

Captain PARKER, however, has the following "Proposed Formation," from a battalion in line, of which he says:

"The formation which I would submit to notice has these advantages:—

"1. It can be efficiently practised by a single company as by several, by a weak regiment as by a strong one, and by one or more regiments in a brigade.

"2. It habituates the men to work in the loosest as well as in the most compact order.

"3. It teaches the company officers to handle their men on an extended and over-varying front. Each company is under the eye and complete control of its captain so that every advantage can be instantly secured and every disadvantage rendered as nugatory as possible.

"I have given the manœuvre from the line only, but it is obvious that it can be assumed with equal facility from any column formation when within 1,000 yards, or as much nearer the enemy as the nature of the country, &c. will allow, the commanding officer gives the order *advance in columns of sections from right* (2nd, 3rd, or left sections) *of companies*. Hereupon 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections make a half right turn (or respectively half right and left or half left) receiving "front turn," from the respective section commanders and advance.

"Upon arriving within the enemy's fire, the battalion commander (or major if advancing by half battalions) orders "*Leading Sections Skirmish*," upon which the captain of right flank gives "*Leading sections from the left extend, inner sections half right turn*," at the same moment the commander of rear (4th) section halts his section.

"Simultaneously the captains of the other companies perform the same manœuvre—but with this difference—the left flank company extends its leading section from the right and its 2d and 3d sections make a half left turn—the leading sections of the other companies extend from their respective centres and their inner sections receive the order "*outwards half turn*." The rear sections are halted by their respective commanders same as the right flank rear section.

"Second and third sections when respectively in rear of centre of right and left half of skirmishing section, get from their section leaders "front turn" and step short or halt till the skirmishers are 150 yards ahead, when they continue the advance.

"The rear section of each company reserves its advance at 150 yards distance from and covering the interval between 2nd and 3rd sections.

"The two flank sections on receiving the order to extend in line to their outer flank, the left file in the one case and the right in the other turning to the front, and commencing the extension when opposite the front that was the outer flank of the section before the extension.

"It may appear at first sight a drawback that in this formation if the heads of the columns of sections on the correct distance apart (i.e. 8 number of files) there will be a skirmisher to every two paces on first extending—but in an actual advance (other than a very short one on a barrack square) such accuracy is impossible, and it is evident, and in the present case it is intended, that the respective company columns open out to irregular distances from each other according to the nature of the ground, so that in practice there will not be less than three paces interval, which is a useful minimum and when necessary this distance can be readily increased.

"Furthermore against the possible objection the following advantages are to be balanced.

"a. Skirmishers are to be reinforced, relieved, overlapped from either flank or the enemy misled by a refused flank or echelon-skirmishers or sections.

"b. If advisable so to do line can be readily formed.

"c. Groups and forces of skirmishers and groups or section squares readily formed if threatened by cavalry.

"d. The front can be readily extended or contracted.

"e. A great depth (an important point in an army which like ours must generally fight a defensive—offensive battle) obtained with a minimum exposure to artillery fire.

"f. The skirmisher swarm kept well in hand since each section is under the eye of its leader and each company will under the command of its captain whose general place will be with the two supporting sections until the whole are absorbed in the skirmishing line."

"NOTE.—1. Whenever halted under fire the three supporting sections should, as a general rule, lie down.

"2. In advancing under fire the three sections should march in loose order, i.e. with about two paces interval between the file.

"In this and in every mode of extension the rear rank man should invariably be on the left of his first rank man when extended.

"4. Skirmishers when re-called should always clear the front and rear by the nearest flank.

"5. Skirmishers should fire on the knee or lying down as occasion best serves, the present system of running to the front to fire is bad as it "pumps" them and endangers individuals in a long advance being shot by any men of less wind and speed who must lay.

"6. Individual skirmishers should be taught to forward only when they see good cover within a remarkable distance (say 25 yards as a maximum) the section commanders giving order if a longer rush has to be made.

"7. For skirmishing and outpost duty a whistle should be used to direct men when out of actual eye-sight or easy voice range. There have been for many years whistles constructed wherever the whole of the bugle calls can be sounded; if this be thought too complicated an instrument for rough and ready use (though why should it be so considered) or any simpler kind might be adopted. In the campaign of 1866 the Prussian officers provided themselves with common dog whistles and wore them attached by a piece of string for those duties. The bugle is too loud for secret and instantaneous direction of skirmishing sections."

*Broad Arrow*, in its issue of 1st Nov., admits the failure of Mr. CARDWELL'S Army Re-organization Bill to effect the object of its title, and the Royal Commission is now laboring to efface or find some way of doing so the evils called into active existence by the total disregard of right and constitutional law exhibited by the Whig Radicals on the occasion of the passing of that measure. Our contemporary is altogether wrong in admitting that it was a failure—on the contrary, Mr. CARDWELL and his colleagues effected the object they had in view, and that was to disarm England to strip and leave her naked before her enemies, and in that effort they have achieved an eminent success. To an outsider it looks supremely ridiculous that an attorney at law should not only be allowed to destroy one of the best and most efficient military organizations the world has yet seen, and to substitute for it impracticable theories—but that he should be also allowed to over ride the constitutional law of the country and in doing so insult His Sovereign, exceeds absolutely the bounds of credibility and savors more of the *coup de theatre* of a French revolution than the deliberative act of a people governed by representative institutions. We well remember the paeans of triumph with which the insolence of CARDWELL was hailed by our contemporary and the traversities of historical parallelism in which he indulged during the hysteria of triumph. However, putting all that aside, we have in the article under discussion entitled *Purchase and its Defenders*, a good specimen of Whig-Radical honesty and logic as well as undoubted evidence that the great Field Marshal CARDWELL—the Cromwell Mirabeau of our contemporary's laudation, has made an entire muddle of the British Army and of the War Office into which his presumption has carried him and that his friends are endeavouring to *kick up a dust* in order to cover his retreat in the confusion. We should be less hard on our contemporary's sins in relation to this mischievous and vulgar Charlatan and his colleagues but for two reasons; the first is that it as a military journal, has taken a partizan stand in the matter of the Reorganization of the Army to the length of being the apologist