THE A.B.C. OF SKIRMISHING: BEING THE LIGHT INFANTRY MOVEMENTS OF COMPANY

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Trieste

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A B C

OF

SKIRMISHING:

BEING THE

LIGHT INFANTRY MOVEMENTS OF A COMPANY.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH

THE FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS OF INFANTRY. 1859.

BY

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1859.

PREFACE.

THIS little work is published under the idea that a short Manual of reference on Elementary Light Drill may, at the present time, be found useful.

The language of the *Field Exercise*, than which nothing could be more clear or concise, has been closely adhered to throughout.

May 1859.

CONTENTS.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

OF

SKIRMISHING.

SKIRMISHERS, SUPPORTS, AND RESERVES.

(1) *Skirmishers.*

THE movements of Skirmishers must depend, in a great measure, on the position and movements of the Enemy: they should always, however, protect and over-lap the flanks of the main body they are intended to cover.

Skirmishers (whether halted or in motion) when under fire, should take advantage of all cover: taking care, when advancing or retiring, not to get in front of each other, or to retain their places of cover so long as to interfere with their own or their comrades' fire.

All lines of Skirmishers move by their *centre*: except when inclining to a flank (p. 20), in which case they move by the flank to which they are inclining.

The distance between Skirmishers and Supports, on a plain, should be about 240 paces.

Whenever Skirmishers are directed to HALT (whether by word of command or by bugle sound), they will halt and *kneel*, facing to their proper front.

N.B.—Men in extended order will invariably face (or turn) to the *right*-about; whether advancing, retiring, firing, or not firing: when one man of a file has to pass the other, he will always pass him by the *proper* left.