

The formation of a battalion in line differs in few respects from that in our service. The corporals are invariably in the front rank. The captain is two paces in front of the centre of his company, the other company officers are placed as with us, the first sergeant being on the right of the front rank, the remainder in the supernumerary rank.

The adjutant is on foot and in rear of the right flank of the right wing, while the sergeant major occupies a similar position in rear of the left wing. The lieutenant colonel is in rear of the right, and the senior major in rear of the left wing, while the junior major is in rear of the centre, with the colonel behind him.

The directions as to the position of the soldier, salutes and the various degrees and methods of marching, are much the same as with us, some of the directions being *verbatim* the same. The manual and platoon are unnecessary to particularize, the chief peculiarity about the latter being that instructions are giving for firing obliquely to the right or left; and also for volleys by the front and rear ranks alternately.

In telling off a squad of two ranks, the instructor is directed to always make the number of men in the front rank consist of a multiple of four, or two greater, arranging his rear rank (by blank files if necessary) so as to conform to this rule. The men are then numbered from the right, 1, 2, 3, 4; 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on; the rear rank men retaining the same numbers as, and covering, their respective front rank men. The flank march is performed by the wheel of these sections of fours. For example at the word *Fours right—Quick march*, each four wheels to the right on a moveable pivot, the word *Forward* being given when the wheel is completed, the front rank at a full step, the rear rank stepping short till they gain the distance of 32 inches, from the front rank. Line is again formed either to the pivot or reverse flank by the command *Fours, left (or right) wheel*. While in fours, to *Front form company, to the right (or left)*, the leading four will move straight to the front, the others will make a half turn to the right (or left), and *double* until opposite their intervals when they will turn to their front, taking up the step and touch as they arrive successively in line. To retire a company in line, or column, or in column of fours, the command is simply *Fours right (or left) about*, upon which each section of fours will wheel a half circle to the right or left, it being a matter of indifference whether the wheel is to the right or to the left. In column of fours, where it is necessary to reduce the front to two men, on the command *Two deep on the right*, the rear rank will close up to 16 inches, the two files on the right of each four will continue the march, the two files on the left will mark time till disengaged, and will then make a half turn to the right, and

follow the right files, keeping closed to 16 inches. Formation of two deep to the left is effected in a similar manner. To reform column of fours to the right (or left) on the command, the leading two of each four will make a half turn to the right (or left) until they uncover, the left (or right) too; they will then mark time, turning to the front, and resuming the march, when the left (or right) two arrived on a line with them: the fours having united, the rear ranks will step short until they regain the distance of 32 inches.

Single from double rank while in line is formed in the following manner: If towards the right, the caution is given to *Form single rank from the left*. The company is then wheeled to the right by fours; the front rank of the right four, upon completing the wheel will continue the march, the other ranks will halt and successively resume the march when at wheeling distance from the ranks preceding. This being continued until the rear most rank is at its proper distance, line will be formed by the wheel of fours to the left, and the company will be halted and dressed. Single rank will be formed from the right in a similar manner. Should it be necessary to form line in single rank while marching in column of fours, on the command, the leading rank of fours will continue the march, the other ranks will halt, and successively resume the march when at wheeling distance, which being attained throughout, line will be formed as before. Should it be desired that the column should take single rank distance, the command will be *Take single rank distance*, upon which the ranks will act as before. If this command be followed by the word *Double*, the leading rank will take up the double time, the other ranks marching in quick time, till they gain their distance, when they will at once take up the double time. Double rank is formed from single rank according to the same principles.

The company is not divided into sections or subdivisions, and it will be observed that changes of front are effected by the simple wheel of fours, countermarching being done away with.

In my next paper I propose to examine and explain the American system of skirmishing now in use.

(To be Continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The Volunteer force of this town was inspected here on the 4th inst., by Lieut. Cols. Atcherly and Jackson. The companies were formed in line at five o'clock, sharp, under command of Capt. D. A. Macdonald, and the Inspecting Officers were received with the customary salute, after which the parade was wheeled into open column, when the clothing, arms, and accoutrements of each company underwent a most minute inspection. Capts. Macdon-

ald and McIntyre's companies were then put through the Manual and Platoon exercise, which they performed with almost the alacrity and precision of soldiers of the line. After that the companies performed several battalion movements under Captain Macdonald, in a very fair and creditable manner, taking into consideration the fact that they have had no battalion drill since the inspection in May 1867. At the close Col. Atcherly expressed his very great satisfaction at seeing so large a muster, there being about 150 officers and men on parade—as well as the cleanliness of their arms and accoutrements, and the soldierly way in which they conducted themselves during the inspection, and would have much pleasure in reporting in the most favorable terms to the Adjutant General.

Yours,
MARSH.

Cornwall, June, 1868.

THE NEW DRILL.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great interest the article containing Lord Elcho's memorandum for his new drill. I have been the more interested that it has long been an idea of my own, that to change the front either of a line or column, evenly sized in both ranks as men are now, it should be sufficient to face them about. It is to be supposed that Lord Elcho has the sanction of the military authorities in experimentalizing on this idea. Whether he has or not it is rather satisfactory that a proposition involving so much of radical simplification, has emanated from a Volunteer officer. No doubt the force of habit and timidity about new and bold ideas will hang about military men for a time, and retard the steps of a revolution of which the recent changes in deployments were the first intimation. But I have no doubt that the great principle now enunciated by Lord Elcho will eventually win its way. Coming from an officer of his position it will probably do so more easily than if it had originated with a private individual. Some such latent consideration indeed *practically acted* has acted more or less to deter me from thinking out my own ideas on the subject to a practical conclusion. But I am induced to trouble you with a few remarks for the purpose of inducing discussion on the subject. It would certainly be a blessing to drill instructors of volunteers to be relieved of the necessity for continual correction of wrong changes of flanks perpetually made by company, subdivision or section leaders, especially when wheeling rear rank in front. I therefore entirely approve of Lord Elcho's disposition of lieutenants and ensigns, and I have long thought the captain's post on a flank or on the right of his company an inefficient arrangement. He will undoubtedly be better posted in rear of the centre, but I think I would place him one pace in rear of his supernumerary rank, and shorten the distance of that rank to one, or at most two paces in line.

I do not feel at all sure that it would not be found expedient in this drill to have frequent recourse to "telling off the battalion" by the captains, as laid down for deployments in the 1867 F. E., whenever the order becomes changed.