

In changing the front of a line to the rear, it would still be necessary to countermarch the color party; and some precautions would seem to be required in changing the front of a line to the rear *on the march*, against the probability of crowding whilst the officer and coverer change places, and the supernumeraries pass to the rear. It is probable, however, that this might never be required, as I perceive that his Lordship does not contemplate a deviation from the ordinary rule in the case of a short retirement.

I presume therefore that the cautions, "the line will advance" or "retire" would still be retained.

Rules seem requisite here and there for guidance as to the details of some movements—for instance—a battalion in line moves from the halt, in fours, to the right. Its commander desires to halt, facing his original front after moving, say 100 yards. What command would be laid down, after the word "Halt!" in place of "Front"?

I suppose "Left form," judging by analogy to the present axiom that the words, "Halt," "Front" form a company in fours to its pivot flank.

These however are but small points, and I have only thrown out one or two random suggestions for the purpose of inviting discussion, and learning more on the subject.

With the general principles of Lord Elcho's drill, well digested and authorized, plenty of practice at the double, and a good deal of double column manoeuvring (if the authorities will ever order the battalions together) I think we should stand a better chance of making our Volunteers more smartly and correctly than we have had for the last two years at all events. I mention double columns because the best authorities seem to incline to the belief that battalion columns of attack on a front of two companies are probably the best formation, though of course circumstances might alter the case.

I am, sir,
Respectfully yours, G. W.

FENCING.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Surely nothing can be more humiliating to the wearer than the absurd pretension of strutting about with a weapon dangling at his heels, of which he knows not the use. The noble art of Fence should be held an indispensable accomplishment in every man who bears H. M.'s commission. The little probability of an officer, in modern warfare, being called upon to assay his skill or prowess in a hand to hand encounter, is inadmissible as an excuse for neglecting the attainment of a graceful and gentlemanly accomplishment. It is indisputable that the exercise drill, &c., which are necessary to the making of a swordsman, are productive of many advantages to the military man. It teaches promptitude, agility, presence of mind, steadiness of nerve and eye, imparts an easy grace to every motion—and will do more to stamp a man with a soldierly bearing (barring the strut) than all the setting up drills, or goose steps that ever were invented—

"The almost careless grasp which spoke,"
"The hand well used to deal the saber stroke."

The intimate familiarity with the weapon, which the poet's lines would indicate, is neither fictitious nor imaginary. It may be

no crime to fail in attaining this perfection, but it is certainly discreditable that an officer should carry a weapon, of the use of which he is entirely ignorant. I would, at the risk of being tedious, add that the regulation sword exercise is requisite to pass an inspection, but merely to know the routine of guards and cuts will no more make a swordsman than the snapping of a rifle will constitute a marksman.

Without plenty of loose play, with foil and stick, it is impossible to attain an average proficiency in the art, but if an officer is content only to possess what the regulations demand, he were wise to avoid crossing blades with an enemy, and most assuredly he can never feel, in the moment of danger, that thrill of confidence, which the mere grasp of a good blade imparts to the man familiar with its use.

Yours,

SABREUR.

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE

FROM ST. CATHARINES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

On Friday evening, the 19th inst., the volunteer force of St. Catharines was inspected in the drill shed by Col. Macdougall, Adjutant General. The evening was intensely hot, so hot indeed as to keep a large number of spectators outside the building. Notwithstanding the weather, there was a large muster of the volunteers. Capt. Wilson's Battery of Artillery mustering 3 officers and 45 men, and presenting a clean and soldierlike appearance. The battery is a fine body and reflects great credit on all connected with it. The Infantry were in heavy marching order, and presented a fine appearance. No. 2 company (Capt. Thompson) assembled 55 non-commissioned officers and men; this company is one of the oldest in the Dominion, having been in existence since the year '55, and is at the present time second to no company in the 19th Battalion. No. 3 company, although not mustering over 27 men, was nothing behind in their drill, and their clothing and accoutrements were in first rate order; Capt. Wilkins deserves great credit for the manner in which he has brought on this company, notwithstanding numerous obstacles since he took command of it. After Col. Macdougall had finished his inspection of the ranks, the Infantry were put through some battalion movements, and also the manual and platoon exercises by Lt. Col. Currie. The whole force was then formed in a hollow square, and were addressed by the Adjutant General, who said—"He was very glad to have had an opportunity of seeing the St. Catharines volunteers at drill, and was highly satisfied with the manner in which they had gone through the various manoeuvres, &c., and in the few movements already done he had noticed that the officers and non-commissioned officers were well up in their drill, and when such was the case he had no fears for the men. He did not anticipate any active service at the present time, but expressed every confidence from what he had seen of the force all over the Dominion, that if the occasion should occur

that every man would do his duty." He also complimented the Artillery very highly, and promised them two 18-pounders in order to enable them to better qualify themselves as an artillery company. Three cheers were then given for the Queen and three for the inspecting officer, and after going through a few more movements, the several corps were dismissed.

FROM TORONTO.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Since penning my last the long talked of Provincial Races have been run at Newmarket, and thanks to the fine weather, were witnessed by thousands; in fact our fashionable promenade (King St.) was almost deserted by beauty and fashion for two whole afternoons. The course was patronized by the Lieutenant Governor, Premier, and others of the upper tandom, who, by the careful management of Captain Morrison, A. D. C., the indefatigable Secretary, enjoyed themselves rarely. A Troop of the 13th Hussars were present most of the time, and did great service in clearing the course, which was accomplished by several beautiful manoeuvres, exhibiting the masterly training of their horses. Colonel Jenyns acted as judge. The Garrison Hurdle was won by *Citadel*, and the 13th Hussars Handicap, by *Starlight*.

The Volunteer "Monument Fund" Committee have resolved on soliciting further subscriptions, in order that the material, now lying in Montreal may be procured, and works commenced without delay. It will be a disgrace if this affair is not carried out to completion at once, for it is now two years since our noble patriots fell, and as yet no suitable national emblem has been erected to their honor. The only "in memorium" being the stained windows in the University and St. George's Church.

The Volunteer Relief Committee, having till a large surplus on hand, have invested in "Havelock's" for the city battalions, who certainly are greatly improved both in comfort and appearance thereby.

A "Volunteer" has written a very pertinent note to the *Evening Telegraph* respecting medical allowance on active service. He puts it thus: He now receives for himself, wife and three children \$9.50 per week as wages, but in the event of going to the front would get \$3.50 to send home, and should he be wounded and go home, would get \$9.50, which of itself barely suffices for his family, and leaves him nothing to pay the doctor. He advocates free medical attendance either in or out of the hospital.

The Volunteer Fund Committee, out of the balance of \$18,300 on hand, have generously allowed the widow of the late Mr. Lockie, who behaved so nobly at Ridgway, and there contracted the disease from which he died, a further sum of \$300.

On Monday at 9 a. m., the Volunteers composing the flying column, assembled for the purpose of putting in one day's drill. The 12th (Col. Jarvis') Battalion, having had a long walk into town, were allowed to rest while the 10th Royals and Queen's Own were practising Lord Elcho's new system of drill, which it appears the Militia Department, owing to representations from Col. Brunel, have been induced to regard favorably. At 2 p. m., the whole force mustered in the Drill Shed, when the 12th were, of course, the centre of attraction. They are really a splendid body of men, and in