If, during ine retreat of the chain, it ſhould receive assistance from the army, it ſhould charge the enemy, not- withstanding its being too late to go on with the foraging ; and if this charge ſhould prove successful in either beating or causing the enemy to retire, he ſhould be purſued without intermission, in order to deprive him of all desire for repeat­ing the attack. In order to improve this advantage to the utmoft, the commanding officer ſhould leave a large detach­ment, consiſting of infantry, cavalry, dragoons, and huilais, to continue all night upon the ſpot, and the next morning betimes, the foragers, properly eſcorted, will come to take away the forage ; and as ſoon as the eſcort is arrived in the 'frönt of the chain, tire detachment which hath remained there all night must return to the camp.

There still remain many other precautions to be taken for the security of foraging parties, but the limits prescribed to us will not admit of our stating them. We ſhall only add, that the foragers, in entering the ground they are to en- compaſs, do not occupy more than is absolutely requisite, and that they do not ſpoil more grain than they carry away ’with them ; first, becauſe by extending the chain it would be weakened, and become eaſier to be forced ; and in the second place, every prudent officer ſhould be an economist in the article of forage ; the officers commanding the ſmall eſcorts which march at the head of each regiment ſhould be charged with the care of this. Theſe officers will cauſe their troops to march as much as poſſible through roads and over grounds which are untilled, till they arrive at the place intended to be foraged. If all the grounds are ſown, the commanding officer must cauſe the cavalry to diſmount at the place where the chain halts, and part of the troopers furniſhed with ſcythes must go and cut the grain, while the remainder hold the horſes ; and when there ſhall be no far­ther room to fear damaging the forage, the cavalry will re­mount and take it up. Each place ſhould be marked out for a brigade or a regiment ; which distribution ſhould be made by the staff-officers before the troops arrive.

Sect. IX. *Of the Detachments for forming a Chain of dry Forage.*

If there is great exactneſs and knowledge required in the conducting of parties for green forage, thoſe for dry forage perhaps require more ; and, in general, every thing that re­gards foraging parties, whether green or dry, excites a par­ticular attention in the commander in chief ; and, according to the chevalier Folard, all ſucceſs in war depends upon ſecrecy, diligence, activity, and the thorough knowledge of the country.

The diſpoſitions for forming a chain of dry forage, which differ from thoſe for forming one of green, will direct the means for extending the chain in proportion to its strength, and at the fame time place the foragers in ſecurity ; although, in parties of dry forage, the foragers generally take up leſs ground, according to the distance of the villages that are to be foraged from each other.

The diſpoſitions for a chain of dry forage are alſo varied according to the nature of the country ; but whether it be ©pen or mountainous, each different body ſhould be placed in that part where it can act with the greatest facility ; the infantry therefore ſhould occupy the villages, and the cavalry the plain in front, and should be diſpoſed after ſuch a man­ner as to be able to retire easily to the protection of the in­fantry. Before the foraging is put in execution, the com­mander in chief ſhould mark out the villages to the general officer who is to command the foraging party, and regulate their number by the quantity of troops that are to forage. The first diſpositions will be the same with thoſe mentioned in the foregoing ſection in relation to green forage : there­fore the general who is to command the forage ought to ſet out with a detachment in order to examine the ground, the posts necessary to be occupied, the villages which are to be foraged, their situation, the rivers which cover or run through them, the bridges to be guarded, the distance from one village to another, and with what degree of eaſe the communication with them may be ſecured. After having thoroughly examined into theſe particulars, he can with eaſe form a judgment of the number of troops that will be necessary to form the chain and ſecure the foragers ; after having done this, he will order the bailiff or burgomaster of every village to come to him, and inquire of them the number of husbandmen, and how many ploughs each huſbandman hath belonging to him ; by which he will be able to calculate the number of sheafs reaped by each husbandman.

The general may, for every plough, reckon about 30 acres of ground ; and, in proportion to the fertility of the ground, every acre will produce from 120 to 160 ſheafs : by this method may be computed the number of ſheafs reaped by an huſbandman who hath three or four ploughs; and from this calculation the general will judge whether the number of ſheafs, ſuppofed to be in each village, will be ſuf­ficient for the troops coming to them.

Let every acre of ground be ſupposed to yield 144 ſheafs; then a husbandman who hath three ploughs will have reap­ed 12,960 ſheafs; ſo by reckoning 12 sheafs to a truſs, and every truſs to weigh 600 pounds weight, this husbandman will ſupply ſufficient for 124 trusses. It is true, that ſome deduction ſhould be made from the number of trusses that every acre may yield, as the huſbandman or farmer may have preferved or conſumed ſome either for daily uſe or for feed.

It is very neceffary that the general ſhould take care to leave ſufficient grain, not only to enable the huſbandman to live, but alſo to ſow his grounds ; particularly if he foreſees a probability of the next campaign being carried on in the fame country.

Nevertheleſs, as this manner of reckoning may be attend­ed with inconveniences, becauſe there are ſome villages which keep up a particular trade of forage and grain, and therefore the granaries and barns may ſometimes be found empty, yet the quantity of ſheafs and grain remaining in the village may be calculated by the number of inhabitants to be subsisted. Marshal de Puységur’s method, which consists in informing himſelf of the number of horned cattle and horſes, and by deducting the time they graze, is a very good one ; but ftill there must be ſome deficiency in this calculation, as it will be impossible to fix with certainty the time of their grazing.

When the general ſhall have arrived at a tolerable cer­tainty of the quantity of forage ; the ground where to establiſh his chain ; the posts which the infantry are to occupy; and taken a note of the quantity of forage ; he will carry away One or two of the bailiffs or burgomasters, as hofta- ges for the ſecurity of the forage : he will alſo direct them to inform the inhabitants, that if they conceal or purloin but even a single ſheaf from the whole, he will cauſe their village to be first pillaged, and afterwards ſet on fire; ſo that the peaſants, on whom theſe threats have often great effect, will ſcarcely give the enemy information of the in­tended forage. The general mull leave ſome companies of infantry, ſustained by a detachment of huffars in every vil­lage, who, by constantly patroling on the outskirts, will flop all comers and goers ; while the infantry will keep a strict guard on the inside of the village, and permit no person to go out of it; nor ſuffer the bells to be rung,