

when in the ranks, clean in their persons and careful of the condition of their arms, accoutrements and clothing.

No soldier should speak slightly or disrespectfully in any way of an officer or non-commissioned officer, nor reply when in the ranks if checked for neglect or irregularity. His thinking himself aggrieved will by no means excuse disobedience or disrespect, for his complaint, if made afterwards in a regular and respectful manner, entitles him to a fair hearing and immediate remedy (see *Complaints*).

Cursing or swearing, and the use of blasphemous or indecent language should never be indulged in. None but the most depraved minds can find pleasure in the use of expressions, coming under this category.

Drunkenness is not only a military crime, but renders a soldier utterly unfit to be trusted in the execution of any duty, consequently those guilty of this habit should be got rid of without hesitation.

SECTION III.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

The accurate execution of the greater part of the duties of a Battalion is dependent upon the capabilities of the non-commissioned officers.

The requisites for a good non-commissioned officer are sobriety, activity and zeal in the performance of duty, strict attention to the execution of, and obedience to, every order which may be given, vigilance and undeviating exactness in requiring from his juniors and the men, full and regular performance of all duties required of them. He should be particular in his dress and a constant observer of passing occurrences, that he may obtain a knowledge of the customs and rules of the service, and be thereby enabled to act with certainty and decision when placed in situations of charge and responsibility, while a knowledge of the disposition and temperament of those under him is an essential to his efficiency. He requires to be a good drill, able to write orders distinctly, and make out all returns and states correctly.