

etc., immediately in rear of ranks, supernumeraries, guides, etc.

The extremities of a rank are called its flanks, and the sides of the component parts of a column have the same name, *e. g.*:

Flank	Line.	Flank	Rear	Flank	Head of Column.
				Flank	

The first line in a column is called its head, the last its rear.

Pivots are the men who stand at the turning point in wheels and turns, whether of lines or columns. Guides are the men on whom the direction of a march depends, and may be right or left as ordered; centre when no order is given.

Commands are of three kinds, viz.; 1. Commands of caution; 2. Commands of execution; 3. Bugle calls.

1. Commands of caution are given to prepare the soldier for what follows, such as "Attention," "Prepare to," etc. The men then remain immovable, with their attention fixed on the commanding officer.

2. Commands of execution, such as "March," "Halt," etc., which indicate the actions, are to be obeyed with promptness and unity.

3. Bugle calls. These will be obeyed as orders after the men have been taught their meaning.

All officers will learn the bugle calls and carry bugles, and each regiment will have only one bugler.

In line the signals to the "right" or "left" mean individual movements. In file they apply only to the head of the file. This must be explained. "March" is always blown on the last note of the call, and a full semibreve in length. "About" is always an individual movement. Every man executes it.

**SQUAD DRILL.**—To commence the drill the instructor commands, *Attention*—**FALL IN ACCORDING TO SIZE!** The men will then range themselves one behind another according to height, on each side of the tallest man in the troop, who faces to the front, the rest closing in on him on each side, facing on him. The interval of fourteen inches will be left by each man from his breast to the back of his file-leader.

Each man will place himself at that distance, so that his file-leader's person hides every one in front of him. The instructor will show the men by example how to stand in "position of soldier." The heels on a line and together; the feet turned out at an angle of 45 degrees or nearly; the knees straight without stiffness; the body erect upon the hips; the breast slightly thrown forward; the stomach slightly hollowed—all and naturally. The head erect with chin somewhat drawn in; eyes striking the ground twenty paces in front; arms hanging by the sides, palms of hands inward.

The men having fallen in, the instructor commands, *Front*—**FACE!** The men will turn smartly toward him, each making a pivot of his left heel, the instructor first showing them how to do it. Being fronted, he commands, *Centre*—**DRESS!** Each man to the right and left turns his eyes toward the centre man, who looks square to the front, and each man on the other side shifts his position till exactly in line.

The line is properly formed when each man just sees the breast buttons of the second man from him, hiding the rest of the line. The instructor, from his most convenient post, sees the squad properly dressed, cautioning the men against poking out their heads, and then commands, *Front!* when the men turn their heads to the front and look straight before them, remaining immovable in the position of the soldier.

**FACINGS.**—The instructor next commands (first explaining the motion orally and by example), *Right*—**FACE!** Each man, making a pivot of the left heel, facing round to the right, without altering the position of the body otherwise, which places the squad in file. The instructor next commands, *Left*—**FACE!** Each man, making a pivot of the left heel, faces round to the left, which places the squad in rank once more.

The positions of right and left face are repeated till the men execute them without crowd or disorder. The men when in rank, should just brush the elbows of their right and left men, and when in file should be about fourteen inches distant from breast to back. The instructor must see that these distances are preserved exactly, and that all the men face in either direction without gaining ground, and will also see each man quite perfect in "right" and "left face" before proceeding any further in the lessons—a remark applicable to every lesson. The instructor next commands (after due explanation), *About*—**FACE!** At the word *about* each man throws the right foot behind the left, at right angles thereto, the hollow of the right immediately behind the heel left, the ball of the feet on the ground squarely, the heel grazing the ground.

At the word *face* each man wheels round to the right and rear on the left heel, till looking in the opposite direction without changing ground, carrying the right heel beside the left.

The squad is now in line, faced to the rear; and a second about face brings them to their first position in the same way. The squad will be exercised in these three facings till they execute them without any disorder and together, after which they will execute them without any commands to the sound of the bugle.

#### RUSSIA IMPROVING HER COAST DEFENCES.

(Correspondent of the Manchester Examiner.)

For the present, it would seem, Russia is on the defensive. The advice given by Prince Gortschakoff in 1866 has been taken by her; she is "keeping the peace and making railways." That they have no expectation of immediate danger from any quarter is abundantly evident; but nevertheless, they are working so zealously to strengthen their weak points as if war stood at the very door. For the present (despite the confident assertion of General Eadeyeff that the coalition of 1854 is a phenomenon which can never be repeated) Russia is using every effort for the defence of her southern seaboard. From Kertch to Odessa, earth works are in course of construction, guns are mounted, gunboats launched. Naval officers and sailors are flocking from every quarter to Nikolaieff, where the Russian flotilla lies and where (as I learn from the *Moscow News*) "Vice-Admiral Arkass is doing his utmost to revive the ancient spirit of the Black Sea fleet." At Kertch itself a complete system of fortification has been constructed, mounted with guns of heavy calibre so as completely to command the Straits of Yanikale. This indeed, is no superfluous precaution. In 1854 the whole coast lay at the mercy of the allied fleet, Odessa, Kinburn, Kaita, Kertch, Taganrog, were all bombarded; 250 vessels were captured in one port alone; the English cruisers navigated the Sea of Azof as freely as the Channel; and Rostov itself was only saved by the shallowness of its estuary. Such lessons are not easily forgotten. Southern Russia is defended neither by nature nor by

art—neither by chains of mountains like those of Switzerland, nor by rings of fortresses like those of Belgium. In the great prairie that extends from the mouth of the Don to that of the Dniester, there are no elements of strength; all supplies of men and munitions must be brought from a vast distance, and at terrible cost of labour. Hence the necessity of making the outer line of defense as strong as possible; and this is precisely what is now doing.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—I again crave your indulgence for a few general remarks on the concluding portions of Mr. Dawson's Report on the Red River Expedition.

I am not much concerned to defend Col. Wolseley. In common with every officer of the expedition, and with most officers of the Canadian Militia generally, I feel that we have little for which to thank regular officers, and I trust that we have seen the last of those appointments to high places from amongst their number, to which the Canadian Militia has hitherto proved so convenient a stepping stone. I except, of course, the position of Adjutant General, and also cases where regulars have risen through subordinate grades in the Militia—the Canadian army.

If Col. Wolseley be in reality the author of the Blackwood "Narrative," there is no question but that he travelled out of his record and committed himself to various libellous and untrue statements.

But I strongly demur to many points of Mr. Dawson's criticism of his conduct in command of the expedition. In fact, Mr. Dawson is just as intent on confuting the writer of the "Narrative" as the writer of the "Narrative" is on ascribing villainies to the Canadian statesmen. Both alike have forgotten that there exists an intelligent body of men, more or less acquainted with the circumstances of the expedition, who were capable of keeping their minds intent on their duty as soldiers, unbiassed alike by the acrimony of the Blackwood writer, by the speciousness of Mr. Dawson, and by the venomous bigotry of political partizanship in Manitoba.

To the *soldiers* of the North West Force (and in using the word *soldiers*, I emphatically lay claim to the designation on behalf of the Canadian army equally with the Imperial) it little matters what Mr. Dawson may have represented to the Dominion Government or to the military authorities, as to the state of his road at the end of May, 1870, and he is not held responsible for the fires, or for the rain of every alternate day which rendered the road almost impassable.

The simple fact remains that, had not Colonel Wolseley boldly tried the Kaminitiquia, and sent up by that route a large pro-