

precipitate retreat, he may, by presenting his pistol, keep his enemy at bay; although it would seldom be advisable for him to fire, until his adversary should close upon him, and the effect of his fire would be nearly certain.

In the first essays of the Recruit in this part of the exercise, great care must be taken, that, in presenting to the front or left, he do not strike or touch the horse's head with the carbine or pistol; and in firing, that his horse's ears be not singed or struck by any loose grains of powder from the pan. These accidents may be avoided by raising the breech of the piece sufficiently high, and by turning the lock a little upwards at the Present.

In priming, the Recruit must be made to understand that a small quantity of powder in the middle of the pan is sufficient; that he must never fill, or scatter, or leave any loose grains on the edge of it, as by that means the hammer would be prevented shutting down close, and the priming would be lost.

In Loading, he must be taught to shake the powder out of the paper into the barrel before he puts in the wadding; and when loading with ball, to double the paper round it, so that it may require a small degree of force to drive it home; otherwise, when he may have occasion to "Sling" or "Strap" his carbine, or "Return" his pistol, when loaded, the ball would be apt to fall out.

When the Recruit is familiar with the firings at the halt, he may practise them while his horse is in motion; afterwards he must be taught to fire with ball at a suitable object, first at the halt, and afterwards when in motion.

In all the motions connected with firing, great care must be taken to avoid altering the accustomed feeling of the bridle in the horse's mouth, or the usual seat and balance of the man, as tending to alarm the animal; for a horse once rendered timid by an accident in firing from his back, will make the practice of it both difficult and dangerous.

SECTION II.

CARBINE EXERCISE ON HORSEBACK.

The Squad for instruction is to be formed in a rank entire at double open file distance, and a flugelman in front to give time.

Spring Arms—Take off the right-hand glove and lock-cover, putting it and the glove into the off-holster or shoe-case; swivel and unstrap the carbine, and seize it with the right hand at the gripe.