

Officer remains posted, does every platoon pivot officer begin to cover in the true line, to march in that line, and to preserve his true distance : nor must any obstacle that can possibly be surmounted, ever force the pivot officers out of that line ; although the men of their platoon, when it becomes necessary, may open or widen their files from them.—And if the pivots on account of any material obstacle are thrown for a time out of the line, they should always, if possible, move to the hand which carries them behind the line, and again re-enter it when they can ; and for which purpose an officer, or non-commissioned officer, should be placed where they are to re-enter it.—In marching in the alignement, the field officer should frequently place *himself* in it, with a glance of the eye see whether her files preserve it, and correct them if necessary.

As *one* field officer at a time must command the battalion, the others present can only act in aid of him, nor can their situation in all cases be ascertained ; but should the commanding officer not be at the head of the open column (when it marches, and particularly when it halts) to correct, if necessary, the pivots in the
general