

EXPLANATION OF MILITARY PHRASES.

A "Division" consists of a force amounting to several thousand men, and is composed of two or more brigades, as a "brigade" is formed by several regiments which "regiments" consists of a certain number of companies. A proportion of artillery is usually attached to each division, with one or more batteries so that a division can act as a small army, complete in itself. It is a Lieutenant General's command, and each brigade is under a Major General.

The "Staff" consists of the Generals and their aides-de camp, Brigade Majors, Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster Generals.

When civilians read that a division, brigade, or regiment moved in, "close column," "open column" or "column," at quarter distance," they run perhaps conveyed no definite idea to the uninitiated. But if they understand that a "close column" of a regiment is formed by the companies of which it is composed being drawn up in rear or close behind each other, so that a solid square can be formed in a few seconds, or a line formed on any named company by the remaining companies deploying on the company indicated, which company stands fast during the movement of the others, the meaning is at once obvious.

A "Column at Quarter Distance" has an open space between the divisions and companies of which it is composed of one fourth of the ground occupied by each, so that by closing the first and second to the front and moving up the two rear companies, while the remainder wheel outward by sections, a square four deep, is formed.

An "Open Column" is when the companies of a regiment are placed behind each other with intervening spaces, sufficient to allow each company to wheel on its flank or pivot, and thus form into a line, &c.

An "Echelon Movement" is a term applied to an oblique line of march, which movement is accomplished by wheeling the companies a given number of paces before marching, according to the degree of obliquity required.

A "Wing" of a regiment implies one-half; thus every regiment has right and left wing. The same term may be applied also to any army.

"Outlying Picquet" or Picket, is a small body of men, commanded by an officer. Its place is in front of an army, to prevent surprise. Pickets are constantly on the alert, and sleep not. This duty generally commences at sunset and terminates after full daylight.

"Inlying Picquet" is a similar force which remains in the camp, ready accoutered to turn out on the slightest alarm.

"A Covering Party" generally consists of an officer and forty or fifty men, who take up a position in front of the principal trenches and protect the workmen employed therein from molestation.

"Trenches" are long narrow excavations, some feet in depth, the earth from which is thrown up towards the enemy, so as to afford shelter to the troops who guard them during the night against surprise, &c.

"Gabions" are baskets of a cylindrical form filled with earth, and which are placed opposite the enemy's batteries as a protection to the men when they first break ground and commence to entrench themselves.

The term "Fortress" is applied to a fortified place on an extensive scale; that of "Fort" to a smaller fortification.

A "Bastion" has two or more faces of such a form that, when several of them are joined together a pentagon is the result. It is called the system of "reciprocal defence," as one projecting bastion in the pentagon defends another. A ditch, either wet or dry, adds to the difficulty of approach.

"Lunettes" are small works usually raised in front of salient points, &c., and when filled with men, are capable of offering considerable resistance.

A "Redan" is a triangular work, generally constructed in front of a more extensive fortification, which it partially protects, and renders an attack on it more difficult.

"Embrasures" are openings in a work through which the guns are pointed.

"Loopholes" are small apertures in a work through which muskets may be fired.

"Redoubt" is a general name for nearly every kind of work in field fortification. Redoubts are sometimes triangular, with flanks; sometimes in the form of a star, called a Star Fort. Redoubts for the defence of positions are in general intended to contain only about fifty men with three guns; but work in form of irregular polygon are sometimes constructed to contain from one thousand to fifteen hundred men, and from twenty to twenty five pieces of artillery, if intended for the protection of any place.

THE WAY THE RUSSIANS TREAT THEIR HORSES.

The Russian coachmen seldom uses his whip, and generally only knocks with it upon the foot-board of the sledge, by way of a gentle admonition to his steed, with whom, meanwhile, he keeps up a running colloquy, seldom giving him harder words than "My brother—my friend—my little white piggion—my sweetheart." "Come my pretty piggion, make use of your legs," he will say. "What now! art blind? Come, be brisk! Take care of that stone there. Dost see it? There, that's right! Bravo! hop, hop, hop! Steady boy, steady! What art turning thy head for? Look out boldly before thee! Hurra! Yuhk! Yuhk!"

I could not help contrasting this with the offensive language we constantly hear in England from carters and boys employed in driving horses. You are continually shocked by the oaths used. They seem to think the horses will not go unless they swear at them, and boys consider it manly to imitate this example, and learn to swear too, and break God's commandments, by taking his holy name in vain. And this while making use of a fine, noble animal he has given for our service and not for abuse. There is much unnecessary cruelty in the treatment of these dumb creatures, for they are often beaten when doing their best, or from not understanding what their masters want them to do.

The man who is driving a cart will often stop on a cold winter's morning, and fancying a glass of ale will warm his inside, leave his horse standing in the cold till his legs are stiff; then he comes out half intoxicated, feeling he has lost time, and that his horses must make up for it. So before they perceive him, for he has covered their eyes with blinders, he gives them a great lash, and the poor beasts start, and finding their legs stiff with cold, do not at first go as quick as he wishes. And then he gets angry and curses the poor beasts, and lashes them about the head and on the most tender parts, endangering their