

In either case, advance to within 600 yards of the enemy, and press his retreat. Should he advance, say within 800 yards, and that there are no special orders or reasons for holding the position, it may be advisable to retire to about 2,000, if the ground offers a second favorable position; 800 yards or thereabouts being the effective limit of infantry fire, is the commencement of perfect artillery efficiency. *It may be necessary to sacrifice guns and gunners to save a broken infantry.* Always deliberate before retiring unless specially ordered, and bear in mind that the last few rounds at close quarters often turn the tide of battle and bring you honor, or, at least, a sense of having done your duty to the uttermost.

18th. *Reason for advance to short range.*—Several reasons are given by Major Hoffbauer, of the German Artillery, why guns should advance to short ranges:—*Moral effect.* This cannot be over-estimated. Advancing infantry derives new inspiration when the guns pass close by in eager advance, and their opening fire is heard: while the artillery is impelled by anxiety to support its comrades of the infantry. With what a welcome are the gunners received at such moments, and the ring of the British infantry battle cheer, does not die in the memory of those who have heard it.

"The advantage of being near at hand, to support the attack if checked, or to prepare the way for renewed efforts.

"The great advantage of close connection with the infantry, so that the artillery can co-operate at the right moment, which is always difficult when the positions are too far to the rear.

"The decreased liability of being masked by advancing infantry. Moreover, the guns are far more likely to be able to co-operate up to the last moment, before the actual assault, without hazard to the other troops. For at the decisive moment, smoke, unfavourable or misty weather, the sun shining in the eyes, dust flying about, approach of evening, and similar causes, very frequently render it impossible for artillery, posted far in rear, to distinguish friend from foe, and consequently it may, perhaps, cease fire at a critical moment, just when the enemy is bringing up fresh batteries, and hurls intact masses of infantry against the shaken assailants.

19th. After a section of the ground has been stormed, the artillery is launched forward in large masses to secure its position, to pursue the enemy with its fire, and to prepare further attacks. It must not wait for higher authority, but take the initiative, and act in the spirit of the Commander-in-Chief's intentions. *To avoid delay the Artillery Commanders ride to the front during the last rush, as soon as the advancing infantry masks the fire of the guns against the principal object of attack, to watch the progress of the fight and observe where their batteries can be employed with greatest advantage.*

INSTANCES OF CLOSE ACTION.

At Weissenburg three batteries of the 5th regiment advanced to within from 500 to 800 paces against the Geissberg Castle, occupied by the French, and one battery even executed a short but exposed flank march at that distance, in column of route. Not a single gun was silenced or rendered immobile, even for a moment; but the whole remained in action until the capitulation.

At the Battle of Sedan, the 2nd 4-pounder Bavarian battery advanced at two p. m., near Balan, to within 500 paces of the hostile infantry, where it remained for three quarters of an hour in line with the 6th Bavarian brigade, and preserved its powers of action and moving. In Bazailles itself, after the failure of two assaults by a company of Bavarian Jagers against a large building, two 4-pounder guns were brought up, and fire being opened on it at 70 paces, it was evacuated by the enemy.

"In the action of the 11th January, 1871, at Rouen, we have an exceptional instance of a battery of the 1st regiment acting on the offensive against skirmishers at from 300 to 400 paces, and driving them back with four case shot, which were immediately followed by common shell. The battery had found itself at these close quarters owing to a dense fog, and

was for the moment completely taken by surprise.

At Gravelotte, a single gun, one officer, and three gunners alone remained out of two very advanced guns of a battery that had crossed the ravine by the cavalry; and when ordered to retire, the young subaltern's reply, from the midst of his dying comrades, was: "Tell General Steinmetz that where guns have advanced, there also can infantry. Let him send supports to me; I will not retire to them; rather will I die on my gun-carriage, and rest here with my comrades." He did not retire from his position until he had expended his last shot, and brought his gun, which he had worked with the assistance of his three gunners, safely out of action, for the infantry did not come forward here until much later.

"In many of these" (and similar cases quoted in the text), "the artillery sustained enormous losses of men and horses. But German guns were never lost" (as far as Major Hoffbauer knows), "except when artillery had lost all contact with infantry. But at decisive moments, too great importance should not be attached to artillery losses, nor even to the possibility of losing guns. Each arm is fighting, not solely on its own account, but as a means of attaining the highest object—victory."*

FIRE-DISCIPLINE.

This must be attained by good instruction, and should exclude all errors and misconception with respect to choice of projectile, object and aim, range and order of fire. The officer controlling the fire, posts himself, as a rule, on the windward flank of the battery, he may send a look out man up a tree, or a church steeple, a wind-mill, or any available position of commanding a view, with a man to carry messages as to observed effect of fire. In firing, to obtain the range it is essential that the object clearly indicated, and all the guns laid on it. Whenever the order designates a particular flank of the enemy's position as the object, it must be understood as referring to the flank so called by the enemy, *e. g.*, the left flank of a line of skirmishers would be the right flank looking from the battery. Similarly the fourth gun would be that called so by the enemy, numbering from his right.

*The instances of British Artillery successful close action are too numerous to mention, and yet the Royal Artillery never lost a gun during the whole Peninsular War. But as the arms in use have been so modified it is not necessary to dwell on particular instances; those in India, perhaps, reached a point of audacity and success without parallel. As when Captain Maudo with his 9 pr. guns in column of route exposed to the fire of heavy guns and infantry, led the army of Havelock into Lucknow, his subaltern, Lieutenant Matland, actually running a gun into the gate and fighting it at 100 yards or thereabouts against infantry; of course the gun detachment was renewed more than once; the total loss of the battery was one-third of its strength. The late Colonel Middleton in a somewhat similar manner led his battery within pistol shot of the loopholed walls of the Shah-nu-jeef, being wounded and having three horses shot under him; his subaltern, Lieut. Smith, ran a gun into the gateway, fighting in a similar manner against close infantry fire. There are numerous unrecorded instances of this sort of successful action during the Mutiny campaign, the leading characteristic of which and the probable source of success was "L'audace, encore l'audace, toujours l'audace."

Reviews.

—The very complimentary remarks of General Green with reference to "A" Battery, R.S.G., were omitted in our last. The inspection, or the notice of it, reached us just after publication the month before last, and though the gallant general and his speech are Green in our memory it was sent to the printers. It is evidently not an ever-green, for it has faded from sight.

—Thanks to the energetic action of Hon. A. P. Caron, our Minister of War, Canada will soon have in operation a small arms cartridge factory of her own, capable of producing at will Spider or Martini-Henry ammunition in quantities to meet all requirements. The boiler and engine are now being put in, and the shafting laid ready for the machinery expected from England within a few weeks, and then will be heard the hum of this new national enterprise.