

and forcing down the cock with the thumb, step at the same time with the right foot a moderate pace to the right, and keeping the left fast, seize the small of the butt with the right hand: the piece must be held in this position perpendicular, and opposite the left side of the face; the butt close to the breast, but not pressed; the body straight, and full to the front, and the head erect.

Present. As in the foregoing explanation for the front rank.

Fire. As in explanation for front rank, with this difference, that as soon as fired, and after dwelling on the aim as there directed, the firelock is to be dropped briskly to the priming position; the left foot being at the same time drawn up to the right, and, immediately after the firelock is thrown up to the shoulder, the men spring to the left and cover their file leaders.

Rear Rank.

Make ready. Recover and cock, as before directed for the centre rank, and, as the firelock is brought to the recover, step briskly to the right a full pace, at the same time placing the left heel about six inches before the point of the right foot. The body to be kept straight, and as square to the front as possible.

Present. As in explanation for the centre rank.

Fire. As in explanation for the centre rank; after shouldering, the men step to the left and cover their file leaders as the centre rank does.

In firing with the front rank *standing*, that rank makes ready, &c. as specified in the article relative to the *platoon exercise*.

Officers. N. B. In giving words of command as well in as out of the ranks, officers are to stand perfectly steady, and in their proper position; their swords held firmly in the full of the right hand, with the upper part of the blade resting against the shoulder, the right wrist against the hip, and the elbow drawn back.

In firing by grand divisions, the centre officer falls back, on the *preparative*, into the fourth rank, and is replaced by the covering serjeant,

FIRING BY PLATOONS.

THE officers, instead of giving the words, *make ready; present fire*, are to pronounce the words short; as, for instance, *ready, present, fire.* In