

line, and in every forming and change of position that the battalion makes.—In fine, in order to qualify the battalion for acting in general line, it must at its single exercises work on points fixed and relative and make no chance and accidental movements and formations.

In all situations exact points of march cannot be given.

Although on most occasions of movement and formation, and at all times in instruction, determined *points* marked by detached and mounted officers, are given: yet such helps cannot be expected or depended on, when the line is advancing on an enemy, when a corps is harrassed in its retreat, and when it is unsafe to send out officers, &c.—In such situations every thing will depend on the eye and judgment of conducting officers, who must preserve such direction of movement, and seize such accidental points as present themselves, and lead to the object which is to be accomplished.

The battalion in no situation covers more ground than the proper extent of its front.

In whatever shape a battalion is moving, the commanding officer is never to lose sight of this great *principle*, that the battalion should at no time cover more ground than its proper extent when formed in line.—Therefore if he is marching in line he must take care that his files do not open; and if he is marching in column, his great attention is that his divisions do not open. For this purpose his march must be just, and compact, his wheels quick, and all doublings up, or back, which alter the extent of front, must be made so as not to impede the general movements of the column or to change its distances.—When the front is to be diminished, he must see that the doubling division slackens its pace, and when disengaged from the other division, that it inclines well up, quick, and covers, thereby not impeding the division behind it. When the front is to be increased,