

## THE SOUTHERN BANNER.

"Furl that banner, for 'tis weary,  
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;  
Furl it, furl it, it is best;  
For there's not a man to wave it,  
And there is not a soul to save it,  
And there's not one left to lave it,  
In the blood that heroes gave it,  
And its foes now scorn and brave it—  
Furl it, hide it, let it rest.

"Take that banner down—'tis tattered,  
Broken in its shaft and shatter'd,  
And the valiant hosts are scattered  
O'er whom it floated high.  
Oh! 'tis hard for us to fold it,  
Hard to think there's none to hold it,  
Hard that those who once unrolled it  
Now must furl it with a sigh.

"Furl that banner, furl it sadly—  
Once ten thousand hailed it gladly,  
And ten thousand wildly, madly,  
Swore it should for ever wave;  
Swore that foeman's sword could never  
Hearts like theirs ever joined to sever,  
Till that flag should float forever  
O'er their freedom or their grave.

"Furl it! for the hands that grasped it,  
And the hearts that fondly clasped it,  
Cold and dead are lying low;  
And the banner, it is trailing,  
While around it sounds the wailing  
Of its people in their woe.

"For though conquered they adore it,  
Love the cold dead hands that bore it,  
Weep for those that fell before it,  
Pardon those who trailed and tore it,  
And oh! how wildly they deplore it,  
Now to furl it and fold it so.

"Furl that banner! true 'tis gory,  
Yet 'tis wreathed around with glory,  
And will live in song and story.  
Though its folds are in the dust;  
For its fame on brightest pages,  
Penned by poets and by sages,  
Shall go sounding down the ages.

"Furl that banner, softly, slowly,  
Treat it gently—it is holy—  
For it droops above the dead;  
Touch it not, unfold it never,  
Let it droop there furled forever,  
For its peoples hopes are dead.

W. H. W. in *Christian Guardian*.

## AUSTRIAN FIELD BATTERY DRILL.

(Continued on Page 287).

In the formation of column from line there is one movement which might be borrowed with advantage, and that is the advance from the centre in column of subdivisions or route. This is done by an advance from the right by the left half battery. Line to the front can, of course, be formed more quickly than if the advance were from either flank of the battery. But it strikes us that this movement could be better done by advancing the guns of either half battery alternately. Thus, with a six-gun battery 3 would lead, followed by 4; 2 would follow 4, then 5, 1, and 6. It would, no doubt, break the right and left divisions for a time, but double column of subdivisions could be so readily formed from this, by the guns of the half battery inclining to the right, and those of the left half battery to the left, and the rear guns closing up at a trot, that probably the advantages would outweigh the disadvantages. For example, suppose battery had to cross heavy ploughed land traversed by a narrow farm road, in the direction in which it had to move to come into action. By advancing from the centre, as above described, advantage could be taken of the road, till the guns had nearly arrived at the point where they would be brought into line, when double column of subdivisions would be formed, and from that line can be formed quicker than from any other column. In an advance from the centre of the position; and when a position has to be rapidly selected, there is an advantage in

this, as the eye naturally fastens on the center rather than upon some point of either side to which the flank of the battery is to be led.

There are no echelon movements. We are surprised at this, as they are very useful when, in advancing or retiring, there is an uncertainty about the position of the enemy. Instructions are given in "the opening, carrying on, and cessation of fire," and on "movements and formations on coming into action," which are well worthy of a careful study. We give a few extracts:—

On taking up position for action the battery commander hastens forward at an increased pace before his battery. He halts at a little distance beyond whereabouts the centre of the intended formation will be; selects the object when it is not prescribed to him, judges the distance and decides what projectile is to be used, and what is to be the mode of fire. The battery advancing with its centre upon the battery commander, is ordered to halt, unlimber, and (as may be required) to reverse the carriages.

The battery commander orders, according to the provisions of the regulations for a single division, what is to be the range, the nature of the projectile and the mode of firing; he then orders by command, "Battery (or independent) fire," what the nature of fire is to be, and points out clearly the object to be fired at; he then betakes himself to that flank from which the fire is to begin, and conducts the trial shot for finding the range (das Einschieszen). The fire is immediately thereupon opened.

With the exception of fire with case shot the first few rounds are trial shots. They should be given in slow succession, and be watched with the greatest care, and to this end be always caused to explode somewhat in front of the object. The bettering of the elevation should first be commenced by 100 paces, at least, at a time, and carried on at this rate until the object is struck, or till, with the same elevation, one shot is thrown in front and one beyond the object.

After the ascertaining the range the battery commander betakes himself to where he can observe the ground in his front, can watch the progress of the action, and can, under all circumstances, make his dispositions in proper time.

The fire is to be very slow in cases where the judgment of the distance and the observation of the effect of the shot is difficult. It is more rapid under circumstances favourable for its effect and at distances under 2,000 paces, and quickest of all when a decisive result is in immediate prospect. All over-hasty firing is to be strenuously avoided.

The commander of a battery attached by itself to other arms is, in every respect, subordinate to the commander of the body of troops to which his battery is attached, and is responsible for employing his command in a proper manner. He always co-operates in the general reconnaissance of the ground, and looks out the positions for guns suited to the object in view, taking care that no obstacles exist to the advance which would impede the usefulness of the battery and occasion heavy losses.

As long as the battery is not actually engaged, the battery commander should remain as much as possible with the commander of the body of troops to which it is attached, in order to acquire knowledge of the situation of the probable designs of the enemy and of the progress of events, and be able to receive orders personally, and, in pursuance thereof, to take his own measures for the accomplishment of the main object.

During this time, the battery will be led by the next senior officer, according to the instructions of the battery commander.

In action the battery commander will act independently, but always in the spirit of the dispositions common to the whole force, reporting at once any necessary deviations therefrom. He must know the designs of the superior commander, and learn what he decides to do. In compliance therewith, he appoints the object of fire, the nature of projectile, and mode, as well as rate of firing, and regulates the replenishing of the ammunition.

Under all circumstances it is very important that the battery commander should, at a rapid pace, precede his battery to select the ground for its position.

In order to hinder the enemy from seeing the strength brought against him, and to increase the effect of the fire by opening it rapidly, the battery should advance to the attack covered as much as possible from view, and to this end should take advantage even of rather circuitous ways of approach.

In previously prepared defensive positions the battery should only take up its ground at the moment when it is going to open fire.

A position chosen for guns should command a free view of the ground, should be favourable to the action of the fire of the battery, and, as far as may be, afford cover against the enemy's fire.

A moderate command over the enemy is generally more suitable than high tops of hills; because in shooting from a hill on to a plain, the space swept by fire and the explosive effect of shells, is lessened, and in case of retreat the driving down hill consumes time and is hazardous. The position for action should be as near as may be in a straight line, but departures from this are admissible when a better effect of fire or better cover can be obtained, and the service of the neighbouring guns is not impeded. In such cases the intervals may be made somewhat greater or less than twenty paces as may be required. The placing the guns between hedges, bushes, in standing corn or in depressions of ground, tends to withdraw them from the enemy's view and makes it difficult for him to judge the distance and to lay his guns.

In the attack on unshaken infantry, the battery should be kept as far as admissible outside the effective range of musketry (800 paces) in order not to suffer great losses without being able to render essential service.

In preparing an attack on enemy's cavalry the battery should fire away rapidly at about 800 paces until checked by an advance of its own cavalry. It then awaits the result of the attack, ready to repulse a counter attack by fire of case shot, or to evade it, under special circumstances, by a rapid withdrawal.

Against artillery the battery should avoid prominent conspicuous positions which the enemy could accurately command with his fire. It should also take up the largest allowable intervals. Against guns of heavier calibre action should be sought at a closer range, but the battery should not come within range of case shot.

A position once chosen should be retained as long as possible, and all changes of position of less than 200 paces should be avoided, unless there be special cause for them. The principal considerations are always these: to be able to see the enemy, to keep him under fire within an effective range, to watch the striking of the first shots, and to better the laying in conformity thereto.