

**A MANUAL FOR
ASPIRANTS FOR
COMMISSIONS IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

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A Manual for Aspirants for Commissions in the United States Army by Ira L. Reeves

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IRA L. REEVES

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Aspirants for Commissions

IN THE
United States Army.



BY
IRA L. REEVES,
FIRST LIEUTENANT FOURTH U. S. INFANTRY.

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PREFACE.

Someone has aptly said that, "Military glory consists in getting killed on the field of battle and then having your name misspelled in the newspapers." It is for the benefit of young men who are seeking just such glory that this little volume has been prepared. The author (or compiler, for this is but little more than a compilation of Army Regulations, etc.) has striven to give the very latest orders and laws pertaining to the examination and appointment of candidates to the Army as second lieutenants. In a few original chapters he has assumed the fatherly rôle, and ventures words of advice and offers bits of information which it is hoped will be of benefit to the ambitious person who reads this volume and pursues his efforts to obtain a second lieutenancy in the best army in the world.

CREDITS DUE.

In compiling this little work the following have been heavily drawn from:

United States Army Regulations.

The Official Army Register.

General Orders from the Adjutant-General's Office.

Enlistment Papers, Recruiting Circular, etc.

The Army Paymaster's Manual.

The Official Register of Officers and Cadets of the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, June 30, 1900, published by order of Colonel Mills, Superintendent of the Academy, by First Lieutenant W. C. Rivers, First Cavalry, Adjutant U. S. M. A. Many whole paragraphs were appropriated from this little booklet, and nearly all of the information in Chapter II. and Appendix A was obtained from it.



CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

"For gold the merchant plows the main,
The farmer plows the manor;
But glory is the soldier's prize,
The soldier's wealth is honor."—Burns.

An Army officer has no sinecure. His life is not made up of full-dress balls, parades, revelry, gold-laced uniforms and big pay—the popular civilian idea of his daily pastime. The exercise of command is the least onerous of his numerous duties. A young officer frequently finds himself recorder or member of a board of survey, judge-advocate or member of a general court-martial, acting as counsel for a military prisoner; he must take his turn as officer of the guard or officer of the day, attend numerous roll-calls, drills and exercises; he must keep himself "brushed up" on professional subjects, prepare essays, superintend or actually perform the "paper work" of the company to which he belongs, conduct school for the non-commissioned officers, and give his personal attention to divers other duties.

The youth with intentions to enter the service for the emoluments only had better change his mind and look up a more lucrative position. There are very few officers who save from their pay anything worth mentioning. Few officers by the time they reach the age for retirement have saved sufficient to buy themselves a comfortable home. True, the position is one that lasts during good behavior, health, and until reaching the age for retirement, and the pay is continually increasing. The de-