safety ; and that he will be enabled to foresee the enemy’s motions.

There are but three sorts of countries which may become the theatre of war ; an open country divided by rivers, a woody, or a mountainous one.

When an army is in an open country, the general may take whatever road he thinks most convenient, without be­ing under a necessity of keeping the beaten road. If he chooses to march across the country, it may be done by cutting down the hedges, filling up the ditches, levelling the ridges, filling up the hollow ways, thereby rendering their aſcent or deſcent easy, and by building bridges over the streams and rivulets which divide the country. But nevertheless it is very imprudent for a general to ſuppoſe himself entirely free from danger upon a march ; for the conſequences of ſelf-ſecurity are generally fatal. The effects of negligence in any military operation are pernicious, but more particularly so upon a march ; and although a gene­ral ſhould never fear his enemy when in presence of him, he ſhould nevertheless always apprehend the worst from him when he is out of his sight.

The number of columns in which an army can march in an open country is arbitrary, whilst it is advancing, and the enemy at too meat a distance to attack or annoy it upon its march. But if, on the contrary, the enemy is near at hand, and there is a possibility of his attacking the army, it ſhould then be diſpoſed after ſuch a manner as to form in order of battle in a very ſhort time, and to be able to take a favourable position for action upon the first signal.

If the army presects its flank to the enemy, the diſpositions, without considering the probability of its being attacked, ſhould be changed ; for an army upon a march ought to be always prepared against any accident that may happen.

A general ſhould never cauſe an army to move without having previouſly considered and examined the intended march of it, nor without a thorough knowledge of the enemy’s position, and where he is, or without knowing par­ticularly the ground intended to encamp on. An army ought never to move but with some design, either to ſeize on ſome advantageous post, to prevent an intended march of the enemy’s, to draw him into a disadvantageous situation, to deprive him of ſubsistence, or to procure ſome for itſelf.

This maxim being establiſhed, let it be ſuppoſed, that a general would cauſe his army to march, and the enemy’s distance to be alſo ſuch as to ſecure him from any danger of attacks ; he hath it in his power to open four, six, or eight roads, in proportion to the number of the troops under his command: for the greater the number of columns, the leſs is the body of troops contained in each ; conſequently there will be leſs confusion, and the ſooner will the army arrive at its destined camp.

Before the march is planned, and the number of columns determined upon in which the army is to march, notwithstanding the general is acquainted with the country, he ſhould send out a detachment ſome days before, to recon­noitre the intended route of the army, as well as the camp it is to occupy. This detachment is to be commanded by the officers of the day appointed for its ſetting out : they must have staff-officers and guides with them, to conduct and to inform them of the nature of whatever may prove an obstacle, of the places where the roads begin, and thoſe where they terminate : they ſhould alſo have labourers with them, to mend the ways, enlarge the roads, and make new ones, if necessary ; to cut down the hedges, fill up the ditches, level the ridges of the hollows, and build or repair bridges.

When the general commanding this detachment is ready to enter the different ways through which the army is to follow, he will divide his detachment into as many separate bodies as the army is to be divided into upon its march ; and distribute staff-officers, guides, and labourers, to each detachment, with orders to meet again at the same place from whence they ſeparated.

Each of theſe detachments ſhould advance to the extre­mities of the woods, if they meet with any, and of the roads leading to the camp, intended to be occupied : the com­manding and staff officers will then advance with an escort to reconnoitre its situation, and will leave part of their men in ambuſcade in the woods, or concealed behind ſome heights, or in ſome hollows. The knowledge of the ſituation of the camp being attained, each detachment will re­turn by the road it came ; but first, the commanding officer of each detachment will make a report to the general of the roads they have passed, what discoveries they have made, and, in ſhort, will give him a particular detail of every thing they have met with on their way, whether woods, villages, hollows, bridges, and of every thing they have done to render the road eaſy for the column that is to paſs through it. This detachment being assembled at the place appointed for meeting, will take the road to the camp, where being arrived, the lieutenant-general will make his report to the commander in chief of the army.

With theſe precautions the army may not only advance in safety, but the roads alſo for every column having been reconnoitred and repaired, no accident can happen to retard the march of the army.

The general must take care to have detachments of hussars or dragoons always in the front and upon the flanks, to observe and clear the march of the army ; neither ſhould a general ſuppoſe himself to be in abſolute ſecurity from the distance of the enemy: but whilst he sees all clear before him, it would ſhow great weakneſs for him to be apprehensive of a ſurpriſe, eſpecially when every necessary precaution for avoiding it hath been taken. It is certainly a mark of prudence to take precautions ; but multiplying them with­out cauſe is an undoubted sign of fear and anxiety.

It is proper to make the army march, as near as poſſible, in the same order in which it is to encamp ; by which means the troops may enter the camp without confusion. The army being ſuppoſed to march in six columns, the infantry will form three, the artillery and baggage the fourth ; the cavalry, with the remainder of the corps of hussars that are not detached, and the dragoons, the two last upon the flanks ; ſo that the army, on its march, will be in the fol­lowing diſposition : The column upon the right will consist of cavalry, the one adjoining to it of infantry, and that which comes next will be formed by the artillery and bag­gage ; then two columns of infantry, and the ſixth closing the left, will be compoſed of cavalry. It is to be obſerved, that, if the baggage-waggons belonging to the army form too long a row, ſome of them may be sent into the rear of the columns of infantry, with expreſs orders to the officers to make them march in the column.

There ſhould be an advanced and a rear guard to each column, formed from the troops of which the column is compoſed ; there ſhould be alſo detachments of light horſe upon the flanks of the cavalry, in order to keep off any of the enemy’s parties that might advance to annoy the army upon its march. The rear-guard to the column of baggage ſhould consist of infantry, cavalry, or dragoons, besides the escort always appointed for it. The general officers who are at the head of the two columns of cavalry ſhould not march too fast, lest they ſhould get too far advanced before the infantry ; a matter always to be avoided. The march