

## NAPOLÉON III.

With soft slow step and bated breath,  
Approach him laid in state;  
With head uncovered and and see  
Of sovereignty, the fate;  
Behold the ending of renown,  
Napoleon dofs to death his crown

Is this the will inflexible,  
Inspired in wondrous wise  
To gain a throne by grades and stand  
As high as man can rise?  
Whose wand might undulate like sea  
The mass of subject men? 'Tis he!

Is this the one who deemed he held  
All Europe's destiny,  
Could make a continent his own  
By deep diplomacy?  
"Solferino's hero" now—anon,  
The vanquished Sire? 'Tis this the one!

Is this the man who would uprise  
A wilderness of swords,  
To help the weak against the strong,  
The Turk 'gainst Russian hordes?  
England's firm ally at Sedan,  
In cause of Right? 'Tis this the man!

Is this the man ambition, hate,  
Impelled to frantic war,  
His hosts against the Prussian host,  
The flower of both to mar?  
Who fought till blood like rivers ran,  
In cause of wrong? 'Tis this the man!

Is this the man of mystic traits,  
Of good and evil way,  
Who soared, and fell, and saw his throne  
And sceptre rent away?  
Who left the drama at Sedan,  
Ex-Emperor? 'Tis this the man!

Is this the form almost adored  
By France in fortune's flow?  
Is this the form almost adored  
By France when lying low?  
That plunged her deep in wreck and storm,  
Then left the scene? 'Tis this the form!

Now softly step away and muse  
On glory and renown,  
How "happeneth one event to all,"  
Nor spareth death the crown;  
And learn, 'tis all worth striving for,  
To be in heaven an Emperor!

L.L.C.

Farsboro, January 22nd, 1873

## THE BRITISH LINE IN ATTACK, PAST AND FUTURE.

(Continued from Page 81)

### THE ATTACK PROPER.

*Old Method of Carrying a Position.*—Frederick the Great used to wish his troops to carry positions at the shoulder, but, even during the days of flint locks, fire asserted its superiority, when properly used. British troops generally deployed and fired a volley or two before charging, or the attacks were covered by skirmishers, who, however, usually retired behind the line when within musket-shot of the enemy's closed bodies, apparently because there being so little difference between the range of their weapons and charging distance, it was thought well to clear the front to allow the closed bodies to settle the matter between them. The importance of an uninterrupted advance was manifest, but even at those short distances the want of the protection of fire, just before charging, was often felt by the assailants if the defenders remained cool, and the front ranks therefore, sometimes of their own accord, maintained an independent fire during an advance.

*Modern Requirements.*—Now, owing to the increased range, the assailants are unavoidably a longer time under fire. Point-blank range is extended to 300 yards, within that distance, before charging distance is reached, there is time now for some ten or a dozen volleys to be poured into them by the defenders, who may be lying down. Modern requirements are therefore that the

attack proper must be covered until the last moment by skirmishers: and, more than ever, that the steady unflinching advance, which infuses such moral force into the skirmishers, and which carries in it such power, moral and physical, shall be retained in essence by those in support, with such systematic modifications, however, as will afford them as much security (short of lying close or keeping out of the fight) as could be obtained by individual independence in the unreliable swarm.

*Proposed Method of Advance.*—It is necessary to adopt some method of advancing that will embrace the various means that have been pointed out for neutralizing the advantages of the defence. The requirements are that the advance should be maintained, that the fire of the skirmishers should be continuous; that it should be delivered lying down or presenting the smallest possible mark to the enemy; that the movements of all bodies should be made at the double, and the smallest possible mark again offered.

Advancing in a general line is therefore only suitable for skirmishers when they are required to fire very little, or when opposed to inferior troops. To maintain a continuous fire, as in the attack proper, the advance across open ground must be by alternative bodies.

The advance by alternate files was theoretically good, but impracticable. It left the soldier too much to think about; officers cannot tell at a glance what files are in error, and it speedily becomes a general line. Alternate sections are better; but clearly the fewer fractions there are the more simple the movement, though their dimensions must be limited to an extent which will enable men on the outer flank to conform readily to the movement of the directing flank. Moreover it is necessary that one body advancing should be adequately protected by the fire of the stationary body. To meet these requirements—simplicity and efficiency,—i.e., that the fractions should neither be so numerous as to be complicated nor of so large dimensions as to be inefficient—the skirmishers covering the front of a battalion in line, or of any smaller body, should, as a rule, be divided into right and left skirmishers. Exceptional circumstances might require further division, but no circumstance could require the alternate advance of skirmishers of battalions.

To enable the closed bodies to move at the double, it would only be practicable to cover short distance at a time, and the advance by alternate wings of battalions would be preferable to a general advance by short dashes; as by the latter method there would be nothing to mark the time to ensure that steady, even, unchecked progression which is a necessity, while by the former the moment for each wing to rise and double forward is distinctly marked by the other lying down, and the progress is thus as even as the action in walking of placing down one foot to advance the other.

### EXECUTION OF A SIMPLE ATTACK

It is very desirable that an attack should be carried out, if possible, with one vigorous forward effort. The assailant suffers less, and the effect is more complete. But this can generally only be insured by going carefully and deliberately through all preliminaries; the reconnaissance, the choice of point of attack, the preliminary cannonading, disguising the real point of attack, the correct estimate of adequate supports and a reserve. In proportion as these matters are settled, so will be the completeness of the

plan observed, success now more than ever depends. "Clear plans—no fight should be begun without a knowledge of its object . . . the fight that fluctuates is the most bloody one." (Memoir by Major Tellenbach, pp. 22-3.) The deliberation however, must not cause hesitation or with shelter trenches, &c.

"When obliged to attack an entrenched enemy it should be done instantly, without allowing him time to finish his works. What may be of advantage to day may not be so to morrow." (Frederick the Great's Instructions, p. 101.)

The following is proposed as a method for carrying out a simple attack.—(Battalions to be of 10 companies—of, say 75 R and F— including two flank companies composed of men picked for good shooting and activity. Distance for these two companies not to be allowed in line, their places when not covering the advance being in rear of the two outer companies.)

The brigade or division intended to make the attack is formed in one line, out of shot and if possible out of sight of the enemy, at a distance, say, of 2,500 yards from his position. If it can be formed nearer, so much the better.

Troops intended for the attack should be relieved of all anxiety about their flanks, for the due protection of which separate arrangements should be made by the General commanding.

I. a. Those battalions intended for the first line to be deployed with intervals of 12 paces (not allowing for the flank companies).

Those battalions told off as second line to be four deep, with deploying interval.

b. The line advances as near as it can with safety to the position of the enemy (which is of course being cannonaded), say, 1,200 to 1,000 yards—and lies down.

II. a. The battalion of the first line now cover their front by throwing forward a half company of each of their flank companies. These advance, making the best of their way towards the enemy's position.

b. When the skirmishers have advanced 150 paces the remaining two half flank companies and the outer companies advance in support in single rank.

When, if at all, the skirmishers during this phase should be reinforced with the remaining half companies, must depend on the judgment of the senior officer of the 'our companies now on the move.

This preliminary to the attack should be executed with dash, and if the enemy's skirmishers are out, there is all the more reason to get on rapidly to short ranges without wasting time.

c. When the supports have advanced 150 paces, the battalions of the 1st line advance in the formation most suitable to the ground.

III. a. The skirmishers having taken up a position as near as possible to the enemy, say 350 yards, lie down and open a well sustained fire against him reinforced now, if not before, by the odd half companies.

b. The supports lie down at their proper distance, or as near as 50 yards if possible.

c. The battalions lie down

IV. When, by the fire of artillery and of the skirmishers, the enemy's fire is deadened, and the moment for the