

diately *faced* about, and dressed to the proper front.

Intervals.

The greatest fault that a battalion in line can make is increasing its interval : bad dressing may be remedied without danger, but a false distance presents a weak part to an enemy, and is not to be closed, without a hazardous movement, and great operation of the line.

Aids in exercise.

Commanding officers cannot take too much precaution to ascertain true points in the line in which they are to form, before the arrival of their battalions in it.

When a battalion is exercising singly, a commanding officer should have two camp colour bearers behind each flank, properly trained, and ready to run out to that flank, to give points of marching, forming or dressing upon the true line. —In doing which, one flank of the battalion is generally considered as in that line, and often both.

Attentions.

Words of command cannot be specified for all the variety of circumstances and situations that occur ; but commanding officers being themselves clear in what is to be done, should by distinct and explicit orders, which they divide and adapt to the occasion, lead their battalions through all the points of execution with precision ; this will always be found the shortest path, nor on any account should any operation (once a battalion is assembled under arms) be performed in a careless or slovenly manner, which will always be the case if the commander's orders are not pointed, loud, and sufficiently explanatory.

Close column.

A battalion *close* column forms in line on its front division, on its rear division, or on a central one, according as circumstances require ; and in all cases the line formed upon is that on which