

Long lines of guns kept up a fearful fire upon the French positions, shattered their formations, and silenced their batteries. We see the French Artillery, utterly unmindful of old Napoleonic traditions in general, not bringing forward sufficient force to meet the massive army of German cannon. We observe no particular cohesion in its formations and manoeuvres. They worked generally by single batteries, rarely were they able to form a line of guns equal to the Germans in extent.

The Artillery being the arm which can damage an opponent at a distance, its mass must therefore come into operation before the weight of the infantry is pushed into the fight. The Artillery should never be placed too far back in the column of march, it belongs rather to the front. In the situations in war on a large scale, individual batteries cannot manoeuvre of their own accord, as frequently happens in small detachment exercises. Where 12,000 infantry are striving to attain one object, the Artillery distributed to them should not seek to act on their own account, but on the contrary it should contribute to the attainment of that object with its united power, which is possible only, when the batteries do not act independently, but obey one will.

In war on a large scale, employing the batteries in a mass is the rule; their isolated employment is the exception. This principle must be rather the more maintained, inasmuch as the actuality frequently renders the exception necessary.

In all cases the Artillery of the advanced guard comes first into action and has to keep up its fire for the greatest length of time; and therefore every officer in command would, without doubt, prefer to employ the battery which carried the greatest number of rounds, and that is the 4-pounder battery.

To give a special escort to the Artillery on the line of march is wholly superfluous, since it is in direct communication with the other arms, divisions marching directly in front and in rear of it.

Infantry should not think the protection they get from guns is to be measured by their close proximity, and should not feel they were abandoned when the guns move off to better positions.

Detaching guns from a battery must be considered as altogether exceptional, the rule being to keep the whole together; in open level ground the battery of the advanced guard should always march united.

The German Infantry knows how to adopt itself quickly and safely to all possible positions, because it not only manoeuvres on sound principles, but because it is accustomed to act according to the circumstances and situation of the moment.

To obtain the results of arms of precision, the old order of the German battle was modified in an extreme degree—battalions were formed into smaller units, stiff lines and columns were almost given up, and infantry were trained to break into dense swarms of skirmishers as much as possible, to take any advantage of cover, and to manoeuvre rapidly upon the field; while attention was paid to improve their fire, and to make them steady and self-reliant. Most properly, too, though modern small arms were known greatly to favor the defence, the vicious principle was carefully eschewed of trusting to a passive defensive; and it was sought to overcome the difficulties of attack by quickness of movement, by sureness of aim, by making use of local accidents of the ground, and by combining in all instances an advance on the flank with advance in

front, so as to harass and perplex the enemy.

The German line, as it advanced to attack, prevented formations of eager skirmishers who made use of every accident of the ground to conceal themselves and close with the foe, and maintained a deadly and continuous fire, though in loose order at a near range; and it always overlapped and outflanked the French, twisting round them in a destructive coil as they vainly endeavored to stop its approach.

The loose order of widespread skirmishing which characterizes the infantry tactics of this day has been compared to "the battles of savages", and it has been supposed that the effects of discipline and of acting in concert would be less important at the present day than in past times. The contrary, however, is the case; experience has shown that long training is required to make use of modern small arms; that the advantage of union and combined practice is just as marked whether men fight in thin formations or in dense masses; and that the difference between raw and disciplined armies is at least as great as it was of old.

The German line of skirmishers approached the enemy by a succession of rushes. This was either done by taking advantage of cover or else they would advance 100 paces at a run, throw themselves down, and then run on again. Much address was displayed in this manoeuvre. Although the Germans were frequently obliged to make front attacks, the principle of the turning movement always asserted itself. So fearful are now the effects of fire that direct attacks present many difficulties, and therefore demand so much attention as to give the adversary leisure to reinforce the threatened part of his line. Thus turning tactics are fully justified.

[To be Concluded in our next]

REVIEWS.

The *Aldine* for April will be eagerly sought after by the lovers of the beautiful in art and literature. The Illustrations are:—

The Strange Dog (Tint); Tower Creek, below the Falls; Death Warrant of Mary Stuart; Hot Springs on Gardiner's River; Yellowstone Lake; Cliff in the Grand Canon; Tower Falls and Column Mountain; "I Come from the haunts of coot and hern;" A Rare Chance; A Catskill Brook; The Peacock complaining to Juno; Spring Flowers; "O Pray, my Child;" Deserted Church in Volkmanrode.

Contents:—I will if you will; A Gazel of Hafiz; The Yellowstone Region; Malbone the Miniature Painter; The Ball on the Ice; A Rare Chance; Death Warrant of Mary Stuart; Four Seasons; Madame Jeannette's Papers; A Catskill Brook; O Pray, my Child; The Peacock's Complaint; Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle; An Old German Tribunal in the Harz Mountains; Music; Art; Literature. Subscription price \$5 00 including Chromos, "Village Bello," and "Crossing the Moor," James Sutton & Co., publishers, 53 Maiden Lane, New York.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Quebec, March 20th, 1873.

DEAR SIR,—The columns of the REVIEW, being open to communications from all Volunteers, I gladly avail myself of the valuable privilege and hope you will kindly insert the following as it must certainly meet the views of many that are connected with the force:—

The position for firing at the short ranges, namely, 100, 200, and 300 yards, as laid down in the Regulations, is standing, from the shoulder, with the left arm outstretched so that the little finger will be in advance of the projection of the lockplate, and other minor motions which serve to constrain the body, and deter those accustomed to other positions, from making anything like accurate shooting, of course it looks better on a parade ground where men are going through the platoon exercise, or a holiday discharge of blank cartridge, to have an uniform way of doing so; but when at target practice, or worse, when in the field, why must it be obligatory, for all to keep this practice, when better shooting could be made by those who have been used to other ways, or who would soon adopt one for themselves? Being allowed to do so I have at actual practice tried those different positions and at the regular position, made just 20 per cent less than the two others, the principal feature in these two positions is that of holding the rifle nearer the trigger guard and resting the left arm down to the elbow against the left breast, and these I often see are the favorite positions of old riflemen, though the new volunteer and of course others would again discover other methods, better suited to them, by which they could make just as rapid and a much more effective firing.

It may be argued that these positions are unsuited for reloading quickly, as the rifle has to be held while ejecting the old cartridge case and placing in the new one, by the left hand in rear of the lower band, but this difficulty is one easily overcome by merely slipping the hand along the wood whilst lowering it to the loading position, and should not on account of that and the appearance stand in the way of the more serious difficulty of throwing away the shot altogether.

If this rule of enforcing men to fire all from one position could be done away with, it would be one more point gained in the most important question of making good shooting, and I think the different positions chosen by the crack-shots at the long ranges is pretty conclusive evidence, that at the short ranges also, men would choose positions better suited to them. As it is, long armed men may frequently be seen resting their elbows on the left breast, and still following the technical points of keep-