

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y ,    M A Y   5 ,    1 8 0 8 .

### Miscellany.

#### ELEGY,

ON THE DEATH OF A POOR IDIOT GIRL.

WHO, hapless, helpless being! who  
 Shall strew a flower upon thy grave?  
 Or who from "mute Oblivion's power,"  
 Thy disregarded name shall save?  
 Honour and Wealth, and Learning's store,  
 The votive urn remembers long;  
 And e'en "the annals of the poor,"  
 Live in the Bard's immortal song.  
 But a blank stone best stories thee,  
 Whom Sense, nor Wealth, nor Fame could find;  
 Poorer than aught beside we see;  
 A human form without a mind.  
 A casket gemless! yet for thee  
 Pity suspends the tender weal;  
 For Reason shall a moral fee  
 While Mem'ry paints thy simple tale.  
 Yes, it shall paint thy humble form,  
 Glad decent in its lowly weed,  
 Happy in harmless wand'ring's charm,  
 And pleas'd thy father's flock to feed.—  
 With vacant, wreckless smile she bore,  
 Patient the scorner's cruel jest,  
 With unfix'd gaze could pass her eyes,  
 And turn it pointlessly from her breast.  
 Her tongue unable to display  
 The unform'd chaos of her mind!  
 No sense its rude sounds could convey,  
 But to parental instinct kind.  
 Yet, close to every human form,  
 Clings Imitation's mimic power,  
 And she was fond and proud to own  
 The school-time's regulated hour;  
 And o'er the mutilated page  
 Mutter'd the seeming lesson's tone;  
 And ere the scholar's task was said,  
 Brought ever and anon her own.  
 And many a truant boy would seek,  
 And drag reluctant to his place;  
 And even the master's solemn rule,  
 Would mock with grave and apt grimace.  
 Each heart humane could freely love  
 A nature so estrang'd from wrong;  
 And even infants would protect  
 Her from the passing travellers tongue!  
 But her prime joy was still to be  
 Where holy congregations bow:  
 Wrapt in wild transports when they sung,  
 And when they pray'd would bend her low.  
 O Nature! where'er thou art,  
 Some latent worth, still is there!  
 Blush! ye whose form without a heart,  
 The idiot's plea can never share!  
 Poor guileless thing! just eighteen years,  
 Parental cares had rear'd alone;  
 Thou (lest thou e're shouldst want those cares,)  
 Heav'n took thee spotless to his own.  
 Full many a watching eye of love,  
 Thy sickness and thy death did cheer;  
 And Reason, while the joys, approve  
 The instinct of a parent's tear.  
 Poor guileless thing! forgot by men,  
 The heaving turf directs to thee;  
 'Tis all thou art" to mortal ken,  
 But faith beyond the grave can see.  
 But what a burst of mind shall glow,  
 When, disencumber'd from this clod,  
 Thou, who on earth couldst nothing know,  
 Shall rise to comprehend thy God!  
 Oh! could thy spirit teach us now,  
 Full many a truth the gay might learn;  
 The value of a blameless life,  
 Full many a scorner might discern.  
 Yes! they might learn who waste their time,  
 What it must be to *know no sin*,  
 They who pollute the soul's sweet prime,  
 What to be spotless, pure within.  
 Go! then and seek her humble grave,  
 All ye who sport in Folly's ray,  
 And as the gale the grass shall wave,  
 List to a voice that seems to say:  
 'Tis not the measure of your powers,  
 To which the eternal meed is given;  
 'Tis wasted or improved hours,  
 Which forfeit or secure your heaven!"

#### MAXIMS.

A SLIP of the foot may soon be recovered, but  
 that of the tongue perhaps never.  
 A quiet conscience, causes a quiet sleep.  
 A man's best or worst fortune is a wife.

From *l'Oracle and Daily Advertiser.*

### MILITARY.

THE following plan of a new manual exercise for the forces of the United States, is respectfully submitted to the proper authority.

The manual practised consists of twenty-seven primary motions, as follow:—1. Poise firelock. 2. Cock firelock. 3. Take aim. 4. Fire. 5. Half cock firelock. 6. Handle cartridge. 7. Prime. 8. Shut pan. 9. Charge with cartridge. 10. Draw rammer. 11. Ram down cartridge. 12. Return rammer. 13. Shoulder firelock. 14. Order firelock. 15. Ground firelock. 16. Take up firelock. 17. Shoulder firelock. 18. Secure firelock. 19. Shoulder firelock. 20. Fix bayonet. 21. Shoulder firelock. 22. Present arms. 23. Shoulder firelock. 24. Charge bayonet. 25. Shoulder firelock. 26. Advance arms. 27. Shoulder firelock. In this the single motion of shoulder occurs seven times, and the firing motions are performed with empty barrels.

The substitute proposed consists of fifteen motions, as follow:—1. Fix bayonet. 2. Prime and load. 3. Shoulder firelock. 4. Make ready. 5. Take aim—fire. 6. Charge bayonet. 7. Shoulder firelock. 8. Half cock firelock. 9. Shut pan. 10. Slope arms. 11. Carry arms. 12. Support arms. 13. Carry arms. 14. Trail arms. 15. Order arms. Here no motion occurs but twice. Of the twenty-seven motions practised, we leave out six primary ones; the poise, ground, take up, secure, present, advance. The poise and cock are, the make ready in fact, and by this word which conveys the true meaning, the command is better expressed and more promptly executed; the men at once coming to the recover and cock.

Ground arms is rejected as useless and pernicious, filing arms by files of three being the proper position of the firelock when men are dismissed to refresh.—Arms laid on wet or damp ground are liable to damage, and certainly the superiority of filing, as to military effect, must be apparent to all. The secure is not a motion of action, of ease, or of parade; it is only used in wet weather to preserve the lock and loading from damage; it therefore should not incur the manual but be considered as a by or auxiliary motion.

The Present, a motion of salutation, only used on review or when a sentry salutes a general officer, may be dispensed with, and the carry arms adopted in its place. If the present is analyzed by a scientific disciplinarian, it will be found defective in military character; it places the arms in a strained posture; the position of the firelock, except with well disciplined troops, is unsteady, and the whole contour conveys the idea of weakness. We propose the line on review to be at the support, and the moment the general appears on the right, or in front, as the case may be, the commandant gives the word carry arms, which motion has a lively effect when done from the support; and instantly conveys the idea of vigour and military respect; the soldier appears to the best advantage, upright and firm to the front; the general has an unobstructed view of his troops, their arms and appointments. The present is a fatiguing position; the carry is quite as respectful and exhibits the tout ensemble of a soldier under arms.

Advance arms is another motion of ceremony, and now only used in escorting the colours on parade or attending an officer. The colours may be escorted with carried arms. The manly attitude of a platoon with carried arms is vastly superior in appearance to the crouching aspect of the advance.

We have arranged the proposed manual on the principle that the exercising or handling of our arms on parade should comport as near as possible the usage in action, and that nothing superfluous ought to be practised. It commences with fixing bayonet, because when troops are turned out to form, to take up the line of march, or lead into action, they naturally fall in at an order with their bayonets in the scabbards. The first motion therefore should be that which puts the soldier in a state of defence instantly. The superiority of fixing bayonets at an order over our present method, we presume will be apparent to any gentleman who may choose to take his firelock and put the motion to trial.

The loading, from the order, throwing the piece into the left hand, opening pan, &c. completes the arms for action, and at the third motion, (shoulder) the troops are prepared to engage, to take up the line of march, manoeuvre, or (if on parade) to proceed with the manual.

When the line has fired, the charge is the natural and necessary motion that follows. When in action a charge is determined on, it is preceded (in nine cases out of ten) by the volley, the troops advancing under the smoke of the small arms and field pieces.

The remainder, after shut pan, are indispensable motions of ease; four of which are not in our present manual, slope, support, carry and trail. When the parade ground admits, the battalion, or company, at the motion of charge, should be forward on the

charging step, dressed well to the front, close files and the rear rank nearly up to the locks step, inclining a little to the right; this practice on parade would produce a confidence of great importance to new troops when brought into action. It appears more necessary when we reflect on the structure of the human mind, that new troops should be led to the charge rather than stand to receive it. We will venture an opinion that a battalion who has never seen service, but has been well drilled to the charging step on parade, will if brought to the reality, dissipate a battalion of equal force, and excepting that particular, of equal accomplishments.

We have connected the whole of the priming and loading motions under the one word of command, prime and load, from the opinion that the soldier imbibes a slow habit by the command in detail, and that this important motion should be accelerated in the performance by all the impetuosity of which it is susceptible.

That the plan submitted is just such a one as should be adopted, we will not presume to say, but it is believed an improvement, and certainly some improvement on our present manual should be made by congress—the writer submits it to the better experience of his brother officers through the Union.

A system of tactics for the use of officers, by the authority of the general government, is much wanted at this period. The improved state of the science of war, renders the little we have in Stubbs obsolete. Officers delirious of qualifying themselves for their duty, and ambitious for information, study such works as their own or the opinion of others may recommend. Hence from the variety of theories, uncalculated discordance in practice must result, and if in presence of an enemy a critical movement becomes indispensable, defeat and havoc may be the consequence, and brave troops may be cut en masse for want of system and conformity of action. But all this, as also the improvement of our manual, depends on the supreme authority, the congress of the U. States.

### MONTGOMERY.

From *the American Citizen.*

THE plan of a new manual exercise signed Montgomery, which appeared in the Citizen a few days past, would in my opinion be very proper if in his omission of several useless motions, he had also excluded that of fixing bayonet. The bayonet ought to be fixed to the musket with a rivet, which would be a vast public saving of bayonet belts and scabbards, and often of the bayonet itself, as it has very frequently happened that when on a march, or even in camp or quarters, the bayonet drops out, or is taken from the scabbard and lost, whereas with it fastened to the musket, it is safe, and the soldier is always (even if surprized, which often happens) prepared to use it.

### LAWS OF THE UNION.

#### AN ACT

To alter the time for the next meeting of Congress.  
*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That after the adjournment of the present session, the next meeting of congress shall be on the first Monday of November next.  
 [Approved and signed, April 22, 1808.]

#### AN ACT

Making provision for arming and equipping the whole body of the Militia of the United States.  
*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the annual sum of two hundred thousand dollars be, and the same hereby is appropriated for the purpose of providing arms and military equipments for the whole body of the militia of the United States, either by purchase or manufacture by and on account of the United States.  
 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the president of the United States be and he hereby is authorized to purchase sites for, and erect, such additional arsenals and manufactories of arms as he may deem expedient under the limitations and restrictions now provided by law: *Provided also,* That so much of any law as restricts the number of workmen in the armouries of the U. States to one hundred men, be and the same hereby is repealed.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all the arms procured in virtue of this act shall be transmitted to the several states composing this union, and territories thereof, to each state and territory respectively in proportion to the number of the effective militia in each state and territory, and by each state and territory to be distributed to the militia in such state and territory, under such rules and regulations as shall be by law prescribed by the legislature of each state and territory.  
 [Approved and signed, April 22, 1808.]