

talion. Not only the whole divisions of a battalion, but the whole battalions of a line, should *march* off, and *halt* at the same instant. To insure this in the exercise of very considerable bodies, signals of a cannon are often given for such purpose. In most situations, the quick circulation of verbal commands must be sufficient.

Halt of line 28. Although every corps of a line ought to be in its own true situation, and halt at the general word; yet if any one is behind the battalion of direction when that word is given, the leader must bring it up before he halts it. The quick circulation of the words *march* and *halt* is what alone can produce precision in a line, and the catching up of these with promptitude depends as much on the eye as the ear.

Mounted Officers. 29. Whenever a dressing is to be made or corrected, it will be effected with promptitude and precision by the mounted Officers placing themselves in the true line before each flank and before the centre; when the dressing is accomplished they will immediately return behind the battalion.

Halt in line or Column. 30. When troops are halted, explanatory short cautions are sometimes proper before they are put in march; but when they are in motion, and in situations where perfect correctness is expected, as in the march in line, and in the prolonging of an alignment, no caution should precede the word *halt*, but the whole body should at once firmly halt. This is to be understood of a column of manœuvre; but where a column of march is unavoidably, from impediments of the route, opened out, and its head stops in order to remedy such extension, or to form in line, the several rear battalions will be halted successively at their just distances.

Nature of Command 31. There are many situations in the movements of great bodies, where *commands* that are not immediately to influence the whole are not given loud, but low and quietly, to the directing body alone, to whose situation the rest by the eye conform: as when the head division of an open column is ordered to halt, that the rest of the divisions may move on, and successively stop in close column; and on all occasions where parts only of a large body are to march or halt successively, Generals and Commanding Officers of regiments should have an attention to give their commands in such manner as not to produce an alteration in those points that are not meant to be influenced by them at that instant.

Assembly from Co- 32. Where a large body in marching in column or columns through narrow ground, and when it is to assemble beyond the defile