

ON THE DEFENCE OF POSTS.

A few Mem.^a on the rapid preparation of Posts for defence, to resist a coup de main. and where Artillery is not likely to be brought against them.

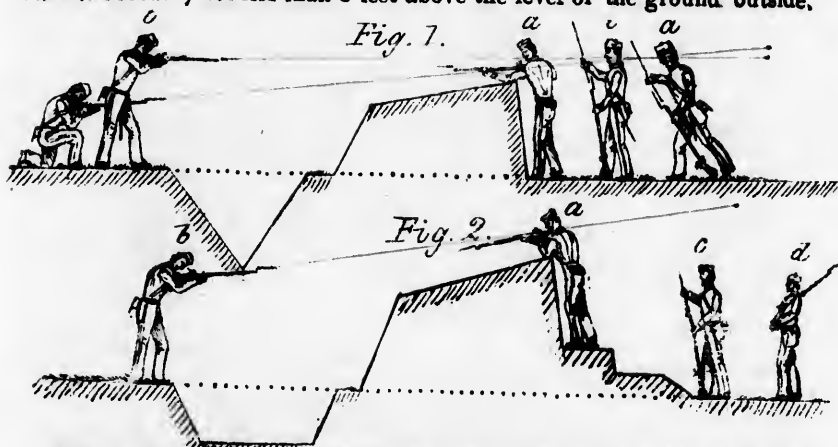
A post to be defensive against superior numbers, or to give the defenders every possible advantage against an attack, should be provided with the following requisites, in the greatest degree that can be obtained.

1. Cover for the men, to protect them from the enemy's fire.
2. Obstacles, to impede his approach.
3. A sweeping fire in all directions, over every part of the fronts by which his attack can be made.

These in fact are the principles sought for in every kind of fortification, against an assault.

1. THE COVER may be by walls, either in buildings or distinct, by timber barricades, by earth, or by any other matter of sufficient thickness to resist musket shot. To be complete, it should cover the whole person of the defender, excepting a very small opening, as a hole or slit, (called loopholes) for the barrel of his own musket to be passed through:—An ordinary breastwork only gives cover up to the man's chest, all above being exposed, leaving in a contest, room for many casualties, and also, by its manifest partial exposure, preventing the fire from it, being so steady and well levelled, as when the defender feels himself to be more completely protected, but even in breastworks, this inconvenience may be greatly remedied by forming loopholes, of logs of wood, bags, boxes, or barrels, filled with earth &c.

The cover should be so high, as not only to protect the men who are close to it, but every part of those who may be in the rear:—this will be the case if it is higher than the shoulders of the men standing on the ground outside. In Fig. 1 not only is the man A, behind the breastwork, exposed to the fire of the enemy B, but also those in the rear at C D; not so in Figure 2, where the covering mass is raised, the breastwork therefore should be, on this account, not less than 6 feet above the level of the ground outside.



Where the enemy may possibly approach close to the cover, as in the case of buildings, walls or stockades, that are without ditches, the loopholes should be so high that he cannot pass his musket into them; otherwise, he may fire as advantageously into the interior, as the defender to the exterior, therefore the bottom of the loophole should not be less than 6 feet above the level of the ground outside; the defenders to have this additional elevation can stand on some raised step, suited in height to the height of the loophole.