

NOTES ON MILITARY USAGES AND CEREMONIES.

(From the United Service Magazine.)

A REVIEW 150 YEARS AGO.

Let us try and picture to ourselves a Review of an English Foot Regiment, a century and a half ago, when the recollections of King William of glorious memory and his battles, were as fresh in men's minds, as the Great Duke and the Peninsular campaigns are now in our own, when Blenheim and Oudenarde were as recent as Ferozeshah and Sobraon, when my Lord Peterborough was winning laurels on fields to become in later days yet more famed in our annals, when muskets and socket bayonets had replaced the older weapons, and when Dutch tactics and gigantic wigs and close shaven visages were all alike regarded as indispensable parts of our system.

The order for Inspection Parade would probably be couched in the following terms.

"It is General _____'s orders that Colonel _____'s battalion retire, on Wednesday morning next 6 o'clock, draw up on the ground where they exercise.

"The officers to appear in their regimental clothes and hats, garters, square-toed shoes, gorgets, sashes, buff gloves, and twisted wigs.

"The soldiers to be perfectly clean and well shaved, hats well cock'd and worn, square-toed shoes, their hair well tucked under the hats and powdered, but none on the shoulders.

"Points of the hat to be a little to the left. The arms to be clean and in good order. Barrels, bayonets and waistcoat buttons to be bright as silver.

"No sergeant, corporal, or private man to presume to appear in a wig, except such as be wald.

"The General orders that if any man be then absent he be whipt through the battalion.

"The men are not to put on their garters till ordered.

"The men to have ten rounds of powder only in their pouches, to be supplied to them on the parade ground, and taken from them with their cockades after exercise."

The day's performance would then seem to have proceeded as follows.

The companies having fallen in and been inspected at their captain's quarters are marched in three ranks to the parade. They are drawn up in battalion (line as it is sometimes called) in six ranks at four paces apart (a pace is an arm's length) and sized, the tallest men being put in the front and fourth ranks, so that on forming three deep they may all be in the front rank.

The colonel's company is on the right, the lieutenant-colonel's on the left, the major's as number two from the right, the senior captain's as number 9 and so on, each battalion consisting, be it known, of 10 companies of 51 men and 3 corporals each.

The senior captain is in front of the colonel's company and the next senior in front of the lieutenant-colonel's on the left and so on, the whole of the officers being in one rank two paces in front of the battalion, juniors in the centre, a sergeant is on the flank of each rank to dress it, and the rest of the sergeants are in a rank three paces in rear of the battalion. The Grenadiers (sic) are on the right apart with their own captain and his two lieutenants, for they have no ensigns, in front. The drums (sics) have been laid aside for near a century) are divided on the right and left, and the hantboys, if the regiment has any, are in rear of the centre.

Each man stands with his heels a step apart, his head up, his elbows close and his firelock on his shoulder.

As the colors are kept at the colonel's billet, probably some way off, it is now necessary to send an escort for them.

The major orders the Grenadiers drum to beat the drummer's call, on which the ensigns for the colors place themselves in front of the Grenadiers and the lieutenant of the lat-

ter one pace in front of them, and thus with an escort of half the Grenadiers, the drums preceding them beating a 'troop,' they proceed to the commanding officer's quarters to guard the colors to the parade: arrived on the parade the colors are received with 'rested' (i.e. presented) arms and together with their escort are marched through the ranks to their places, the drums beating a 'troop,' the front rank of Grenadiers passing between the officers and the front rank of the battalion, the other ranks of Grenadiers between the ranks of the battalion so that when they halt each rank may face into its proper place at once.

The battalion is now told off into divisions or companies of equal strength, each company being in two parts called the right and left half ranks. Also into grand divisions, each one-third of the battalion, and into subdivisions each one-sixth or some other aliquot part (depending on the number of files) of a grand division.

The men are now proved in opening and closing files, &c., in doing which they take very short paces and step together. Some officers of the old school, we are told, object to this as too closely resembling dancing, but the best authorities, among others Mr. Bland, Colonel of His Majesty's Regiment of Horse, remark, "that a little practice will enable the men to do it with such an easy and genteel air as to remove every objection.

The files are now opened to arm's length from each other, and thus, the ranks four paces apart, the men with their arms on their shoulders, the officers with their half-pikes planted, the battalion waits the inspecting general. His Honor having been received with "rested arms," proceeds down the front (each officer dropping the point of his partisan and pulling off his hat at arm's length as he passes) returning by the rear upon which the battalion is faced about, the officers remaining in their places and the sergeants dropping their halberds and removing their hats as above related.

This being completed, and the regiment fronted, the colonel places himself, with his half-pike in his hand, on the general's right, and the major is called to put the regiment through the Manual Exercise and Evolutions, the former consisting of sixty-four words of command, each movement being in three or four separate motions, the latter of opening and closing ranks and files, and wheeling, the preparatory word being, "Have a care to perform your Evolutions." The officers are at post of exercise, eight paces in rear of their companies.

Probably the general will now desire to see some battalion firing, which will be thus performed, and, be it noted, the English firing is reputed superior to that of most other nations.

For this purpose the six ranks are formed into three, the files being nearly touching (each man is supposed to occupy three feet), and the battalion is told off in platoons, twenty or more, each of an equal number of files, with the sergeants on the flanks, and the officers posted equally in front and rear of each platoon. The Grenadiers are divided equally on each flank, and, to prevent unnecessary loss of time in moving the left half of the Grenadiers, they move to the left of the battalion through the ranks, as in trooping. The platoons are told off into first, second, third, &c., firing, and the Grenadiers as a reserve file.

If the firing be from the "preparative" beating the platoons of the fire, front rank kneeling and load, when the second preparative beats those of the second firing fire and load, and so on. When the reserve of Grenadiers fire, they wheel one-eighth of a circle inwards so as to give a cross fire in front.

If the fire is to be done on the march advancing, the line steps off as slow as foot can fall, the drums beating a march, when the drum ceases, the battalion halts, and on the preparative, the platoons of the first firing fire and recover arms. The drums then beat a march, and the whole step off in slow time. When the

drums again cease, they halt, and, on another preparative the second firing give fire and recover, loading on the march, when the line again advances as before.

If the fire is to be done retiring, the whole face about on their right heels, and recover arms, stepping off with their right feet, the drums beating a march. When the drums cease, the platoons of the first firing halt, front, give fire, and step up quickly into their places, the line retiring steadily all the while; at the second signal, the platoons of the second firing do likewise, and so on, but Mr. Bland remarks that "the practical part of this method is attended with so great danger," that it is better to halt and front the whole battalion each time a part gives fire.

Sometimes the fire too is given at the halt by successive ranks from the front, front ranks kneeling. All firings are given with bayonets fixed.

The last performance will be to "march" by the general, either by grand or subdivisions, or by companies.

If the performance is to be by grand divisions from the right, the files and ranks are closed, and the grand divisions wheeled forward to the right, the Grenadiers wheeling on their own ground. On the word, "march," they step off with their left feet, in slow time, the ranks taking up their original distance of four paces apart on the march, and pass the inspecting officer in the following order, drums beating and hantboys sounding.

1. The Grenadiers, with their own officers in front.
2. The camp colormen of the battalion in a rank.
3. The chaplain, the adjutant, the quartermaster, the chirurgion, and his mate in a rank.
4. The hantboys in a rank.
5. The colonel.
6. The captains of the right wing at the head of the 1st grand subdivision.
7. The lieutenants of the right wing in rear of 1st grand subdivision.
8. The ensigns in front of the second grand division.
9. The lieutenants of the right wing in front of the 3rd grand division.
10. The captains of the left wing in rear of the 3rd grand division.
11. The lieutenant-colonel.

The sergeants are divided equally on the flanks of the grand divisions, and the drummers are between the third and fourth ranks of each. The officers are to begin their salute four paces from the general, and to keep their hats off eight paces after they have passed him.

The sergeants are to carry their halberds on their shoulders with the blades in their hands, and remove their hats as they pass the saluting point. They and the officers are strictly enjoined not to bow in saluting.

The march past in subdivision is performed in a somewhat similar manner.

Should his Honour, however, desire to see the battalion march past by companies, it is to be thus managed.

As the depth of the ranks prevents their wheeling by companies, as was done by grand divisions, each company will march off by itself in the following order, and wheel as required.

1. The captain.
2. The lieutenant and ensign.
3. The sergeants in a rank.
5. The corporals and private men, four in a rank.

The field officers march at the head of their own companies, and the chaplain, chirurgion, &c., with the hantboys, at the head of the colonel's company.

Each company, after marching past, forms up in battalion as before.

Should the general have no further orders, the colonel will direct the colors to be lodged, i. e., carried back to his quarters, which will be done with the same ceremonies with which they