OBSERVATIONS ON AND DIRECTIONS

FOR THE PRACTICE OF

BAYONET FENCING,

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PART II.

ATTACK AND DEFENCE AGAINST THE SWORD.

To acquire dexterity, and obtain a certain success in defending, and attacking with the Musquet and Bayonet, for single combat against the Sword, it will be necessary to form any number of files into two ranks; one rank with Practice Sticks, and the other with Musquets and Bayonets, (fastening small round pieces of wood to the latter to prevent accidents,) with a distance of about 4 paces between each rank and file. The Swordsmen, (who are supposed to have been instructed in the regulation sword exercise,) will deliver their cuts to the 3rd, and recover to guard in the 2nd position.

COMMAND.	EXPLANATION. Swordsman.	Bayonet.
Right Engage.	Hanging guard.	As before.
Left Cheek.	Cuts One.	First Guard.
Engage,	Inside Guard.	As before.
Right Cheek.	Cuts Two.	Pierce or 3d Grd.
Engage,	Outside Guard.	First Guard.
Wrist,	Cuts Three,	First Guard.
		Lowering point of bayonet and turning off the sword.
Engage.	Inside Guard,	As before.
Leg, —Outside—	Cuts Four, —Low—	Second Guard. —Low—
Engage,	Outside Guard.	As before.
Leg, —Inside—	Cuts Five,	First Guard. —Low—
Engage,	Outside Guard,	As before.
Right Side,	Cuts Six,	Second Guard.
Engage,	Hanging Guard.	As before.
Head.	Cuts 1 or 7.	First Guard.
Engage,	As before.	As before.

In the following practices, each movement is to be divided into distinct motions, numbered "One," "Two," so as clearly to show the intention and utility of each. The return point from bayonet must be given cautiously, to prevent accidents; the swordsman recovering to "2nd guard," as it [illegible] defend by any of the guards of the Regulation Infantry Sword Exercise; but it must be understood at the same time, that the experienced swordsman, in single combat, will of course adopt any system of defence or attack he may consider best.

	COMMAND.	EXPLANATION. Swordsman.	Bayonet.
2nd Practice.	Engage,	Hanging, or Outside Guard,	As before.
	One,	Cut one at left side of the head.	First guard and return point, stand up.
	Engage,	Outside Guard,	As before.
3rd Practice.	One,	Feint, cut one at left cheek.	Form 4th guard.
	Two,	Cut two at right cheek, and return to guard.	Third guard, remaining point.
	Engage,	Outside Guard.	As before.
4th Practice.	One,	Feint at left side,	Form first guard.
	Two,	Cut at right side, and recover.	Second guard, & return point.
	Engage.	Inside guard.	As before.
5th Practice.	One,	Feint, cut six at right side.	Form 2nd guard.
	Two,	Cut five at ribs, and recover.	First guard, and return point.
	Engage;	Inside guard.	As before.
6th Practice.	One.	Feint, cut four at leg outside.	Form 2nd guard.
	Two,	Cut at left shoulder, and recover to guard,	Fourth guard.—and return point by binding the bayonet round the sword which may cause a disarm.
	Engage,	Hanging guard,	As before.
7th Practice.	One,	Feint, cut at left ribs.	First guard.
	Two,	Cut two at right cheek.	Third guard, and return point.
	Engage,	Hanging guard.	As before.

NOTE.—By this practice, facility will be acquired in quickly changing from one guard to another, and returning a thrust.

	COMMAND.	EXPLANATION. Swordsman.	Bayonet.
8th Practice.	One,	Advance and cut one,	Throws point.
	Engage,	Hanging guard.	As before.
9th Practice.	One,	Defend with the guard.	Point with short lunge.
		Return cut six	Defend with first guard, at the same time [illegible] point and [illegible] musquet up.
	Engage,	Hanging guard	As before.
10th Practice.	One,	Advance and cut one,	Throw point.
	Two.	Defend or evade bayonet	Double by making a quick short lunge and lunging point

The whole of these practices should now be performed from the left engagement.

The preceding instructions will be found full, sufficient to enable the soldier to avail to the musquet with facility, in all directions, and give him confidence in using it with advantage, whether engaged against one or more opponents.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

To become expert bayonet fencers, using the musquet as a two handed point sword, an exercise both later stang and effective, the loose practice of the fencing schools must be employed for this purpose.

A blunt steel rod, the length of a bayonet, and about the thickness of a finger, should be fixed in the barrel of an old musquet, in which a steel wire cork screw spring is inserted, so as to admit of its springing in and out easily when pressed.

Wire helmets, and masks for the face, with gloves, gauntlets and padded leather armor are to be used. Thus protected from accident, the blunt sabre or practice sword can be substituted for the stick, and both parties engage, as if in single combat; bringing into play any combination of these instructions, as their own judgment and dexterity may dictate.

Much depends upon the quickness of the eye, and the correct judgment of distance of the party using the musquet; keeping the point of the bayonet well in line of opponent's body, and taking care not to allow the swordsman to get within measure, shifting his own position to correspond with the movements of his opponent, endeavoring to bind and entangle the sword with the shoulder of the bayonet, which will be apt to disarm him. Should he change from one side to the other, and endeavor to deceive with feints, follow his sword with the bayonet, and bring it back to the same position, as in the cuts or counter parades in fencing.

Thus, if a feint is made at the left cheek when on the Right Engagement, it should be answered as if intending to form "4th guard," and as the swordsman changes to cut at the right side of the body, follow the blade by dropping the point of the bayonet under to the right, bringing the sword back again to the left; in the same manner, if the feint should be made at the right, and the cut at the upper left side of the body, answer the first as if about to form the "3rd guard;" follow the sword by propping the point of the bayonet under to the left, and bringing it back to the same place, instantly delivering a thrust.

Care must be taken to make the lunges short, with the body well balanced and upright, and musquet always held firmly with both hands.—From the length of the musquet, the point of the bayonet will reach the opponent when he is out of distance, and by keeping a good opposition defend him from a cut at the time of thrusting, by raising or lowering the musquet to meet the blow. Should the swordsman succeed in advancing to close measure, the musquet may be shortened by throwing it back behind the shoulder to the full extent of the arm, (holding the small of the butt sling up; the barrel resting upon the advanced arm, and body leaning back, instantly striking out again with the point of the bayonet; this may be preceded by a short quick step back; or if the bayonet player points with a short Lunge, and swordsman should defend with "5th guard," of sword exercise, at the same time endeavoring to seize the bayonet with his left hand, the bayonet player must disentangle his point, and spring back,) out of reach of a sudden return cut, at the same time thrusting, with sling of musquet upward, to form of position against the cut. This is done by bringing the advanced leg from Lunge position to the rear one, which is instantly thrown back to engage position.

Changing arms advancing and retiring, whilst it rests the arms, will tend to derange the opponent's plan of attack, and a point can be readily given as the swordsman is advancing or retreating. Should a sentry be suddenly attacked in rear, the Engaging guard can be readily changed by at once facing about and coming to guard position. Thus, if in the position of Right Engage, turn on both heels, the left foot pointing to the left, and right foot and shoulder to the rear, changing hold of the musquet with the right hand grasping stock and barrel, and the left on small of the butt. This position being the *Left Engage "About," in* same manner as change to Right Engage "About."

No precise rules or lessons can be laid down, as dexterity is only acquired by practice, and the judgment of the party using the bayonet, who will adopt such movements in attacking or defending, or by counter attacks, as his knowledge and experience of the exercise may point out.

A GALE OF WIND ON THE CURRAGH.—Tuesday evening, Dec. 9.—For the last twenty-four hours the Military Camp, *of about two years* growth, which stands on the highest ridge of the Curragh proper, about a mile to the south of the Grand Stand and the famous "run in," has been visited by a very severe gale from the south, and, on the whole, the wooden cantonment has, up to this time, most satisfactorily withstood the *strength of the enemy*. A few leaks have shown themselves in the roofs, some doors have been broken in, and windows smashed. The temporary wooden stabling, near the first Brigade Hospital, on the extreme left of the Camp, has suffered, and the whole of the south brick wall to the new large racket court which was in course of erection, has been forced in. This latter building was to have been covered with a circular iron roof, with skylight in centre, and the contractors had built the four walls up to within two feet of their proper height, allowing the interior to measure about ninety feet long and thirty-six feet broad. The damage already done to the court cannot be estimated at less than six to seven hundred pounds, and great anxiety is felt as to the future safety of the three other walls, which the contractors have been propping up since this morning, when the crash took place. It was nearly about the same hour that the temporary stabling for the newly-formed Corps, "Military Train," had its roof, measuring about 120 feet by 40, broken in the back, and its north side blown out—through there was no wooden side to the building on the south. Of course the wind soon blew away the north side, which caused the roof to fall in. In consequence of this accident, a detachment of the Military Train horses, under a Captain, has been sent to Newbridge, two miles and a half off, in which little town two Regiments of Cavalry—the Scots Greys, under Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, and 1st Ill. Dragoons with H troop of R. H. Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Turner, C. B., are mustered—the whole under the command of Major-Gen. Parthy, 10th Hussars.—The buildings that have suffered most in the Camp are the two large churches and several of the schools, particularly those in F and G squares, in fastening down the roofs of which several Sappers, or Engineers as they are now called, were employed. Several sentry-boxes have been blown over, and others laid down for safety, but the most amusing scene is to see and hear the Indians of the 2nd Brigade and the Crimean's of the 1st, grumbling at a small leak over their bed, or seriously lamenting over a little water that comes in at bottom of the door, for want, perhaps, of a weather board. A consumptive patient at Brighton could not be more carefully attended to in this dreadful gale of a cold sharp wind from the south than our brave soldiers are in this Irish Camp.