

**THE MILITIAMAN'S MANUAL
AND SWORD-PLAY WITHOUT
A MASTER; RAPIER AND
BROAD-SWORD EXERCISES**

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The Militiaman's Manual And Sword-Play without a Master; Rapier and Broad-Sword Exercises by M. W. Berriman

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THE
MILITIAMAN'S MANUAL,
AND
SWORD-PLAY

WITHOUT A MASTER.

RAPIER AND BROAD-SWORD EXERCISES

COPIOUSLY EXPLAINED AND ILLUSTRATED;

SMALL-ARM LIGHT INFANTRY DRILL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY;
INFANTRY MANUAL OF PERCUSSION MUSKET; COMPANY
DRILL OF THE UNITED STATES CAVALRY.

ENLARGED, REVISED, CORRECTED, AND EDITED

BY CAPT. M. W. BERRIMAN,

Engaged for the last thirty years in the practical instruction of military students.

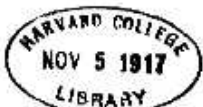
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Southern District of New-York. ss. BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the Ninth day of November Anno Domini 1886, M. W. BERRIMAN of the said District, hath deposited in this Office the title of a Book, the title of which is in the words following, to wit:—

"The Militiaman's Manual; and Sword Play without a Master. Rapier and Broad Sword Exercise Copiously Explained and Illustrated. Small-Arm Light Infantry Drill of the United States Army; Infantry Manual of Parousion Munkel; Company Drill of the United States Cavalry. The most perfect Manual ever placed in the Soldier's hand, should be carried in every Soldier's knapsack. Enlarged, Revised, Completed and Edited by Capt. M. W. Berriman, engaged for the last thirty years in the Practical Instruction of Military Students," the right whereof he claims as Author and Proprietor.

In conformity with an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to amend the Acts respecting copy-rights"

GEO. J. BETTS,
Clerk of the Southern District of New-York

P R E F A C E.

Amongst a people so situated and circumstanced as are we of the United States, it would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of having every citizen, or at least a full sufficiency of citizens,—instructed in the rudiments of military science, and capable of turning out at short notice to take part, when needful, in defence of our liberties, our boundaries, and progress.

The policy of the republican form of government is very properly opposed to the maintenance of a vast standing army, such as that by aid of which Louis Napoleon overthrew the freedom he had sworn to guard; such as that by which the Austrian Government maintains its despotic rule over abject and struggling millions. Presidents are but men, after all, though selected by the voice of the nation; and the priceless boon of independence which our fathers won for us on many a bloody field, is too precious in our eyes to be hazarded, by giving the Federal Executive control of so dangerous a weapon and temptation, as every ambitious man must find in an army of hirelings, subject to the strict obedience of the camp and competent, from their numbers and spirit, to attempt the elevation to empire of whomsoever would be bold enough to lead them.

To guard against this danger, remote and improbable as it may seem, the settled policy of the United States both has been and must wisely continue, to maintain a regular army not larger

than the immediate necessities of the frontiers we are called upon to protect; an army, in fact, which shall rather be a nucleus for volunteer soldiery to rally round in time of war, than such an organization as should be competent of its own strength and motion, to wield any influence over the government and people it is enlisted to protect.

It is in this grand element of the volunteer soldiery—the alacrity with which our young citizen-chivalry leaps to arms—the enthusiasm which answers the call for ten thousand men, with eager and clamorous offers of service from two hundred thousand throats,—it is in these indications of a warlike and irresistible spirit, that we find our real protection from Old World jealousies and hatreds. And confident in the inexhaustible nature of this enthusiasm, we can afford to look with complacency on the few thousand Regulars who permanently sustain the flag of the United States, along a frontier and seaboard of more than fifty thousand miles.

Everywhere throughout our country—and long may it remain so! we find the Soldier-spirit manifesting its force amongst all ages and classes, from the children who parade the streets with wooden guns and penny trumpets as their earliest pastime, to the splendidly equipped and disciplined bodies of cavalry and infantry, who spend time, money and exertions, without grudging, to make themselves competent at any moment to the defence of their homes, their liberties, and the inviolability of the American flag.

It is in view of these things, carefully noted and reported, that high European authorities have pronounced us “the most naturally warlike people in the world;” and who shall pretend to limit the influence which this belief has had in securing for us the respect which our flag enjoys abroad, and that happy immunity from aggression which, for this long time past, has given our warlike spirit no cause or call for any very extensive excitement?

But let it once be thought or even imagined in Europe, that the twelve or fourteen thousand soldiers enlisted in the Federal Army, give any thing like a just approximation to the military resources of the United States, and how long would it be before the legions of tyranny would be thundering at the gates of this grand republican temple,—this haven for all the wrecks of foreign wrong; this free and bounteous Mother, receiving to her breast, and hiding under the broad folds of her starry robe, all the children of oppression who choose to seek protection at her hands in the name, and with the countersign of Liberty!

It is indeed of the first and last importance that the military spirit of our people, and the youth more especially, should be fostered, ripened and maintained. Everywhere the largest and most liberal facilities should be afforded, for the formation of companies and regiments; and each State in the Union should give generously to the cause in which the common liberty is at stake.

Not only should regular companies be encouraged, but in target parties and other merely occasional gatherings connected with military duty, much might be taught our young men, which it would profit them in the day of trial to be acquainted with. These target companies contain the finest elements for more permanent organization; the soldier spirit and *esprit de corps* is generated amongst them; the first lessons of discipline and obedience pleasantly instilled; the ambition for more perfect knowledge awakened, and in numberless instances which have fallen under the writer's personal observation, the Target Party of one Fall, has become the regularly organized militia company of the ensuing Spring.

It is a fact which all experience teaches, that an army without discipline is the most dangerous of rabbles. No

courage, no enthusiasm, no personal daring on the part of men and officers, can make up for the want of an unbroken front and concentrated movements in the presence of a disciplined enemy. This discipline may, under certain circumstances, exist without any settled form of movement and attack, as was to a great extent the case with Marion and his resistless corps of partizans ;—but amongst them also, there was a thorough understanding of man with man, and even the precipitate confusion of their forays had a certain order in its disorder, which served in the absence of any more concerted operations. The enemy, also, was seldom or never attacked in the open field where discipline could be exhibited ; but every road-cut through the United States, every bridge built, every forest felled, and every city erected,—all these things go to make it more unlikely that we shall ever again be engaged in a war where mere guerilla recklessness can have any favorable effect in checking the advance of a regular and fully organized army.

It therefore becomes the more imminently necessary, that all capable and wishing to defend their country in time of need, should make themselves familiar with the few simple and healthful exercises which are required of the infantry and light infantry soldiers, when first called upon to take the field. With this instruction steadily pursued in the intervals of business, it would require but a month of active service to make the volunteer the equal of a veteran. The sword exercise, too, is of all others the most graceful, sanatory and invigorating ; it expands the chest, gives poise and agility to the figure, quickens the eye and hand with new excitement, and sends that chivalrous hot current through the veins which only the practised Swordsman can experience. More than all other means of defence or attack, the sword is the weapon of the *gentleman* ; the weapon of chivalry and romance ; the

the weapon of Murat and Marion. Too true it is that the great majority of officers merely carry it as the badge of their authority, without any sufficing or even proximate knowledge of its practical value and resources; they point with it, flourish it, salute with it,—but of its real excellence and utility as an instrument in the hands of a soldier, it is to be feared that the majority know little or nothing at all.

To remedy this, amongst other matters, and to diffuse in a form accessible and comprehensible to all, the duties and exercises of the Infantry and Light Infantry drill, the undersigned, who has spent more than thirty years in active military life, and the training of young soldiers, has compiled and revised this volume, using all such military helps as came within his reach, and extending and simplifying the codes of former practice, wherever his experience showed that this could be safely done, and with advantage to the student.

In the present volume he believes that he can offer to the youth and military aspirants of the country, a complete and perfect code, containing, within the briefest limits, all matters essential to the branches of arms treated of, and such a manual of Practical Exercise as can nowhere else be found condensed into a form so concise and intelligible. He may appeal to his reputation as a Drill Officer, with confidence that thousands of his former pupils, in all ranks of the United States and militia services, will cheerfully accord to him the merit of having done somewhat—if not much—towards giving them their present efficiency, and saving them many years of trouble, by setting them on the right track at the commencement.

With these few preparatory words, and commending the work of his experience to the studies of all those who aspire to something higher than the position of mere machines,—