

yet give you some idea of the extraordinary alterations in tactics caused by the introduction of the breechloader—a more radical change than has ever yet been made.

As to our own changes of tactics, we are making them slowly but surely; not slavishly following those of Prussia but adapting them to the constitution of our army and our national characteristics; at the same time taking full advantage of the greater war experience of our neighbour, and which it would be folly to ignore.

Our tactical unit is to be the half battalion column instead of the company column.

For marching, a battalion having been told off in double companies thus—(First and second company—first double company; third and fourth company—second double company, &c.) when not otherwise ordered, it will form columns of double companies in rear of one of the flank companies, so that one half battalion will always be in front and one in rear.

For the attack, a battalion acting singly will be formed either in line or half battalion company quarter column, at deploying intervals, covered by the first company of each half battalion skirmishing, with the second company of each in support, or one half battalion will extend two companies skirmishing and two in support. The other half battalion following in such formation as may suit the ground or circumstances.

These half battalions are commended by the Majors, who are to understand that it is their duty to profit by any opening which may occur without waiting for orders. This formation, in reality, differs very little from the Prussian company columns, save that we have more officers, which is a great advantage in these days of skirmishing.

Another alteration in our system is that of allowing the supports to move with open files, that is to say, with an interval of two paces between each file.

Another alteration is that, if the enemy's fire is heavy, and there is no cover, the line may advance with files opened out to one pace from each other. If the fire is very severe, it may come up by a succession of rushes.

One thing is very clear, we must pay greater attention to the individual teaching of the soldier, and especially must he be taught to take advantage of cover; and it is marvellous how slight a rise or hollow, or even bend in the ground will cover a man lying down. The best skirmishers I ever saw were the Maories in New Zealand, and with them, scars of wounds received in action, instead of being honourable, were considered disgraceful as showing them to have been unskilful warriors. The question of "shelter-trenching" has not yet been fully faced. There is no doubt that skilfully and properly placed trenches would be invaluable and necessary in some cases, but the soldier must be made fully to understand that he is not to remain in them, and that they are to be no obstacle to his advance. Another fact should be carefully impressed on every infantry soldier, and that is, not to fear a cavalry soldier. We have already laid down that it is not always necessary to form square for cavalry, and we are the first army who have done so; but sufficient trouble has not yet been taken to show the infantry man how completely the breechloader has made him superior to the cavalry soldier. Those practical Prussians have a paragraph in their drill regulations to this effect. "The

shooter must be fully persuaded in his own mind that, where in the plain, he is superior to the single trooper; also he need not shun the fight against several, if he retains composure and presence of mind, and loads his rifle after firing a shot, without taking his eye off his opponents. At close quarters, it is important that he should gain the left side of the horsemen (with lancers, the right side, and then make use of his bayonet."

In fact, the late Prusso Franco war showed distinctly that the cavalry soldier could do little against an infantry soldier. The ubiquitous Uhlan disappeared as soon as the Franc-tireurs made their appearance. During the siege of Paris the Prussians sent out what they called divisions of cavalry, to scour the district, but they soon found that they could do very little—the Franc-tireurs took to a wood or a village, neither of which could the cavalry enter. They then, I believe, sent a battalion, or half battalion of Jägers with each division, and as the cavalry found that kept them back, they used to put them into carts. This want, at certain times, of infantry, seems to be likely now to cause us to return to the dragoon proper, of whom I have already spoken to you, and it is evident something of the sort is required. But we must be careful not to split on the rock our predecessors did. They must be made to act as what they should be "mounted infantry," and not bastard cavalry. Light carts have been proposed as a substitute, and there is something to be said in their favour too; however, I will not go further into this subject, as you will have it ably discussed hereafter by a brother officer, who has gone into the subject with care.

With regard to the attack and defence with the breechloader. It would seem that the power of the defence is much increased by its introduction, and certainly, good infantry entrenched, ought to hold their own against great odds; and if their flanks are safe, and they have plenty of ammunition, they ought to be impregnable. Even after the terrible cannonade at St. Privat, which prepared the way for the attack of the Prussian Guards though the French were only behind low walls, we knew that the attack failed; and even when the flank attack took place, had the French not been out of ammunition, it is doubtful whether the Prussians would have succeeded as they did.

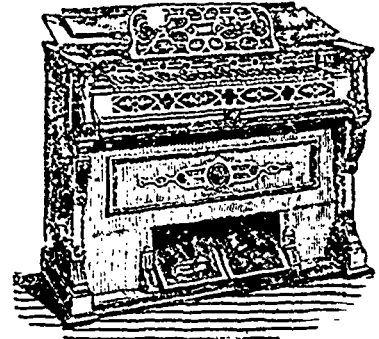
Owing to the din and noise of an action with breechloaders, it is impossible for the men to hear the bugle sounds, and it seems likely that we shall have to give the whistle to all the Officers.

And now in conclusion, let me recommend you all, Gentlemen, to pay the greatest attention to skirmishing, and learn the true tactical use of your weapon, for, without that knowledge, correct shooting will stand you in little stead, and you who are Officers, remember that perfect knowledge of your men's as well as your own duties will alone give them that confidence in your leadership which is now more than ever necessary in the field. You have amongst you the making of the finest skirmishers in the world, all you want is practice; but bear well in mind, that no infantry can in future perform its rôle in the field unless it is in the highest state of training and discipline.

Several skirmishes between the Republicans and Carlists occurred on the 20th in the neighbourhood of Bilbao. The Carlists attacked them and were repulsed with heavy loss. Thirty Carlists were captured. The Republicans lost 100 killed and wounded.

## "THE SILVER TONGE" ORGANS

The best ORGANS of the Reed Class  
IN THE WORLD.



The Best for Churches and Lodges.  
The Best for Sunday Schools.  
The Best for Parlors and Vestries.  
The Best for Academies and Colleges.  
The Best for Public Halls.  
The Best for Orchestra and Stage.

These instruments, which for sweetness of tone and elegance of appointment stand unrivalled have met with unprecedented success in this country and abroad.

MANUFACTURED BY  
E. P. NEEDHAM & SON.

ESTABLISHED IN 1846.

Nos. 143, 145, & 147 East 23d St., N. Y.

Responsible parties applying for agencies in sections still unsupplied, will receive prompt attention and liberal inducements. Parties residing at a distance from our authorized agents may order from our factory. Send for illustrated price list.

31-261n.

## FITS CURED FREE!!

Any person suffering from the above disease is requested to address Dr. Price, and a trial bottle of medicine will be forwarded by Express,

FREE!

Dr. Price is a regular physician, and has made the treatment of

FITS OR EPILEPSY

a study for years, and he will warrant a cure by the use of his remedy.

Do not fail to send to him for trial bottle; it costs nothing, and he

WILL CURE YOU,

no matter of how long standing your case may be if how many other remedies may have failed.

Circulars and testimonials sent with

FREE TRIAL BOTTLE.

Address

DR. CHAS. T. PRICE,

17-52

67 William Street, New York.

## D. BATTERSBY

Accountant Agent &c.

171, St. James' Street,

MONTREAL

P.O. ADDRESS, BOX 1814

Collection personally attended to; also everything appertaining to the duties of a thorough Accountant of Twenty Years experience. All transactions prompt and business-like