

resistance, holding the enemy off until it receives orders to withdraw or is reinforced in its position from the main body, if it is considered advisable to hold its position; hence the necessity of posting it in a good defensible as well as commanding position. These duties should be equitably divided, that no part of the command be exhausted. If you have a train, it should be posted headed for retreat, the wagons so compact as to afford refuge or defense, usually in a circle, but in such order that it can be readily removed in any direction without confusion. Herding is necessary to keep animals in good condition and should be ordered whenever the risk of losing them is not too great. If the enemy be close and aggressive, herding will not be resorted to, and in no case will the animals be herded so such a distance from the main body as to be beyond its protection.

The camp thus established, all off duty should seek rest and refreshment. But to the commander there is no rest. He must now by observation or maps study the geography, topography and resources of the country in front of him, and by the arrest of citizens, spies or reconnoissance learn all he can of the conditions he is about to encounter, the strength and morale of his opponent, his position and movements. It will be remembered that reconnoissance can be made by a single officer or man or by as many of each as the commander can spare or thinks necessary.

The commander's first care will be to get in contact with his enemy and then to keep it. If he have cavalry, he will obtain contact with this arm, and at the same time screen his own movements, to enable him on receiving full information from the front so to dispose of his main force as to surprise the enemy and take him at a disadvantage. He must at all times be especially careful that he himself is not surprised. If the enemy's approach is not discovered until it is near enough to strike the main body (which should never occur if the screening, advance guard and outpost duty is properly performed) he would be thrown into confusion, and if the enemy be enterprising he will not allow him to recover sufficiently to deploy for action successfully. To protect against such a disaster the army should be divided into three general groups: advance guard, main body, rear guard. Each of these bodies will furnish their own flanking parties, unless the flanks are severely pressed, when special flanking parties may be detailed from the main body. All will keep separate far enough to allow the main body time to prepare for action when an alarm is given. This distance will depend on circumstances. In an open country it should be far enough to have the main body out of musketry fire, but not so far as to endanger its being cut off from the main body. In a close or rough country, especially if it be traversed by many roads or by-ways, all the bodies must be kept closer together. The party discovering the enemy can in this case generally take up a good defensive position, and hold the enemy off long enough to admit of thorough preparation.

Having developed the enemy, the commanding officer will now examine

the ground and determine upon his mode of attack and defense. In these days of improved fire arms it is as a rule not best to attempt a front attack; the better way is to increase the discovering party, make a determined showing in that direction, and maneuver unseen if possible, for the enemy's flank and rear. These dispositions made, advance your discovering party resolutely as a feint to attract the enemy's attention, more fully develop his strength, and lead him to expect the main attack from this direction, in preparing to meet which he weakens himself. When it is actually to occur, you should have selected a good place to put your reserve in case of reverse, but primarily it must be understood that this reserve is to strengthen any weak point in the advance and check any successful attack made upon it. If the main attack is unsuccessful and your troops commence to fall back generally, order the reserve to the point selected and move your beaten forces in rear and in support of it. In the selection of this point care must be taken to protect your train. If the enemy be successful, every effort must be made to stop him, even at the risk of the loss of your artillery, if you have any. I will say more about artillery a little further on. It should not be difficult to stop the enemy temporarily, but now the commander will have to decide promptly as to his further action. If a retreat is decided upon, strong detachments should be made to stop the advance of the enemy, and as soon as all who are not engaged in doing this can be withdrawn beyond the enemy's fire and sight, a halt will be ordered and a rear guard detailed and placed in position. The resisting force will now be withdrawn and join the main body. For this, methods are prescribed that would consume the time of more than one lecture to explain. The retreat is conducted, trains in front, until better opportunities for the offensive offer, when it should immediately be resorted to. The only chance for success is in the offensive whether it be a general offensive or what is called an offensive return. Unless you become aggressive you cannot prevent your opponent from being so. If you succeed instead of being repulsed, the general rules laid down for the first named class of operations will obtain. This gives you the initial for an aggressive movement by marches. To make the instruction complete each of the methods referred to should be treated separately and at length.

I made slight reference to artillery. Great care must always be taken not to expose your artillery unnecessarily to infantry fire, not so much on account of danger to the men as to the animals. In movements by march a battery could be disabled and rendered useless except on the spot where it stood if thus exposed, and the objective of the offensive might be changed from the enemy to it. Therefore in a line of march as a rule a battery will be with the main body. Only in rare circumstances will it be sent with the advance or rear parties. Horse artillery, on account of its greater mobility, may be kept with these bodies if the necessity be urgent, but even then must remain with their reserves. Artillery fire serves a double purpose. In the first place it is indicative that the force using it is

considerable, and will draw the enemy into more extensive development to oppose it. And second, by reason of this greater development it will delay the enemy in making it and expose their strength, which is much to be desired. Artillery is frequently of the greatest use when closely pressed in retreat. By selecting a strong defensive position, with a good field of fire on the avenues of approach, it can stop the pursuers at a great distance from the rear guard, and force them to change from column of march into line of attack, and when this is effected the guns will be immediately withdrawn, and a new position further to the rear selected. The enemy now will lose more time in getting back to column, thus the retreating force gain on their pursuers without loss.

The general rule is however to keep your artillery out of close action lest it be disabled by infantry fire. In the first operations I mentioned artillery should always be located in rear of the infantry and guarded by good troops detailed for this purpose. Against a mob artillery will not require so much support. Indeed many occasions will offer themselves when the entire action may be carried on by the use of this arm. Napoleon put down one of the most formidable attacks made on the Convention at Paris, in 1795, with cannon. As far as we read, not a shot was fired by infantry or cavalry, yet the guns were supported by both.

Thus my friends I have endeavored to give you very cursorily a few of the methods you would have to adopt if you were suddenly called out to act. The chief reliance of those you would be likely to oppose is that your ignorance would be overcome by their numbers. My effort tonight is to excite your interest in your profession sufficiently to dissipate any such idea. I am sure you will agree with me that the study of the art of command is the climax of military education, and that it is not well to consider your education as national guardsmen complete until you have mastered it. You have much to be satisfied with in the progress you have made—a most thorough equipment, brave and skillful officers at your head, and an improvement in the rudiments that augurs well for your future. You have my best wishes for your entire success, and for the absolute confidence of the community you wish to defend.

W. V. RICHARDS,  
Captain Sixteenth U. S. Infantry.

### THE YOUNG FAMILY REUNION.

For some weeks the executive committee of the Young Family association have been busily preparing to celebrate in an appropriate manner the birthday of President Brigham Young. Last Friday, through the kindness of the President of the Church and Apostle Lorenzo Snow, the Temple was opened to all who desired to take a name for the progenitors of Patriarch John Young, and 153 of the family and friends availed themselves of this glorious privilege. The assembly room of the Temple was beautifully decorated and the picture of President Young hung in the doorway, entwined with flowers and drapery.

Saturday, June 1st, through the in-