from London. This place is celebrated from King Alfred having been born in a royal residence which it once contain­ed. The town stands in the vale of the White Horse ; a name given to it from the figure of a gigantic horse cut in the side of a chalk-hill, to commemorate Alfred’s victory over the Danes. It is in a galloping position, and covers nearly an acre of ground. Near to the horse are some stones set on edge, said to be the burial-place of the Danish leaders who fell in the battle, which, according to the tradition, was fought near it. The peasantry in the neighbourhood are accustomed to assemble yearly at midsummer for what is called *scouring the horse,* when they remove every weed and obstacle that may have obscured the figure, and after­wards spend the day in various rural sports. It is now a place of little trade, except that of making flaxen cloth for sacking. There is a market on Saturday, and four annual fairs. The population amounted in 1821 to 2560, and in 1831 to 2507.

WAPENTAKE is the same with what is called a *hun­dred,* especially used in the north counties beyond the river Trent. The word seems to be of Danish original, and to be so applied for this reason : when first the kingdom, or a part, was divided into wapentakes, he who was the chief of the wapentake or hundred, and who is now called a *high constable,* as soon as he entered upon his office, appeared in a field on a certain day on horseback with a pike in his hand, and all the chief men of the hundred met him there with their lances, and touched his pike ; which was a sign that they were firmly united to each other by the touching their weapons. But Sir Thomas Smith says, that ancient­ly musters were made of the armour and weapons of the several inhabitants of every wapentake ; and from those that could not find sufficient pledges for their good bearing, their weapons were taken away and given to others ; from whence he derives the word.

WAPPING. See London.

WAR.

That portion of military science which falls to be treated under this term, may be conveniently discussed, in a work like the present, under thc two main and obvious divisions of War by Land, and War by Sea. We shall accordingly view the subject with reference to these divisions.

PART I.—WARLIKE OPERATIONS BY LAND.

Referring generally to the articles Army, Artillery, Fortification, and Gunnery, for much that, in a large view, belongs to the science of war, we shall under this division of the present head direct our attention to the great principles of war ; and shall endeavour to give as full a view of their applications and combinations as our limits will allow.

Jomini has demonstrated that the art of war reposes upon one governing principle, or what may be termed the fundamental maxim ; by the application of which all the combinations are good, and without which they are all faulty. This maxim consists in effecting, with the greatest mass of forces, a combined operation upon the decisive point. To illustrate the subject, it may be observed, that the decisive point in war, or what has been termed the primitive objective point, is obviously that in which resides the principle of strength in an enemy ; and it follows, that to be able to destroy it in the shortest and most effectual manner, must be the fundamental principle adopted by his antagonist. The mode of effecting this purpose is how­ever the difficult part of the question, because of the infi­nite variety of circumstances to which it is subjected. But the theory of war may nevertheless be divided into three primitive combinations ; because the practice is composed of as many branches, each of which depends upon parti­cular principles : therefore, a great operation, to he perfect, ought to include the three primitive combinations ; be­cause then they produce the complete application of the fundamental maxim. The first of these relates to what is commonly termed forming the plan of a campaign, and consists, either in an offensive or defensive view, in the art of embracing the lines of operations in the most advantage­ous manner. The second is the art of moving the mass of forces, in the most rapid manner possible, upon the objec­tive point of the primitive or accidental line of operations.

This is the method of execution, or strategy. The third is the art of combining the simultaneous application of the mass of forces on the most important point of a field of battle. This branch is usually designated by the term Tactics.@@1

I.—PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

A plan of campaign depends upon six essential consider­ations: 1st, the political situation of both parties; 2d, the situation of the moment ; 3d, the relative force and military means ; 4th, the location and distribution of the armies ; 5th, the natural line of operations ; 6th, the most advantageous line of operations. In forming thc plan, it is not necessary to have regard solely to the exact balance of the relative means of war between the parties, but to view them only as they are important. Territorial and manoeu­vring lines of operations are the principal object ; and though they are subject to many accessory considerations, the rules of the art must nevertheless form their basis. Originality and great boldness are not incompatible with their application ; such, for instance, as the plan which Napoleon, in 1800, executed in Italy. No enterprise could be more daring, none more rich in great and decisive com­binations, or more prudent and cautious ; since, while it menaced the enemy with ruin, no greater misfortune could occur, in case of check, than the sacrifice of the extreme rear-guard.

Before we proceed, it may be useful to fix, by defini­tions, several terms, upon the comprehension of which the most important military reasoning depends.

By *a base or basis of operations* is meant a frontier, the course of a river, a coast, a range of mountains or fortresses, or any topographical or political extent of country, upon the imaginary line of which the corps of an army assemble, offensively, to take their departure from thence into the enemy’s country, and towards which, in case of failure, it is intended to retreat ; defensively, to counteract all the measures which an invading force may pursue.

*Lines of operations* are divided into territorial and ma­noeuvring lines. By *territorial lines* are understood those which nature or art has traced for the defence or in­vasion of states. Frontiers covered by fortresses, or de­fended by nature with chains of mountains, great rivers, or

@@@1 For the sake of perspicuity, when this term is applied to the instruction of troops, it should be distinguished by the qualifying adjective. *Elementary Tactics.* Thus also the phrases, science, and art of war, are used as synonymous, while we should understand by the science of war, the knowledge of the theory of all its elements ; and by the art of war, the skilful application of that knowledge.