at two paces distant from his right hand file may halt, front, and dress by the right. The rear rank steps to the right, in order, if necessary, to march or fire without impediment through the intervals of the front rank. This is the usual distance between files, at which light troops when ordered to extend will form. But when they are required to cover the front of a corps, or mask a manoeuvre, the commanding officer will signify at what distance the files are to form from each other, before he gives the order for them to extend themselves.

When the company is to extend from the left, the word of command will be given—

TO THE RIGHT EXTEND.

The whole, except the left hand file, face to the right, in taking their distance look over the left shoulder, halt, front, and dress by the left. The rear rank, as in opening to the left, take ground to the right of their file leaders.

When to extend from the center, the word of command will be given—

FROM THE CENTER EXTEND.

At which the right wing face and move to the right, as in extending from the left, the left wing performs the same movements as when extending from the right, the center file stands fast.

As soon as the recruits are perfect in this mode of extending, the words of command of from right, left or center extend, are laid aside, and the commanding officer takes post on the wing, or point from which the company is to extend, and orders the bugle to sound the signal to extend, and should the distance proposed to be taken between the files be more than two paces (the usual extended order), he will signify, before the signal to

extend is made, at what distance the files are to form, as at 6, 8, or 10 paces.

On the signal to extend, the files open from the spot where the commanding officer has placed Himself with the bugle.— When extended, the riflemen trail their arms. If detached corps should happen to be without a bugle, the officer must make use of the before-mentioned words of command to extend. A sergeant is placed in the center of each rank when extended. If it is found necessary to increase the extended order originally prescribed, from either or both flanks, or from the center, a non-commissioned officer must proceed briskly in the rear of the extended files, and prescribe to each two or three file as he passes, the new distance.

OF TAKING GROUND TO EITHER FLANK. .

On the signal to take ground to the right or left, the company faces accordingly to the right or left, and, preserving their intervals, march in quick time until the signal to halt is given, when they halt and front.

OF CLOSING AGAIN.

On the signal from the bugle to close, every man faces and closes briskly to the point whence the signal is given, the whole shoulder their rifles and dress, in this movement the files must be careful not to intermix, to prevent the confusion that would unavoidably arise from their doing so. Should the commanding officer have no bugle with him to give the signal, he must give the word of command CLOSE.

§ 6. OF FIRING IN EXTENDED ORDER.

OF FIRING ON THE SPOT WHEN EXTENDED.

WHEN sharp-shooters fire from the spot in extended order, the commanding officer orders the hornet to give the signal to commence firing. At this signal the front rank makes ready, presents (each man selecting his particular object), and fires: as soon as the rear rank man sees his file leader put the ball into his piece, he makes ready, and fires through the intervals of the front rank, and when the rear rank men have got their balls into their pieces, each man gives notice to his file leader to fire, by the word "ready," or a tap on the shoulder. In this manner the fire is continued on the spot, till the signal is given to cease firing.

OF FIRING IN ADVANCING.

The commanding officer having ordered the bugle to sound the signals to advance and fire, the superior officer with the extended files placing himself near their center, gives a call with his whistle, whereupon the rear rank advance before the front rank twelve paces, passing to the right of their file leaders, and dressing by the center. Each man sees that his interval is properly preserved, as well as his front. When the sergeant in the center of

the rank is satisfied as to its being sufficiently dressed, he make a signal with his rifle*, upon which each man selects an object, levels, and fires, and immediately proceeds to load, after which the rifle is trailed. When the officer sees that the rank in front has fired, and are loading, he gives another signal with his whistle, upon which the front rank moves forward (passing to the left of the men before them) twelve paces before the rear rank, and thus the two ranks proceed alternately advancing until further orders.

*The rule of waiting for a signal from the sergeant in the center for the firing to commence, proves well calculated to inculcate a habit of preserving a proper line, owing to a neglect of which, skirmishing is often apt to degenerate into absolute confusion. But it would not be adopted in service, when each man after advancing would fire as soon as he could select an object.

OF FIRING IN RETREATING.

On the signal to fire and retreat being founded, and followed by a call of the whistle, the rank which happens to be in front fires, goes to the right about, and retreats briskly twelve paces in the rear of the second rank, fronts, and loads, the second rank, upon the next signal of the whistle proceeds in like manner, and so on alternately.

After the signal to cease firing, not a shot must be heard, but the ranks close to their usual distance, and halt. The rank which happens to be halted at the time regulates that which is in motion: thus, should the rear rank be halted when the cease firing is given, and the front rank be in the act of moving, the rear rank remains steady, and the front rank place themselves before them. But should both ranks at the moment be halted, the front rank is the regulating one, the rear rank, in consequence, place themselves behind them.

OF LOADING AND FIRING ON THE MARCH.

When in extended order taking ground on the right or left, and the company is under orders to fire, the men load while marching, and fire independently, the rear rank men firing through the intervals of the front rank.

§7 OF MOVEMENTS AND MANOEUVRES WITH CLOSED FILES.

WHEN the front and file movements are ordered to be performed on the march, no halt takes place upon the different formations, unless that command is expressly given. The officer on the flank of the company which happens to be the directing one occasionally gives the word dress to the company upon front formations, but only in an under tone, and when he finds it necessary. But in all the formations, the company without waiting for express orders, dress by the directing flank as they form, and mark time until the officer on that flank gives the word forward; which he does as soon as he is satisfied with the dressing.

THE COMPANY WILL PERFORM THE DIFFERENT FRONT AND FILE MOVEMENTS WHILE ON THE MARCH.

ADVANCE LINE
QUICK MARCH

The company march off in quick time.

FILE FROM THE RIGHT TO THE FRONT.

The whole instantly turn to the right, and follow the direction given by the sergeant on that flank, who immediately wheels to the front.

DOUBLE FILES, TO THE RIGHT, FORM.

On the command double files to the right, the rear rank takes a side step to the right; at the word form, each left file man steps up to the right of the right file man before him. The march is then continued four abreast, preserving sufficient intervals for the files to resume their former position.

RANK ENTIRE, FORM.

On the command rank entire, the left files reverse the last movement, marking time one pace, and slipping behind the right files. At the word form, the rear rank closes by a side step to the proper file distance.

FORM INDIAN FILE.

On the command form Indian file, each rear rank man steps behind his file leader, so as to form a single rank.

RANK ENTIRE FORM.

This is formed from the last movement by the rear rank returning their places on the right of their file leaders : should the files then appear too much loosened, the officer leading the files orders them to step shot in front, and then forward.

FRONT FORM.

The front man of the leading file halts, his rear rank man covers him, the succeeding files form up to his left (the right of the company being in front), and dress by him. in this, as in all the other formations of front from file, the officer on the directing flank gives the word forward when the front is formed.

ADVANCE BY INDIAN FILES FROM THE FLANKS.

The file at each flank advances, led on by sergeant, and when the rear rank man has cleared the front, the next file inwards follows, and so on successively. The sergeant that leads on the left will be answerable for preserving a proper distance for the company to

form up.

FRONT FORM.

The whole form inwards, dressing by the right.

FILE FROM THE CENTER TO THE FRONT.

A file on each side of the center advances, and is followed as before, proceeding two abreast: the sergeant in the center leads the file movement.

FRONT FORM.

The sergeant in the center instantly marks time, and the platoons form front, by moving up to his right and left.

FILES FROM THE FLANKS TO THE FRONT.

The platoons face outwards, and immediately wheel to the front, as led on by their sergeants. The sergeant on the left dresses by the right platoon, and is accountable for preserving the proper distance for the company to form up.

FRONT FORM.

The platoons form inwards.

FILES FROM THE FLANKS TO THE REAR.

The platoons face outwards, and retreat, in file, as led on by their sergeants.

TO THE REAR FORM.

The company forms to the rear by the platoons forming inwards, the rear rank fronting to the rear.

FILE FROM THE FLANKS TO THE REAR,

The platoons face outwards and retreat in file, as led on by their sergeants.

TO THE REAR FORM, FRONT.

The company forms to the rear by the platoons forming inwards as before, but each file on reaching its ground faces to its proper front, dressing by the right.

RETREAT IN LINE.

The company immediately turns to the right about, and proceeds, when the word forward is given by the superior officer, in line.

FILE FROM THE CENTER TO THE REAR,

A file on each side of the center proceeds in the retreating direction (as led on by the sergeant in the center), and is followed by the succeeding files two abreast.

TO THE REAR FORM.

The company fronts to the rear, by the platoons forming outwards, the rear rank in front to the rear.

RETREAT BY INDIAN FILE FROM THE FLANKS

The file on each flank retreats (led on by a sergeant), and is followed by the succeeding files, as in advancing by Indian file.

TO THE REAR FORM.

The platoons form front to the rear, by forming inwards, the rear rank in front to the rear.

FILE FROM THE FLANKS.

The platoons face outwards, and proceed in opposite directions until further orders.

FILE TO THE REAR.

They file as directed,

FORM COMPANY.

The platoons lead towards each other and when they approach to a proper distance for the flanks of the company, the command

FORM FRONT FORWARDS.

is given, whereupon the leading files, being the flank ones, come to their front: the succeeding files go round their rear, and form to the same front in their proper places.

HALT.

ORDER ARMS

FIX SWORDS

SHOULDER ARMS.

FORM HOLLOW SQUARE.

The second section remains steady.

OFFICER OF THE 1ST SECTION:

First Section, on your Left backward wheel— March. Halt, Eyes Left, Dress. Eyes Front. The first section wheels back on the left, and in wheeling, its pivot shifts behind the right of the second section, to that the front of the first section may dress by the right of the second.

OFFICER OF THE 3D SECTION:

Third Section, on your Right backward Wheel—March. Halt, Eyes Right, Dress. Eyes Front.

The third section wheels backward on its right, its pivot shifting behind the left of the second section, by which it dresses.

OFFICER OF THE 4TH SECTION :

Fourth Section, File from the Right, inclining to the Rear—March. Halt. Right Face. The fourth section files to the rear, and then faces outwards.

The whole of these movements should take place at the same time, and the square be completed with all possible dispatch, the files closing well together. Officers, staff, sergeants and bugle players, are within the square.

COMPANY, THE FRONT RANK KNEELING, CHARGE SWORDS.

The front rank kneeling, come to the charge, as do the rear rank, standing, to the port. The officers within the square draw swords and come to the St. George, over the heads of a side of the square supposed to be threatened with attack: if they have pistols, they hold them in their left hands.

CARRY ARMS.

The front rank spring up, and the whole carry arms.

COMPANY, TO THE REAR FACE—MARCH.

The different sides of the square face to the rear, and step off together at the word march.

TO THE LEFT TURN——FORWARD.

TO THE RIGHT ABOUT TURN——FORWARD.

RIGHT TURN——FORWARD,

On turning, the company marks time until the word forward is given. When double quick time is ordered, the pace is increased accordingly.

HALT. OUTWARDS FACE.

When halted and ordered to face outwards, they face as originally formed.

TO THE FRONT FACE—MARCH. FRONT FORM.

The second section remains formed; the first and third form front to the right and left, and the fourth obliques to the left, and forms in its proper distance.

FORWARD.

HALT.

1. PREPARE TO CHARGE.

Previous to the charge, the homers and one or two sergeants are sent forward about 150 paces, where they form a line directly opposite that of the company, and remain to mark the position of the supposed enemy.

2. QUICK MARCH.

3. FORWARD,

At one hundred paces from the markers, the whole trotting regularly at the charging time.

4. FORWARD,

At thirty-five or forty paces from the markers, the rate of running is increased to double quick time.

5. CHARGE,

At ten paces from the markers the company rush forward, but still in order, the front rank bringing down their pieces to the charging position, as they come close to the line of markers.

HALT,

CLOSE TO THE MARKERS.

SHOULDER ARMS.

RIGHT ABOUT FACE.

QUICK MARCH.

HALT. FRONT.

ORDER ARMS.

UNFIX SWORDS.

After returning to the position from which they let out, arms are ordered, swords returned, and the indulgence of standing at ease seldom proves an unreasonable relief this time.

§ 8. OF SKIRMISHING.

UPON this extensive and most essential subject in the service of sharp-shooters, too much attention cannot be paid by those who look forward to actual service. The various objects of picket and patrol duties, the observations and illustrations which might advantageously be connected with the detail of those duties, and the subtle means that a sharp-shooter should have recourse to, in order to conceal his advance, retreat, or ambuscade, would occupy more pages than the whole of this Manual contains. To this wide and animating subject for study and investigation, various books which treat of the duty of light infantry in the field are well adapted.

Directed merely to the regular exercise of the company, the remaining pages contain instructions for manoeuvring, unconnected with accidental advantages of situation; but in the way that might with propriety be adopted in open ground. Such ground, however, as it is the most unfavorable for sharp-shooters, so it is that on which they would never be found but from absolute necessity. But as regular manoeuvring is essential, where the situation is most critical (although not frequent), regular manoeuvring ought to be a leading object of practice, and indeed it is the only skirmishing that can be performed at parade exercise. The management to be adopted in covered and intersected situations, must be subservient to these principles in a certain degree, although a considerable discretionary range must be given to skirmishers, to facilitate their enquiries, or conceal their progress and positions: here much must depend on the prompt natural ingenuity and uniform caution of the individuals employed.

In skirmishing, it is a rule that one half of the company remains formed as a reserve: but when acting under the support of another corps, the whole may skirmish.

When skirmishing in front of a regiment in line, on the first close the skirmishers close to the flanks, if the line advances, the platoons then remain formed in front until the line has passed. But should the line halt, a second close is sounded, upon which they file to the rear of the line, about thirty paces in rear of the second companies from the flanks of the regiment.

If the skirmishers are attacked by cavalry, or if the line has immediate occasion to make use of its whole fire, the alarm is sounded, upon which every man makes the best of his way round the flanks to the rear, or through any opening in the line.

Sharp-shooters in rear of a regiment in open column, prepared to wheel into line, upon being ordered to skirmish, may be led by sections between the divisions, to proportioned distances in front, and much ground thereby saved. From covering the retreat of a regiment filing by companies, if the skirmishers are required to form in the rear, it may be concerted, that at the signal to close they shall close by sections (say to the outward flanks of each) and file between the divisions of the battalion previous to their wheeling into line; or, when time is pressing, the alarm may be sounded, and each man dash through individually, and form in the rear of the battalion.

When sharp-shooters skirmish independently, at the close, they close to the point whence the signal proceeds; but when making the manoeuvres of a battalion, on the first close, they merely close to their flanks, and on the second, file to the rear of the line, as already described.

Signals from the bugle have a reference to the direction of the whole company: directions for particular divisions will be conveyed by calls of the whistle, from the officers of those bodies respectively.

The signal for an advance or retreat, required to be performed with expedition, will be played with rapidity, and twice over.

The signals of the bugle should be distinctly played, and, until the sounds are finished, the company should not proceed upon the order which they convey.

As it is necessary that sharp-shooters should be accustomed to load and fire (when skirmishing) sitting or kneeling, and lying on the ground as well as standing. The men should be taught to lie close after loading, until the signal is given for them to advance (when firing in advancing), and to throw themselves on the ground as soon as they have advanced their proper distance; and the line is dressed: or, if a crouched position is prescribed, to continue sitting or kneeling, except when in the act of moving.

Firing on the ground would be advantageously adopted in service, when skirmishing on a plain, and exposed to destructive fire. When among bushy heaths or corn fields, the sitting or kneeling position would afford a sufficient concealment; and it would be necessary for the men to be to far raised, in order to see their object. When trees, fences, &c. afford a cover for men standing, or the close attack of the enemy renders it necessary for them to be much on the alert to shift their ground, the erect position will be the one most generally relied upon.

The usual place of a company of sharp-shooters attached to a column on the march is at its head as an advanced guard, unless elected to patrol on the flanks, or to form, rear guard.

THE DISPOSITION OF A COMPANY OF SHARP-SHOOTERS AS AN ADVANCED GUARD.

The company is told off into four half platoons, or sections. The commanding officer, with the first half platoon, marches in front of the corps to which he forms the advanced guard, in the day-time 500 paces, but in the night, or in hazy weather, 300 only. The second section is detached 200 paces in front of the first, and a party of a sergeant and six men is pushed on 100 paces further, which forms the head of the advanced guard. The third and fourth half platoons are placed 300 paces to the right and left of the first, and even with it, taking care to preserve as much as possible the above distance from it, and detaching, 100 paces forwards, and in an oblique direction to the outer flank, a non-commissioned officer and six men.

The duty of the advanced guard is to scour the whole country in its front, penetrating through woods and enclosures, and searching into villages. If the patrols meet with an enemy, the officer of the half platoons informs the captain of the company, who reports the same by a steady non-commissioned officer to the commanding officer of the column.

The commanding officer of the advanced guard will of course have been previously directed, whether in case of falling in with an enemy, he is to attack or merely to amuse him with his skirmishers, or whether he is to fall back. In the last instance, he must not retire upon the main body, but by withdrawing in an oblique direction leave a clear stage for the operations of the line against the enemy. He will by this movement avoid the possibility of confusion ensuing from the retreat of his own troops, which, under particular circumstances, may unavoidably become precipitate.

ADVANCE. (Bugle.)

On the signal to advance, the whole advanced guard moves forward. On the signal halt, the whole halts, keeping, -however, the disposition.

CLOSE. (Bugle.)

On the signal to close, the non-commissioned officers' detachments join their respective half platoons.

CLOSE. (Bugle.)

On the second signal to close, the second; third, and fourth half platoons close and form to the first. When one single platoon is to compose an advanced guard, it will be told off in four sections, which are then to represent the four half platoons. In every other respect the regulations and directions given in the foregoing paragraph are applicable in the present instance.

For the purpose of parade exercise, half or even a smaller proportion of the above prescribed distances, may be had recourse to, should the ground render it expedient.

Upon the supposition of the presence of an enemy, the column being halted and the sharp-shooters posted at its head, they are ordered to extend and cover the deployment into line.

EXTEND TO THE LEFT ——— PACES. EXTEND. (Bugle.)

The commander of the company orders the number of paces which they are to extend, and whether to the right or left.

The sergeant coverers of the lieutenants place themselves in the center of the company, one to each rank. The captain, lieutenants, sergeant-major, and the first sergeant move in the rear, and see that the duty is properly performed.

COMMENCE FIRING. (Bugle.)

The company fire independently on the spot, the front rank fires first, and the rear rank waits until their file leaders are reloading before they fire. For parade effect, a caution may be given, that the firing should be gradual from the center to the flanks.

CEASE FIRING. CLOSE. CLOSE.

It being supposed, that the battalion ha' completed the alignment, the skirmishers are called in, the officers commanding platoons file them round the flanks, in the rear of which they form front.

ADVANCE. (Bugle.)

The officers with the platoons lead then-round the flanks to the front sixty paces, or any other distance ordered, where they form front, and wait for the signal to extend.

EXTEND. (Bugle.)

When this is to be done, the sergeant coverers upon the flanks place themselves at the head of the files extending, and meeting in the center, the senior takes the direction of the front rank, and the other of the rear.

ADVANCE AND FIRE. (Bugle.)

The senior officer with the extended files gives the signal for the ranks to advance: he places himself near the center between the two ranks. The other officers, also between the ranks, see that every man performs his duty. The captain, with a horner, places himself generally near the officer commanding the line.

LIE DOWN. (Bugle.)

The company throw themselves on the ground when loading and firing.

DOUBLE DISTANCE. (Bugle.)

The ranks advance twenty-four paces alternately in front of each other; this command is repeated by the officers blowing a double call with the whistle for each advance.

SPRING up. (Bugle.)

They continue to advance and fire standing.

TAKE GROUND TO THE RIGHT. (Bugle.)

The ranks close together, face to the right, and march in file, preserving the intervals, loading and firing while on the march.

FILE TO THE RIGHT,

In order to cover a new alignment which the battalion is taking, in consequence (as may be supposed) of the enemy's having made round to their right flank.

HALT. (Bugle.)

Upon the new direction of the skirmishers being completed, they halt and front, in readiness to advance or retreat, if ordered.

CEASE FIRING. (Bugle.)

Not a shot must be heard.

TAKE GROUND TO THE LEFT. (Bugle.)

They face and proceed as directed, preserving the intervals.

FILE TO THE LEFT.

This brings the skirmishers to their former position.

HALT. (Bugle.)

Upon the halt, the company fronts.

TO THE LEFT FACE. TO THE LEFT FORM.

This is another way of effecting the object of the former change of position, and it may prove, in some cases, the most desirable way of covering a flank exposed to attack.

COMMENCE FIRING. (Bugle.)

The commence firing immediately succeeds the order for the new formation, upon which each file fires upon forming to the new front.

TO THE RIGHT FACE.

TO THE RIGHT FORM.

This brings the company to its first position

FIRE AND RETREAT. (Bugle.)

The officer with the extended files repeats the signal by a call of the whittle, when the front rank fires and retreats twelve paces behind the rear; the rear, upon the next signal, proceeds in like manner, and so on alternately.

RETREAT IN DOUBLE DISTANCE. (Bugle.)

The front and rear ranks retreat twenty-four paces in the rear of each other; the lieutenant repeating the signal by a double call of the whistle.

ALARM. (Bugle.)

The men retreat independently round the flanks of the line, and form platoons in the rear thereof.

It is now supposed that the battalion is standing in open column, ready to wheel into line, or retreat by the filing of companies. When upon the signal to

ADVANCE (Bugle)

being quickly succeeded by the one to

EXTEND (Bugle),

the sharp shooters file by section through the intervals of the battalion in double quick time, and immediately upon their clearing the front, the officers give the word front form, and extend on the march —— paces to the ——; to that by the time they have advanced fifty or sixty paces, the extended order may be completed,

HALT. (Bugle.)

LIE DOWN. (Bugle.)

FIRE AND RETREAT. (Bugle.)

Each rank in retreating marches twelve paces behind the other after firing, and immediately lies on the ground to reload.

CLOSE. (Bugle.)

CLOSE BY SECTIONS. (Bugle.)

It is supposed that the battalion is again placed in open column, the skirmishers therefore close by sections, and file through the intervals to the rear, where they form company.

It is a good practice, and at the same time a good illustration of the service, for the two platoons to be drawn out in opposition to each other, under the command of their respective lieutenants. They may alternately advance and recede, preserving a discreet distance, and fire according to individual option or a prescribed rule from their officers.

§ 9. OF DETACHED SKIRMISHING.

THE FORMATION OF THE CHAIN:

THE object of this branch of the duty of light troops is to scour a tract of country by means of numerous and detached bodies, clearing the woods and enclosures of the

enemy's posts, and, in a word, to establishing a complete chain of your own troops, by occupying (as far as circumstances will permit) every advantageous spot; taking particular care, however, that your own posts are so stationed as to have easy communication, and the power of mutually supporting each other.

THE COMPANY WILL FORM CHAIN.
FOURTH SECTION STAND FAST,
REMAINING SECTIONS.—ADVANCE.(Bugle.)

The first lieutenant leads the sections that are to advance fifty paces, which are then extended from the right, left, or center, as ordered, in divisions of two files each, at ten paces asunder. The disposition being completed, the whole step off together in quick time, at the signal from the bugle to advance, the section of reserve following at the distance of fifty paces.

HALT. (Bugle.) COMMENCE FIRING. (Bugle.)

On the signal to commence firings the right front rank man of each division steps in front three paces, and fires; after firing, he swings the piece under his left arm, returns to his place, and then fronts by coming to the left about, at the same time bringing his piece to the priming position, His rear rank man having filled his place when stepped out in front, then advances and fires in like manner. The second file of each division continues the firing on the same principle, after which the right front man recommences, and is followed as before. until the

CEASE FIRING. (Bugle)
is sounded. When ordered to retreat, the whole go to the right about, and march in quick time.

HALT.

On the signal to halt, they halt and front

RETREAT. CLOSE.

On the close, they close to the point whence the signal is given.

SHARP-SHOOTERS SKIRMISHING AS A SEPARATE DETACHMENT.

PREPARE TO SKIRMISH.
LEFT PLATOON REMAIN IN RESERVE.
RIGHT PLATOON, MARCH.

The first lieutenant with the right platoon proceeds fifty paces, where he halts the first section, and dispatches a sergeant with the second section sixty paces further, which then extends at the common extended order, or any other prescribed.

ADVANCE. (Bugle.)

On the signal to advance, the whole move forward in quick time.

COMMENCE FIRING. (Bugle.)

When the commence firing is given, the skirmishers conduct themselves as in firing in advancing.

FIRE AND RETREAT. (Bugle.)

On the signal to fire and retreat, the skirmishers proceed as already directed. The platoon and half platoon in reserve advance and retreat, in ordinary time, during the firing.

Upon the supposition, that a party of cavalry have surprised, and attempt to cut off the skirmishers, the sergeant with the extended files blows the alarm, upon which the skirmishers endeavor to close, and fall back on the section in their rear, but being separated, the sergeant gives the word form circle—fix swords, upon which they close together round him, fixing their swords while in the act of closing.

During this time the first section keeps up an independent fire upon the supposed enemy.

LEFT PLATOON, DOUBLE QUICK TIME, MARCH.

The platoon in reserve advances in double quick time to their support. When by this means it is presumed, that the assailants are for the moment driven back, the reserve advances to the rescue of the skirmishers, again threatened by a charge of cavalry.

FORM HOLLOW SQUARE.

The command form hollow square being given as the reserve closes with the skirmishers, they, being the second section, form front as quick as possible, and the remaining sections complete the square, as already described.

We will now imagine the company to be placed in the most critical situation possible, cut off from support in the midst of a plain, surrounded by the enemy's troops, and at once exposed to a destructive fire, and menaced by a charge of cavalry. In this predicament, the hollow square is already formed against the charge, but as that cannot be executed while the enemy's fire continues, the company shelter themselves as much as possible, by the front rank throwing themselves on their bellies, and the rear rank sitting or lying backwards. The officers in the middle of the square also lie down. If the order to commence firing is given, the front rank fires and loads on the ground, and the rear rank sitting. If on the point of sustaining a close attack, at the word carry arms, every -man springs up, and dresses the square. The captain having performed various maneuvers of defense with this formation, the greatest of all misfortunes is anticipated.

We now suppose, that from want of sufficient steadiness in receiving a charge, the plunging of wounded horses in the midst of the square, or from some other accident, the whole is broke in upon, separated, and thrown into confusion. In order to represent this scene, the company is ordered to disperse, after which, the commanding officer, taking post at a little distance and surrounded by his officers, gives order—form circle; upon which the men close round the officers, and face outwards. If the attack of cavalry continues, the front men charge swords kneeling, but supposing that it relaxes, the officers of sections endeavor to form their divisions, by calling to the men of each particular section to form to the right or left of some person pointed out, the square being again completed, is faced to the front, and marched in various directions. The word front form is then given, when the company is formed in line, as described.

THE RETREAT OF A COMPANY OF SHARP-SHOOTER IN LINE AT CLOSE ORDER.

THE COMPANY WILL RETREAT IN LINE.

THE FLANKERS WILL SKIRMISH.

RIGHT ABOUT FACE.

QUICK TIME, MARCH.

On the company going to the right about the flank files of each platoon remain fronted. In retreating, the company preserves the intervals left by the above files whose business it is to extend themselves and cover the retreat at the distance of twenty paces.

COMMENCE FIRING. (Bugle.)

On the signal to commence firing they conduct themselves as in firing and retreating; but this must be done with considerable quickness so as not to close the distance from the company.

HALT. (Bugle.)

The skirmishers fall in their places, and the company fronts.

THE RETREAT OF SHARPSHOOTERS IN DIFFERENT PLATOONS

When retreating before a superior force among enclosed fields, and other situations affording cover, the platoons may alternately occupy lines of defense, and become a reserve to each other with advantage. Thus if the right platoon take up a position and extend behind the hedge-row of a field, the left platoon place themselves behind the succeeding hedge-row in their rear; or at some intermediate point which affords cover. When obliged to abandon the first line of defense, the right platoon retreats in double quick time behind the position of the left platoon, and then marches at the usual pace to the next shelter. The left, when driven back, proceeds in a similar manner; each platoon alternately defending and supporting the other. The captain, in the rear of all, is attentive to the selection of proper posts for the platoons, which he points out to them in their

retreat. If the whole are to incline to the right or left, the bugle sounds to take ground accordingly: but if they are only to extend more in either direction, the extend precedes the signal to take ground. Upon the signal to close, the whole close to the point from which the sound proceeds.

[Plate 4.]

The first platoon extend along the line of fences 1111 to oppose the enemy's advance. The second platoon takes post under cover of the next fences in their rear at 2222. When obliged to retire, the first platoon file along the hedges to the position behind the second platoon as at 3333, but the men at A having the best cover for a retreat, are the last to retire. The platoon 2222 then proceeds, in a similar manner, to the position 4444; thus each in its turn sustains the enemy's attack

In defending the wood B, the platoons extend and take post one in the rear of the other, from 25 to 100 paces, according to the intended obstinacy of the defense, and retire alternately.