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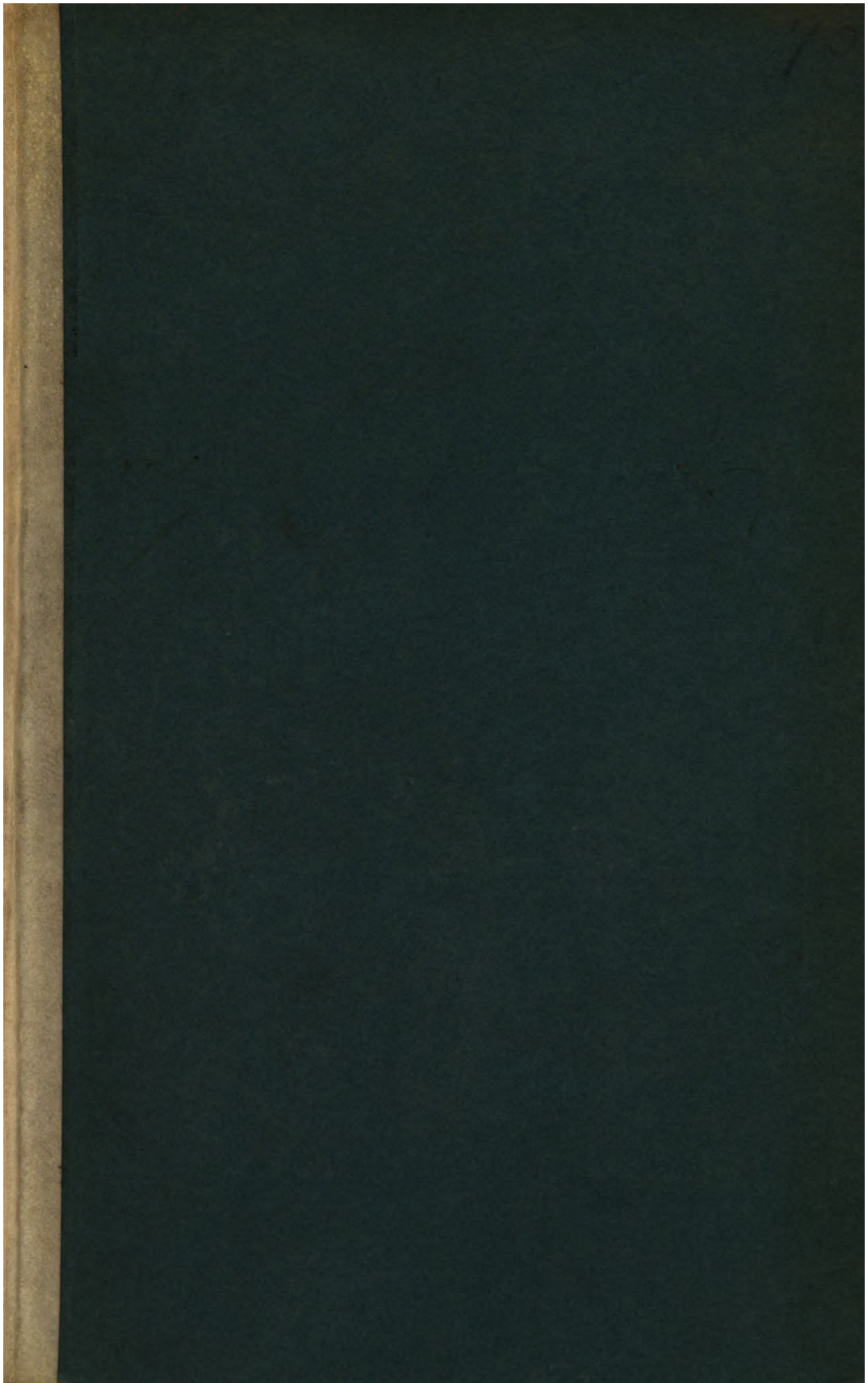
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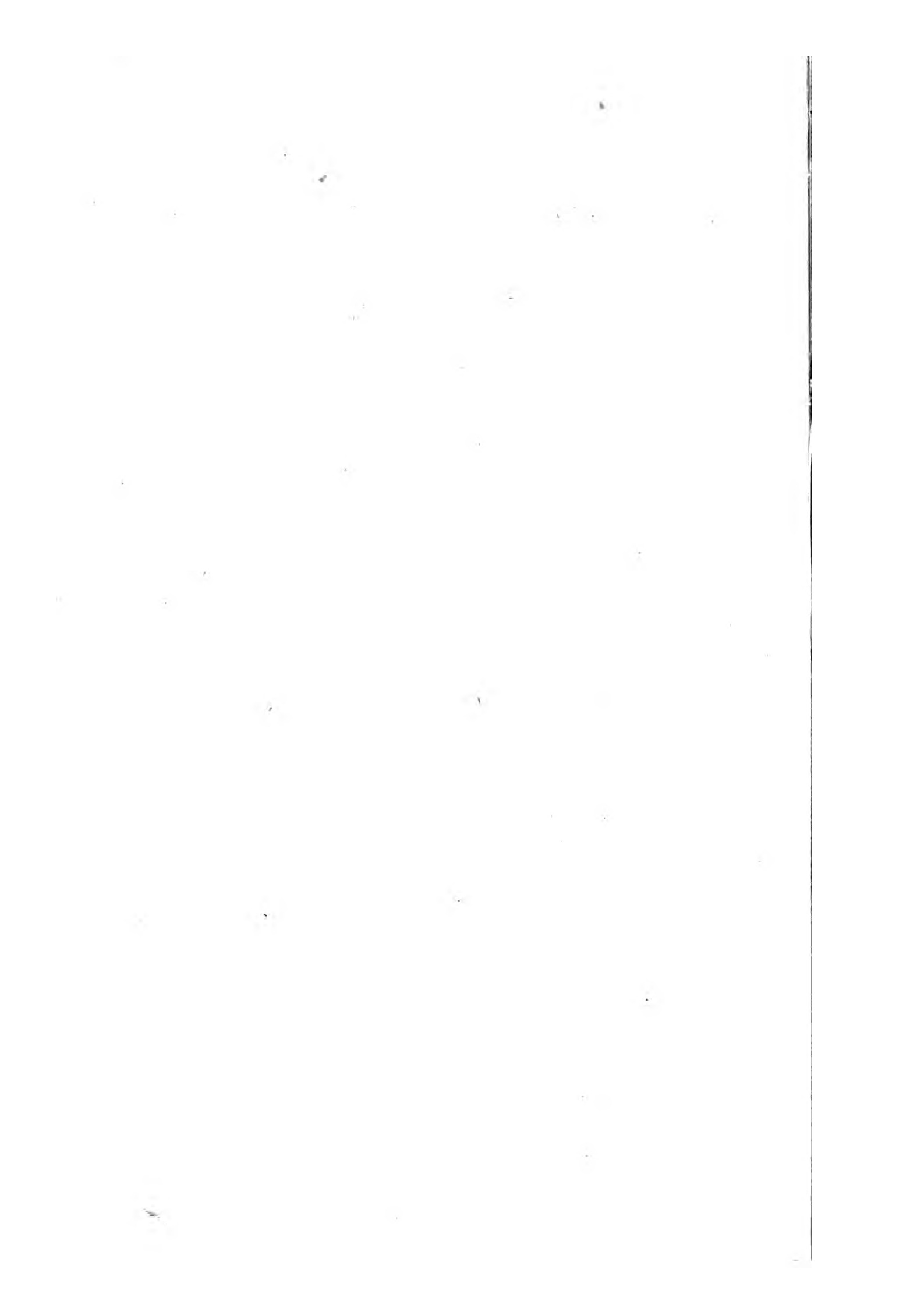


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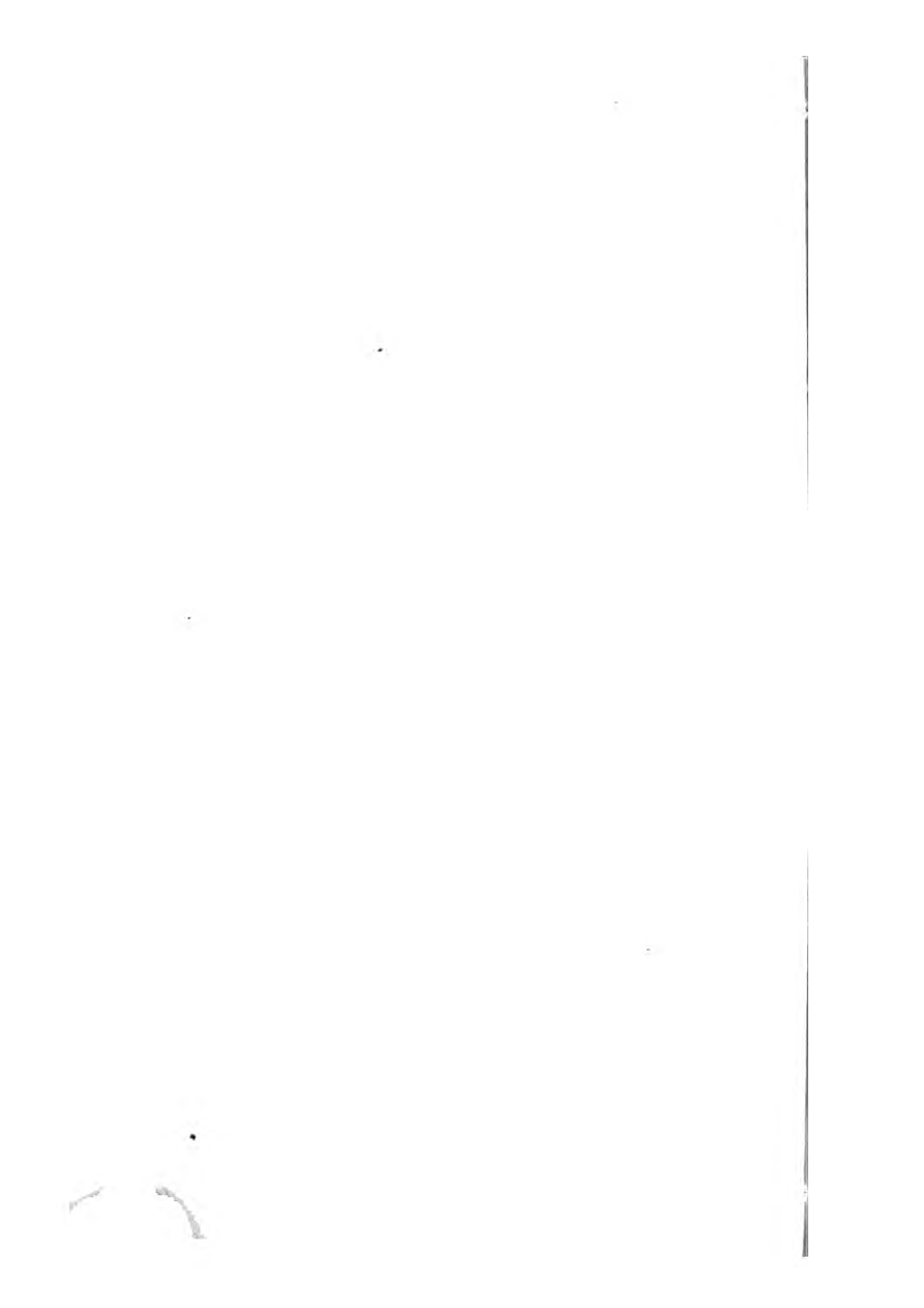






REMARKS
ON THE
FORMATION AND MOVEMENTS
OF THE
CAVALRY.

90



REMARKS
ON THE
PROPOSED REGULATIONS
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION, FORMATIONS & MOVEMENTS
OF THE
CAVALRY ;
TOGETHER WITH
Some Observations on the Service of Cavalry Generally,
AND UPON
THE YEOMANRY CAVALRY,
ADDED TO WHICH
AN APPENDIX
SHEWING WHERE ALTERATIONS OF ANY KIND HAVE BEEN MADE UPON THE SYSTEM
OF SIR DAVID DUNDAS,
BY THE
INVENTOR OF THE MILITARY FIGURES,
FOR THE
ELUCIDATION OF CAVALRY MOVEMENTS.

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1832.

32. 888.



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REMARKS, &c.

A Board of Cavalry Officers was lately assembled by the King's command, for the purpose of revising the regulations for the exercise and movements of the Cavalry. The system of SIR DAVID DUNDAS was to be their guide, and they were instructed not to depart from his principles; but they were at the same time requested to suggest any alterations in the detail of formation and movement which might appear necessary, and to take into their consideration, various observations and comments which would be submitted for their judgment, more particularly, a plan of formation and manœuvre, which had been drawn up by the late Inspector General

of Cavalry, Lt. General SIR HUSSEY VIVIAN, and which for the last two years, had been the system in use, throughout the British Cavalry.

In accordance with these instructions, the Board commenced their labours, and after patient investigation of the matter brought before them, they drew up a code of instructions for the use of the Cavalry, which has lately been published, and which does not differ materially from that, which had been previously compiled by SIR H. VIVIAN.

The whole of our Cavalry Regiments have been busily employed, during the last few months, in putting into practice these new instructions, and the General Commanding in Chief, appearing to consider that the proposed movements have now received a sufficient trial in the field to be enabled to judge of their efficiency, has called upon Lt. Cols. commanding Regiments of Cavalry, to offer their opinions upon the subject, with a view to their being brought under the consideration of the Board, which he has also directed to re-assemble.

Upon the conclusions to which the Officers composing it may be led, the future system of our Cavalry movements will depend; their decision will be final, and what new instructions they may now issue in regard to the exercise, formation and movements of Cavalry, must in future be adhered to; a book will be printed,

and its contents must be our Laws.—If the system laid down in it is good, it may tend to place us in as proud a position as that held by the Cavalry of PRUSSIA, in the days of KING FREDERICK the 2nd. who was indebted to its aid, for the achievement of many, and of his most brilliant victories*—but if it be an imperfect one, ill calculated to form Officers, and not turning to its utmost advantage, the vast powers, and wonderful rapidity of the English horse, we shall then remain in a state of mediocrity, and deserve the reproach cast upon us by Buonaparte, when he observed, that the English Cavalry was inferior to the Infantry, in every thing but *appearance*.

We do not however wish it to be understood that we anticipate this dismal result, on the contrary, we consider that every thing may be expected from the ability and experience of the Officers who compose the Board, and in venturing to offer the comments which we are now about to make, upon the two books of instructions that have been lately promulgated by them, we trust that it will be discovered,

*His Majesty declared that under the eye of a Seidlitz (who was considered as the Father of Cavalry) that this species of force was irresistible and invaluable, but he also added, that a General of Cavalry was not born once in an hundred years.

that we are not actuated by any spirit of contradiction, or by presumptuous motives, but by a sincere desire to advance the honour and utility of that branch of our service, which when its powers are properly applied, may be said to be almost irresistible.

As it is probable, that many of our readers more particularly those Officers of Yeomanry who may favour these remarks with a perusal, may not have been aware, that the instructions for Cavalry movements, were again about to be revised, we have thought it necessary to make these introductory remarks, and shall now proceed to the subject in question.

We are happy to have it in our power to commence by stating, that as far as we have been enabled to judge, from constant practice in the field, the proposed *alterations* are generally speaking *Improvements* upon the instructions of SIR DAVID DUNDAS, and although there are many inaccuracies which we could if necessary point out, that still our Cavalry service has gained much by the exertions of the Board, and that it is particularly indebted to SIR HUSSEY VIVIAN, and as we have reason to believe, to Lt. COL. the Hon. W. DE ROOS, the Brigade Major to the Cavalry.

There are however points, upon which we differ from the views taken by the Board, and which appear to us, to be in opposition not only

to the spirit of the system of DUNDAS, but absolutely incompatible with the well-being and efficiency of the Cavalry, when employed on actual service, and in presence of an enemy; we allude more particularly to the instructions for the movements of troops in the three following situations :—viz.

1st.—The retiring in line.

2nd.—The formation of column for the purpose of assembly.

3rd.—Deployments.

Having considered the above movements, we shall then proceed to comment upon some other of the proposed alterations, which although not differing in principle, do not appear to us, to be improvements upon the system of DUNDAS,—viz.

1st.—Abolishing the word “March” for the wheel of Three’s.

2nd.—Omitting the wheel by Two’s.

3rd.—Increasing front from files to Three’s.

4th.—Omitting the preparatory wheels in the formations from line of open and close columns.

5th.—Shortening the words of command.

We then propose to conclude our remarks by making such observations upon this particular system, and upon the subject of Cavalry generally, as may suggest themselves, and shall finish our undertaking, by adding an Appen-

dix, to show those movements wherein alterations of any sort have been made upon the instructions of SIR DAVID DUNDAS. We will now proceed to consider the first three movements we have mentioned.

We are not aware if the comparative merits between the division movements adopted throughout the foreign Cavalry, and the system of moving by threes, as now in use in the British Cavalry, have ever been fairly discussed, with a view to fix on that practice, which shall appear the best adapted to actual service, neither do we at this moment, offer any decided opinion upon the subject, but it appears to us, that the *exclusive* adoption of the latter system, which has been adhered to throughout the new book, is by no means an improvement, and is in opposition to the views of SIR DAVID DUNDAS, whose wish it evidently was, to combine the advantages of the two systems,—for instance.

Should a line or column which has been advancing under fire, have occasion to retreat, which must often be the case when Cavalry are covering a retiring Army, the casualties which will naturally have occurred in the ranks, will have broken the tellings, and will prevent its going about by *threes as usual*, and according to the *ONLY* method *now* allowed to be practised.

It must therefore be kept perpetually telling off afresh, or it will be thrown into *very great*

confusion. The Regiment in which we are now serving, was told off incessantly on the day of the Battle of Waterloo, and we have been assured by the men who were present, that latterly they became so confused, that it was difficult for them to recollect their tellings. In this instance therefore, and in some others (unless a sufficient reason to the contrary is adduced) I cannot but think it would be preferable to wheel about by divisions, instead of by threes. Now DUNDAS in some degree provides for a contingency of this nature, he states, p. 192, sec. 100.—“Although *in general* in formations, the inversion of the line, or of its component parts, is, and may be avoided, yet there are situations where this rule *must* be dispensed with. The Squadrons or line may be obliged to wheel by ranks *or divisions to the right about, &c.*” again he observes “*many other situations* may be imagined where opposing the Rear Rank admits of no choice, and when the *inversion of the divisions* of the line will gain much time, and becomes absolutely necessary.” He then goes on to say, “that Troops must therefore be accustomed to such operations, but that as a *general rule* the inversion of the divisions of the line, must be studiously avoided.”

The Board however does not acknowledge any such principle, but on the contrary, (new

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book, p. 67,) forbids its application, and "*threes about*" is the ONLY method by which the line is permitted to retire. The inversion of the Troops or divisions of a squadron is not *under any circumstances* permitted, as it is stated, it would lead to confusion; but this appears an anomaly, as the going about by threes, is a still greater inversion, and one from which it is far more difficult to show front to the rear, inasmuch as in retiring by threes, *a halt must* previously ensue, and the tellings must be perfect; whereas the wheeling about by divisions, is a progressive motion forwards, the horses are not liable to be strained, as is the case according to the other practice, and no *halt (the most defenceless situation in which Cavalry can be placed,)* takes place, and lastly tho' not least in consequence, there need not be any waiting to tell off afresh. Whatever casualties occur, order may be immediately restored, by the Troop leaders merely pointing out the centre men of their Troops, who become the flanks of divisions, and the squadrons are then rendered competent to act, in every possible direction. A feeling of confidence also, will then pervade the Officers and Men, which cannot exist, so long as the tellings (upon which they depend for movement) remain in confusion. I shall now allude to another point, of almost equal importance with the advance and retirement of

the Line, (viz.) the formation of columns and their deployment.

Throughout the whole of the European Cavalry with the exception of the Hanoverians, who adopted our system when serving with us, and as we believe still retain it, (columns of assembly which with us are close columns) are formed at such intervals, as will enable each separate Regiment to dismount in comfort, without interfering with the rest of the column, and also to deploy by divisions. DUNDAS altho' he does not recommend such formation of columns and deployments as a general principle, still admits its utility, and lays it down amongst his Regulations for Cavalry movements, (page 128, sec. 66.)

The Board however, have omitted to do so, the deployments by divisions, is not *ever* allowed, and all that is said relative to the formation of columns at any other distance than close or open order, is "should the close column
" be required to pass over deep or broken
" ground at a rapid pace, it may be advisable
" to move at half distance, *closing up again* on
" the order to halt." (new book, p. 91.)

The making a rapid deployment, if not equal in consequence to making a successful charge, is certainly that movement in Cavalry tactics which comes next to it in importance. The

moral effect which is produced, by being suddenly surprised and out-flanked in the middle of a movement half gains the battle, as we had ourselves an opportunity of witnessing on the day previous to the Battle of Waterloo—and consequently that method which ensures the speediest deployment, should be adopted.

It is objected to the deployment by divisions, that the formation necessary to attain it, throws the column further to the rear than the other does, and this is a very just remark. Notwithstanding this apparent disadvantage however, it is universally the custom in foreign Armies, to allow wheeling distance for divisions, in all columns of assembly, and it cannot be disputed, that such a formation ensures greater comfort in dismounting, and facility in getting wounded horses out of the ranks, than the close column does, it must also be considered safer, and (if allowable to use such a term) more elastic than the formation at close order. In regard to deployments, it is contended, that altho' the column stands further to the rear, that the line is formed equally soon, for as no halt takes place previous to the divisions wheeling into line, time is thereby gained, and as the horses are less cramped in moving by divisions, than by threes, they can deploy at greater speed. Taking into consideration therefore the arguments which may be fairly adduced on either

side, in regard to the formation of columns and their deployments, we would venture to suggest the propriety of endeavouring to ascertain by practice in the field, which method is likely to be most available on service, and to pause, before expunging from our tactics, a principle which GENERAL DUNDAS himself acknowledges (even at a period when the use of Cavalry was less understood than at the present moment) altho' his leaning for general purposes, was in favour of moving by threes.

Having now terminated such remarks as relate to the first portion of the subject under consideration, we will proceed to those on the proposed alterations, which although not differing in principle, do not appear to be improvements.—viz.

1st.—Abolishing the word “March” for the wheel by threes.

This appears an exception, to the general rule, as it has hitherto been a maxim, to give a caution, previous to the execution of a movement, (viz.) “Right File, March,” “Two's right March,” “Right about wheel, March.”

In this, as far as we are able to judge from close attention to it in the field, the leaving out the word March, has a bad effect, it causes the men to jerk their horses, and young or dull soldiers invariably move with hesitation and

irregularity. The Hanoverians who must in fairness be considered as superior to ourselves in "Manege riding," are of opinion that smoothness of execution cannot be attained without the word March being given, and always wait for it, even *when in movement*.

2nd.—Omitting the wheel by Two's.

This movement has been given up, but it is a very useful one, particularly when working in single rank. Troops paraded in watering order, find this the most convenient method of moving off to exercise, and still resort to it, when permitted to do so, and we lately perceived, that the old Guard was marched off from the Horse Guards by this means. It does not require any further telling off than what is already laid down, and might therefore be retained with advantage.

3rd.—Increasing front from files to Threes.

It was formerly the custom, to prepare this movement simultaneously, so that each separate rank of threes throughout the column, formed at the same moment on its leading files, and then trotted forward by the pivot, till arrived at the proper distance.

It is now ordered to be done in succession, which altho' it appears a better plan in theory, will be found not altogether to answer in practice. The horses become eager and impatient to form, and each file arriving suddenly upon

the point of formation, the men cannot prevent their horses dashing up with much irregularity. The former method therefore appears preferable, and may be executed by Troops in succession.

4th.—Omitting preparatory wheels, &c.

In the formation of the close or open column from line, by the flank-march of threes, it will be perceived, that the preparatory wheels forward, as directed to be made by DUNDAS, have been omitted. In consequence of this, it appears to us, that an inconvenience arises, occasioned by the passaging and irregular wheel, necessarily made by the heads of Troops in order to disengage, previous to the flank-march. This was avoided by the former preparatory wheel forward, as it not only at once disengaged the heads of Troops, but enabled the threes to march in a more smooth and compact manner, than they can now do.

5th.—Shortening the words of Command.

It will be observed that throughout the new movements, that the words of command have been very much shortened. We believe that with respect to the instructions for the exercise of Infantry, this has generally been considered a desirable circumstance, but we are of opinion, that it is not always equally so, as regards the Cavalry; the noise necessarily attendant upon their movements, will prevent single words

from being heard, altho' parts of sentences may generally be caught, and we are therefore inclined to think, that in the present instance, it has been carried to too great an extent.

We have now arrived at the conclusion of our remarks upon the two first parts of the subject which we propose to consider: viz.

1st.—Those instructions for formation, which appear to be deficient, and not in accordance with the views of SIR DAVID DUNDAS, and next, those which although not differing from him in principle, we think objectionable, and much better as he had previously laid down.

In regard to the work generally, it appears to us that notwithstanding its numerous inaccuracies that it is drawn up with considerable ability, and comparing it with the instructions of SIR DAVID DUNDAS, it must be acknowledged that the movements are infinitely better classed, and of more easy reference, than in the book written by that General.

We approve of the Officers being posted in front, and a non-commissioned Officer being placed on each flank of the divisions. The *Markers* being fewer in number, and not so frequently employed, is a great improvement, as is also the increased freedom given to the movements, by the preparatory wheels being made *forward*, instead of to the *rear*, in the formation of the line from open column. The

simplifying the method of counter-marching is also attended with the very best effects. At the same time however as a code of instructions for the Cavalry, tho' generally good in detail, we consider it very defective in principle, and we are sanctioned by the opinion of Officers of high rank, of ability, and of experience in the service, in saying that this system is not at all calculated to turn to its proper advantage, the superiority which the English horse possesses over that of every other nation.

The movement by threes confines and cramps his action, and makes a halt necessary at those moments when it is the most essential that he should be in movement. We do not mean to advise that it should be altogether abolished, as it is useful in many situations, more particularly in the counter-march of close column, but we consider that it is ill applied, when directed to be made use of in those movements which are liable to be executed in the immediate presence of an Enemy, and that the exceptions to its use as pointed out by DUNDAS, and where he states that division movements *must* be resorted to, can by no means be dispensed with. The depending solely upon the movements by threes, is not only subject to the disadvantages we have already enumerated, but entails a great complication, and consequent delay in the telling off. If there is one thing more than

another that conduces to the efficiency of a squadron, it is the being enabled to tell off, in a *simple* and *expeditious* manner, and when casualties occur, to fill them up, without creating confusion, or crippling its divisions. Foreign Troops have necessarily some advantage over us in this respect, as they are not under the necessity of considering the tellings by threes, and ascertaining that the inward divisions of Troops, divide exactly by this number, but it appears to us, that this defect in our formation may be remedied, and we can see no good reason why the advantages of the two systems should not be combined. We may *habituate* our Troops to move by divisions in those few movements which are liable to be executed under fire, and where in consequence the tellings by threes might become disordered, but have recourse to the movements by threes in many other formations, where the same objection does not exist. To effect this apparently desirable end, however there are two points which must be more particularly attended to. Namely, the equalizing our divisions, and the simplifying our tellings off, and the one appears to us to be consequent upon the other. It is now made a *sine qua non* in the British service, that the centre divisions must divide exactly by threes, and the equality of the divisions themselves is left to chance. It

appears to us that this should be reversed, and that in telling off a squadron, the *equality* of divisions should be made the primary consideration.

This point gained, the other follows, and as the Troops will no longer depend upon threes for immediate movement, the embarrassment and delay consequent upon such minute telling off will be avoided. We appeal with confidence to those officers, who commanded Regiments or squadrons at the Battle of Waterloo, where we had also the satisfaction of being present, to declare, whether or not, our present system of telling off, was not then found to be most inconvenient; whether in consequence of the sections of threes being injured by fire, the broken sections did not move off to the flanks of the squadrons, to avoid the necessity of the *whole* telling off afresh, and whether there was not in consequence, a frequent movement in the ranks, and shifting about. Buonaparte admired the appearance and courage of our Cavalry, but it was possibly to this circumstance he alluded, when he observed, “Voyez ces cheveaux Gris, *comme ils travaillent.*”

The consequence of our Cavalry not having been sufficiently practised in a method of formation after a charge, and of their not having acquired a habit of mechanically and imme-

diately reforming, was also very much felt upon that memorable day, and it is important, that the orders upon this head, should be strictly adhered to, and some addition might perhaps be made to them, with advantage.

It might be good practice therefore, on dispersing the squadrons after the charge, to order an additional number of men to join them, and to fall into the ranks, at the moment of their reforming, and being again called upon to manœuvre. The senior Officers might also be occasionally directed to fall out after the charge, and leave the next in succession, to take their places. We cannot do better than quote the instructions of FREDERICK the 2nd. to his Hussars upon this head. After the charge, His Majesty orders, “that the whole
 “disperse to the front, in full gallop, except-
 “ing the commanding Officer, who together
 “with the Trumpeter stands first upon the right
 “of the ground from which the squadrons dis-
 “persed: and after a few minutes, orders the
 “Trumpeter to sound the *call* upon which the
 “men rally instantly, and draw up in their res-
 “pective ranks, to the left of the Trumpeter,
 “but are not to regard either their proper divi-
 “sions or *right-hand men*, that they may be
 “able to form the sooner. N. B. His Majesty
 “at reviews will take particular notice whether
 “Regiments form after they receive the signal

“ for it, with that celerity which he expects.”
 Regulations for the Prussian Hussars, p. 129.

“ His Majesty also directs that the Officers
 “ must always aspire to attack first, and not
 “ suffer themselves to be attacked, and the men
 “ are to be instructed after the Enemy is routed,
 “ not to pursue too rashly, but at the *call imme-*
 “ *diately* join their squadrons, because singly,
 “ they will be able to do but little execution,
 “ but when formed in squadrons, a great deal.
 “ N. B. During the engagement the men are
 “ not to talk or make the least noise, but must
 “ be very attentive to the word of command
 “ from their Officers, and are absolutely not to
 “ fire their carbines till the Enemy is entirely
 “ put to flight.

“ Art. 4.—The manner of charging is to be
 “ the same as directed in the evolutions in the
 “ preceding part of these Regulations, namely
 “ to advance first on a brisk trot, and then to
 “ fall into a full gallop, taking care at the same
 “ time, to have their ranks and files well closed
 “ up: if the squadrons when they make a charge
 “ will strictly comply with the instructions, the
 “ King himself will be answerable for it, that
 “ the Enemy must always give ground. N. B.
 “ If any man is deficient in his duty, or attempts
 “ to run away, the nearest Officer or non-com-
 “ missioned Officer must put him to death.

“ Art. 5.—When the first line of the Enemy
 “ gives way, the commanding Officers of squad-
 “ rons are to sound the *call*, in order to com-
 “ plete them again, as quick as possible, and
 “ afterwards to fall without loss of time, upon
 “ the second line.

“ Art. 6.—The second line must be drawn up
 “ opposite to the intervals of the first, that in
 “ case any squadron in it should be repulsed,
 “ the squadrons near it may move up briskly to
 “ its support, and by dint of fresh vigour and
 “ intrepidity, drive back the Enemy. More-
 “ over, when the first line has suffered much,
 “ the second must be ordered up with all expe-
 “ dition to reinstate it. N. B. No man shall
 “ be permitted under any pretence whatever,
 “ to quit his squadron for which the Officers
 “ respectively shall be responsible.

“ Art. 7.—All Officers of Cavalry must assure
 “ themselves that there are only two methods
 “ of defeating an Enemy, the first of which is
 “ by attacking them with the utmost force and
 “ impetuosity; and the second by out-flanking
 “ them.

“ It must be a standing maxim, and upon all
 “ occasions the principal object of every Officer’s
 “ care, to gain a power if possible to attack
 “ the Enemy in flank, because with such an
 “ advantage, he will be much sooner able at all
 “ times to defeat them.” vide p. 219 to 221.

No apology need we trust be offered, for quoting at such length from the Regulations for the Prussian Cavalry, as the Military discipline of so great a Monarch, and accomplished a General as the King of Prussia, cannot we think be uninteresting to those, who are studying the profession of Arms.

Throughout the whole of his Regulations, this consummate Warrior's first care, is to make the soldier feel the great honour of his profession, and by teaching him to respect himself and the service, make others do the same: and tho' strict in all that concerns necessary discipline, there is a due regard that it should not be made irksome to him. In the Cavalry he encourages the soldier to love his horse, and in his Regulations, p. 55 as a nota bene to Art. 2nd.—The King adds, “Every man shall be at liberty to break in his own horse and to exercise him as he pleases.” The English Cavalry Soldier has much less liberty with his horse than the German, and from the great restraint put upon him, he is too apt at times to consider him, as merely the cause of additional labour, and to view him in consequence with feelings of dislike. We had once the satisfaction of serving in a most distinguished Regiment of Hanoverian Hussars, and shall ever remember with feelings of pleasure the kind manner in which we were received amongst them. The

discipline was excellent, and the Officers associated together upon the most agreeable terms. It was truly gratifying to witness the affection of the men for their horses, and we must think that a system which induced this effect, is a very desirable one, and as far as circumstances will permit, worthy of imitation.

We have now nearly concluded our remarks on those subjects on which we proposed to comment, but before we do so, we must be allowed to say a few words upon the subject of our able auxiliaries the Yeomanry. This force is usually taxed with attempting too much in the way of manœuvre, and consequently failing to act with precision, in those few movements that are really required of them, and this complaint is not without foundation : but the fault however is upon the right side, and is one that is much more readily overlooked in the eyes of a Military man, than would be a want of zeal and attention. In fact, we feel convinced that the confusion which is often visible in their ranks, is not so much to be attributed to their want of practice and intelligence, as to the complication and inaptitude to this service, of the rules given them for manœuvre. Men who have courage, good horses, and can ride well, are soon fitted for the ranks, and if the formation and movements to be performed by them, were rendered so simple as not to be

misunderstood by their Officers, which might easily be the case, there are some of our regular Regiments that would perhaps find it difficult to throw them into the shade. We shall endeavour to illustrate our statement by an example. We had the pleasure not long ago at the request of its Officer, to inspect the Dorking Troop of the Surrey Yeomanry Cavalry. They have had considerable practice, and performed their evolutions in a most creditable manner. They even went through the sword exercise riding in circle at a gallop, and in short as far as their own exertions were concerned, nothing appeared wanting. This therefore may be taken as a fair specimen of the English Yeomanry, and we have reason to believe that we should not any where amongst this description of force, be able to find a more expert little Troop; at the same time however, when we purposely deranged their tellings, and then ordered them to perform a few simple movements, they became embarrassed and entirely unable to act. We then requested them to give up moving by threes, which they had hitherto considered indispensable, and desired them to trust solely to their divisions, when without further delay, they actually performed with facility, what we had before in vain requested of them: They advanced and retired at a trot, making front to the rear without confusion,

or finding the necessity of coming to a halt. We may take this opportunity of observing, that the shape of the seat of the plain saddle, is the best possible for every description of service, and more particularly adapted to the English horse. That in use amongst the Hussars and light Cavalry, is very uncomfortable, and from the manner in which the wolf is fixed upon the saddle tree, it pitches the men upon their fork, in consequence of which, they are often injured. We do not entirely object to the wooden tree, or to the blanket, which has its advantages, and is in accordance with the style of this service, but to the *form* which has been given to the seat. We think the stirrup leathers should also be affixed rather forwarder upon the tree.

As the instructions of the Board which we have now had under consideration merely relate to field movements, we should be digressing from our subject, did we offer any comments upon the interior discipline and Esprit de Corps, which it should be the anxious endeavour of all Officers to keep up, and to excite in their respective Regiments, nor indeed is any opportunity afforded us, of saying a word upon this subject. The ample and very admirable instructions which have been given by the general Commanding in Chief, upon this head, to the Lt. Colonels of Regiments, leave nothing to

desire, and if duly appreciated, and acted upon by the Officers generally, the British Soldier ought to be the happiest and the best in Europe, and if added to these advantages, we now receive an efficient system of manœuvre ; there can be no doubt that in any future War, our Cavalry will evince itself the best in the world.

A P P E N D I X.

MEMORANDA.

Containing the new words of command, showing where differencies exist between the proposed Regulations for the instruction, formations and movements of Cavalry, as drawn up by the Board, and those formerly compiled by SIR DAVID DUNDAS ; the pages referred to are in the Eighth Edition of that Generals' book, published in 1820.

MOVEMENTS FROM LINE.

- 1.—Change front half right.
- 2.—Change front to the right.
- 3.—Change front half right back.
- 4.—Change front right back.
- 5.—Change front half right back on the second squadron.
- 6.—Change front to the right on the second squadron.

The execution of the above Six movements differs but little from what has been laid down by SIR DAVID DUNDAS, but the words of command have been altered and shortened, see page 135 and figures 46, 47, and page 57, figures 3, 4, 5, and 6.

7.—Change position half right.

8.—Change position half right back.

DUNDAS allows several methods of performing the change of *position*, but the one in most frequent use did not differ greatly from that now laid down, with this exception, that it was then performed by Troops instead of Squadrons, and that a column was first formed upon the new Alignment and then wheeled up, instead of the squadrons marching at once along it, and halting and fronting according to the present method, page 57, figure 6.

The movements adopted appear unsafe, inasmuch as the squadrons become too much lengthened out, and could not immediately show a good front. It would appear safer (as a general rule) to direct it to be executed in columns of Troops or divisions, and allow the threes to be used only occasionally.

9.—Open column of Troops to the right.
Similar page 64.

10.—Advance in open column from the right.
not laid down as a single movement.

11.—Column of Troops from the right, in succession to the rear. No such movement is mentioned in DUNDAS.

12.—Advance in double column from the centre.

DUNDAS does not make mention of any Regimental movement corresponding to this, but as it merely consists in two contiguous open columns, the one right the other left in front, it might of course have been performed according to his instructions for the formation and movements of the open columns. Figure 79 represents a *close* column so formed.

13.—Open column in rear of the right.

14.—Open column on the right Troop left in front.

15.—Close column on the 2nd. squadron right in front.

The above three movements are executed in the same manner with the exception of the preparatory wheels. Page 75 and 108, Figure 24.

16.—The Regiment will counter-march on its centre.

This movement is similarly executed, but the wing which goes about, now advances four horses lengths. It was also occasionally done in two movements, by first forming a column facing to the rear, upon a central division, and then deploying; but this movement is not adopted in the new book, Page 101.

17.—Inverted line to the rear, similar page 192.

18.—Advance in Echellon from the right. similar, but the squadron marker rides upon the flank of the squadrons, as a guide to its leader in regard to the interval. Page 141, Figure 49.

19.—Retire by alternate squadrons. Similar, but the squadron marker posted as above. Page 141.

20.—Advance by threes from the right of squadrons.

21.—Retire by threes from the right of squadron.

Upon similar principles, but generally done by divisions. Page 144, Figure 50.

MOVEMENTS FROM CLOSE COLUMN.

- 1.—Deploy on the first squadron. } similar
 2.—Deploy on the third squadron. } P. 117.
 3.—Form line to left on the 3rd. squadron.
 similar page 127, figure 43.

4.—The column will change front to the right.

This according to DUNDAS is accomplished by first loosening its parts and then circling on a moveable flank. Page 108.

5.—The column will counter-march round the centre, by the wheel about of Troops.

This movement is not mentioned in DUNDAS, and though various methods are pointed out of counter-marching the divisions of a column, he does not give any rule to counter-march the column itself. Much inconvenience has also arisen from the rules for counter-marching the divisions of a close column, being inapplicable to those of an open column. His instructions for close column appear in many instances deficient, and ill adapted to Cavalry.

6.—The squadron will counter-march.

The method here pointed out (which is very simple) is not mentioned in DUNDAS, but he points out six or seven other methods, see Page 100, Figure 27.

That generally adopted was to march out the even divisions from the reverse flank *by threes*, (DUNDAS states by filing) and then counter-march by filing from the reverse flanks and forming to the rear. Page 106, Figure 36.

Oblique deployments according to DUNDAS, were to be made by the leading division wheeling into the new Alignment, and the remainder deploying and forming upon it, as they best could. It was also supposed to be made upon the front divisions *only*. Page 126, Figure 42.

OPEN COLUMN.

Formation of line oblique to the direction of the column is not laid down in DUNDAS as a single movement, it was executed by the flank-march of divisions, and formation of open column upon a new Alignment. Page 72.

1.—Left wheel into line, similar Page 32, 41.

2.—Form line to front.

The preparatory wheel was made *backwards*, and the base division stood fast. The rest of the formation was upon the same principle as at present. Page 57, Figure 6.

3.—Form line to the front on the rear Troop.

This movement is not laid down in DUNDAS, but the principle is acknowledged in his directions to throw back a flank. Page 137, Figure 8.

4.—Form line to the front on the 2nd. squadron.

Upon similar principles, see Page 138, Figures 8 and 48.

5.—Form line to the rear on the leading Troop.

DUNDAS does this, by forming line to the right about on the leading Troop. Page 97, Figure 9.

6.—Form line to the rear on the rear Troop.

This movement was executed by the divisions first counter-marching and then forming on the front division. Page 98.

7.—Form line to the rear on the 2nd. squadron.

The divisions in front counter-marched and formed upon the base division, (which also counter-marched) the rear divisions formed in column by the flank-march as now upon the new Alignment. Page 98.

8.—Form line to the left on the new Alignment. Similar Page 72, figure 12.

9.—Form line to the left on the new Alignment, similar.

10.—To the reverse flank, right form line, similar Page 97, figure 9.

11.—Form inverted line to the right on the heads of squadrons. Same principles, Page 192.

12.—Form inverted line to the front.

The principle admitted, but the formation was generally made upon the rear, or by the inversion of divisions. Page 192.

13.—Inverted line to the left on the 1st. squadron. Principle acknowledged, Page 192.

14.—Rear of the column to the front. Similar Page 90, Figure 28.

15.—Form close column. same principle. Page 104, Figure 32.

16.—Form line to the front. }
17.—Form line to the right. } From dou-
ble column.

Not especially laid down in DUNDAS, but the principle acknowledged in the instructions for open column movements.

REMARKS.

The Officers are posted differently throughout.

The Markers are fewer in number and less frequently employed.

In the formation of the squadron it is recommended that the stronger divisions (when possible) shall be the *outer* ones, instead of the centre as according to DUNDAS.

When marching in file or in ranks by Twos or Threes, there is an alteration in the method of increasing front, and in forming to the reverse flank and to the front.

A column moving at a walk, and being ordered to increase its front, either in succession or otherwise, the *leading* division retained its pace, until the rear one came up. This is altered, the *leading* divisions, continue their pace, and the rear ones move up at an increased rate.

The intervals in the close column, are increased by *one* horse's length.











