166. Notes on Military Drill (prose), May/June (or late May 1831?), Bem 1518. Unpublished.

Included in Ruskin’s first sketchbook are “five pages . . . devoted to notes on military drill, both foot and sword drill. . . . written in rough in pencil, perhaps as Ruskin watched the soldiers drill at Dover Castle [during a family holiday]. The first portion of the notes have been subsequently written over in ink in Ruskin’s early copperplate” (James S. Dearden, Facets of Ruskin: Some Sesquicentennial Studies [London: Charles Skilton, 1970], p. 89). See no. 157 and MS ? concerning the ordering of contents in this sketchbook: since these notes appear first in the now dismembered sketchbook, they may well date from the summer journey of 1831, which began at Dover. The notes are equally likely, however, to have been inserted during the 1832 summer holiday, when more time was spent at Dover and other places in the southeast.