colours to be hoisted upon the steeple, or fires to be light­ed ; and will put a stop to every thing that may be ſuppoſed to be a signal agreed on with the enemy. When the ge­neral hath completed all theſe diſpositions, he will return and give an account of them to the commander in chief.

The same general ſhall, upon the day appointed for the forage, set out at day-break, with the troops destined for the chain, and the staff-officers. As ſoon as he ſhall be got within sight of the villages, he will not fail to have them ex­amined, notwithstanding he left troops in them the forego­ing evening. When they are all examined, he will leave them in the rear, march on into the front, and draw up in order of battle ; after that, he will form the chain, regula­ting the diſpofitions of it by the situation of the ground, and of the villages examined over-night. The hussars will ad­vance three quarters of a league or a league, in order to scour the country ; during which time the staff-officers, instructed by the general of the quantity of ſheafs contained in each village, will, attended by the bailiffs or burgomasters, make a distribution of the forage by regiment or brigade, and assign a barn to each, or one to two. When this distribution is made, the staff-officers will make a report of it to the general commanding the party.

As all the villages marked out to be foraged are not in the same line, thoſe which are in the rear, and covered by others in which there is infantry, and by the chain of horſe and dragoons in the front, require but a ſmall number of troops ; and if a detachment of infantry is posted in them, it is more with a view of preventing the troopers and ſervants from marauding than any thing else.

The eſcort belonging to each regiment, commanded by a captain, ſhould remain upon the ſpot where the regiment forages, and, with the assistance of the infantry, prevent diſorder among the foragers, and send off thoſe who are loaded. As soon as a regiment is ſet off, the captain com­manding the ſmall eſcort must report it to the general of­ficer commanding the forage ; after which he will follow, and form the rear-guard of it.

As ſoon as the general ſhall be appriſed by the staff-of­ficers, and the captains commanding the ſmall efforts, that a village is evacuated, he may contract his chain, and draw it nearer together, till the foragers are gone ; which when they are, he will assemble his troops, and detach as many platoons of infantry as there are villages : or rather the body of infantry polled in each village during the forage, ſhould leave a party to make a strict ſearch after all stragglers and marauders ; the first they ſhould keep with them, and make the others priſoners, and punish them ſeverely on their return to the camp. When all the different bodies ſhall be re-assembled, and the officers commanding them have made the report, the general will order the hussars to be called in, and form a rear-guard according to the man­ner directed in the foregoing section, and return to the camp in the same order, and with the same diſpositions, as if be expected to be attacked.

Part II. Of the OPERATIONS of OFFENSIVE WAR.

JUSTICE and humanity having been considered, in this article, as the first principles of war, the chief intention of the first part hath therefore been, rather to convey maxims for a just defence, than to lay down rules for attacking. But though defensive war be that alone to which religion and philoſophy give their ſanction, it does not follow that a nation is bound to wait patiently for the attack of its enemies. When the conduct of other nations is ſuch as evidently to ſhow that they meditate a war, the nation threatened may arm itſelf, and strike the first blow when it can be struck with advantage. There is only one precau­tion for avoiding the danger with which it is beſet. By obſerving the various operations of an offensive war, it may indeed be often ſeen that the whole is nothing more than a series of defence, and that the fear of being attacked is the real ſource whence theſe precautions for attacking ſpring.

Sect. I. *Of Spies.*

It is impossible for a general, or even for an officer char­ged with the command of a detachment, to act with certain­ty if he have not ſpies or ſecret intelligence diſperſed about the enemy’s army ; for, without the information which they alone can give, he will have the mortification to see all his de­igns miscarry, and all his precautions become uſeleſs, becauſe improperly taken.

No expence therefore ſhould be spared to procure intelli­gent ſpies ; but care ſhould be taken that they are unac­quainted with each other, and particularly that they are not known to any inferior officer : they ſhould be always ſpoken to alone, and never be ſuffered to meet each other. The general ſhould study their character, and prove them by re­peated trials ; he ſhould sound them by degrees, beginning with things not difficult to be explained, and which, if discovered, will not be of great conſequence ; he ſhould en­gage them in long converſations, thereby to form a judge­ment of their parts and comprehension ; and he ſhould alſo employ them often in bringing him intelligence.

Although a general ſhould always be upon his guard with a ſpy whom he hath cauſe to ſuſpect of treachery, he may nevertheless draw great advantage from him, provided he knows how to deceive him properly ; becauſe he may be very certain he will inform the enemy of all the reſolutions which have been taken.

The emperor Leo, in his Tactic, adviſes a general, who hath reaſon to imagine his counſels are betrayed to the enemy, to conceal his real designs, by ſpeaking in a manner quite oppoſite to them : For, says he, in the maxims at the end of his book, an enemy must be deceived who receives intelligence from ſpies or deſerters directly contrary to what is actually reſolved upon. But, adds he, ſhould theſe ſpies be entrusted with the general’s real intention, he ſhould, by ſome alteration in his operations, endeavour to perſuade the enemy that they have deceived him ; upon which he will grow mistrustful of them, and be obliged to look out for others, no longer daring to confide in the former.

If a ſpy employed by the enemy is diſcovered, and brought to the general, he ought to take him in private, question with mildneſs, ſpeak to him with a sort of confi­dence, and, instead of threatening, ſhould promise him a re­ward if he will diſcover to him what he knows of the ene­my’s intentions. If the general finds him intelligent, he ſhould endeavour to engage him in his ſervice ; and, pro­vided he can gain him over by force of money, a thing not difficult, he may derive great advantage from him ; but he ſhould be careful how he employs him, till he hath very good reaſon to be assured of his fidelity.

There are many different methods of trying the veracity of a ſpy : if, for example, the general receives information, that, on ſuch a day, a detachment of the enemy is to ſet out on ſome expedition, he ſhould then send out troops to double the number of thoſe detached by the enemy ; by