

often be better to receive the charge in line than to force a square, which is always in danger from artillery. Should the flanks be threatened the flank companies may be thrown back at a suitable angle. In this case, actual experience has justified the alteration. A notable example is that of Sir Colin Campbell and the Highland Brigade at Balaklava.

The direction for the formation of squares have been re-written, with a view to the more extended application of two deep squares. When troops are armed with breech loaders, a two deep square is sufficiently strong to resist cavalry, and give ample space for the officers, sergeants, band, etc., in the centre. The command for forming square has to specify whether it is two or four deep.

In dressing a battalion in line, the captains and coverers will move at the first caution.

The caution for a line, advancing or retiring, to break into fours, in order to pass obstacles, has been altered from "From the right (or left) of companies pass by fours to the front (or rear)," to "Advance (or retire) from the right (or left) of companies."

The caution, "Change front to the rear by the wheel of subdivisions round the centre," has been abbreviated into "Change front on the centre," and when this movement is done on the march, the pivot subdivisions are directed to mark time three paces, before commencing their wheel, so as to commence it with the reverse subdivisions.

The instructions for forming column from line, facing to the rear, a complicated and unnecessary movement, have been altogether struck out.

The first paragraph of the section (36, part iv.) relating to the formation of line to the front from double column, has been revised. Line may be formed to the front rather from the halt, or on the march (instead of on the march only, as heretofore), each wing forming its leading company. A double column of companies may be closed and dislodged.

Very considerable changes have been made in the principle, the captain of the front company standing fast on the caution, and the remainder, if not there already, changing to the flank that will lead during the deployment. The caution and command will be, "Deploy outwards, one company (or two, or more companies) to the right." "Form fours, outwards—Quick, march." The general rule is laid down that the company or companies next in succession from the front will move to the right.

It will be seen from the foregoing that deployments upon a central or rear company, as well as deploying in inverted order are abolished. It will also be observed, that after a deployment, to the reverse flank or to both flanks, it will be necessary to re-number the companies. In this and in all

other cases where the battalion is told off the captain will omit the words, "Right (or left) company."

A brigade in line of contiguous columns will deploy into line upon the same principles, the deployment being made upon any named battalion. In deploying from mass into line of columns, the deployment is battalion.

Wheeling into echelon from the halt on fixed pivots is now confined to instruction parades. In all other cases, the bare company will be upheld into the required direction, and the remaining companies then wheeled on movable pivots. This movement is in accordance with the Horse Guards circular of the 14th November, 1864.

Skirmishing drill has been modified in some degree. Supports will come to the advance as they slip off, returning to the order as they halt. In firing in skirmishing order, the direction to load, when practicable, under cover, is struck out. When firing in extended order at the halt, the soldier is not required to shut down the flap of the back sight until ordered to cease firing, or to advance or retire. In firing from the halt, the front rank men will make ready, fire and load, than the rear rank men. After the first round, the files are directed to take the time for firing each round from the centre file, and that file will take the word from the officer in its rear, who will allow a pause equal to twenty paces of the quick time, between the words. This is evidently meant to prevent a waste of our ammunition by too rapid firing, but it is difficult to see how it can be carried into practical effect where skirmishers are in woods or under cover, and the flanks concealed from the centre.

In advancing or retiring the front and rear rank men will invariably keep their positions, firing alternately as they advance at intervals of twenty paces. In loading on the march, the men of the rank in rear are to discharge to the right. In firing retiring, on the usual words, the skirmishers will halt, front and kneel, and the front rank men will turn to the front and fire. The march will then be resumed for twenty paces, when a halt again takes place, and the rear rank man turns to his front and fires, disengaging a little to the right, and so on.

Rallying squares will be formed by word of command only, and not upon the "Double," following the "alarm," or the "alarm" following the "close," as heretofore.

The words "The Battalion will," "The column will," and "The Brigade will," in the battalion and brigade caution, are, henceforth, to be omitted, except in the caution to advance, retire or halt.

#### A WORD TO THE FORCE.

The present summer has been one calculated to interfere to a greater extent than usual with the proceedings of our volunteer

corps. Besides the extreme heat which renders drill distasteful to the men, and the many other duties devolving on an agricultural population at this season, the all-absorbing topic of the elections has thrown an additional obstacle in the way of regular attendance at drill. These matters are, we think, by this time, disposed of, and we now look forward to a busy period among our citizen soldiers. The prosperity of our country during the past year should be to them a great incentive to continue the work they have so well begun. Thanks in a great measure to their known efficiency and readiness to take the field, we have been preserved from even the semblance of attacks from without, and our merchants and farmers have been enabled without fear or hindrance, to attend to their work during what bids fair to be a most prosperous season for the whole country; and the promptness displayed by the various corps in enrolling themselves, has gone far to increase that confidence in the power and determination of the Canadian people to defend themselves, and has raised our national securities in the European markets to a greater value than they ever before possessed. Now that the elections are all decided, and the various candidates elected or defeated, and the pleasing toil of harvesting is finished, we expect great activity among the volunteers. The Government on their part have been active, and it is with no small satisfaction we perceive that amid all the difficulties attendant on framing the new constitution of the Dominion, the interests and wants of the Volunteers have not been neglected. Considering the many subjects which some months past have peremptorily demanded the immediate attention of the Cabinet, we should have been disposed to look leniently on any shortcomings regarding the force, more particularly as the Minister of Militia, till within a very short time ago, the highest law officer of the Cabinet, and the chairman and leading member of that conference which framed the confederate constitution, and since the portfolio was resigned by Sir John A. Macdonald, his successor, Mr. Cartier, has had no small amount of work to attend to quite apart from the demands of the Militia Department. Looking at it in this light, and we know it is a just view of the case, we believe every volunteer throughout the country will say that the government have done their utmost under the circumstances, and will readily accept the interest taken in his wants during the present pressure of business as an earnest of the attention he will receive when the houses of Parliament meet. Knowing, then, that the Government are fully alive to the inconveniences and injustice of many points of the present system of maintaining the active force, and that they are anxious to effect such changes in it as will distribute the work and expense more evenly