

CHAPTER II.

MILITARY EQUITATION.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Military Equitation, the principles of which are the same for all classes of Cavalry, consists in the skilful and ready application of the Aids, by which the Rider guides and controls the Horse in all his paces, and in a settled balance of the Body, which enables him to preserve a firm seat in every variety of movement.

The Aids in Horsemanship are—the motions and proper application of the bridle-hand and legs, to direct and determine the turnings and paces of the Horse.

This Science is indispensably requisite for the Military Horseman, in order that, being able to govern his horse by the aid of his legs and bridle-hand, he may have the right hand at full liberty for the use of his weapons; and be capable, on all occasions, whether acting singly or in squadron, of performing with ease his various duties.

INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT.

When the Recruits shall have attained a knowledge of the usual military terms and commands, they will commence their lessons in Riding.

Their lessons at first must be short and gentle. With patience and mild treatment on the part of the Instructor, and with a proper explanation of the use and object of the different Aids, they will make a greater progress than by harshness and severity.

Saddling.

The Saddle is to be placed in the middle of the Horse's back; the front of it about the breadth of a hand behind the play of the shoulder.