ation, and place itſelf in ſome other part, but not abandon its original project till the last extremity, and till there is no longer any hope of ſucceeding otherwiſe.

The least thing, as has already been ſaid, may be the occasion of an ambuſcade’s being diſcovered. The fire of a pipe may be seen at a great distance in the night-time : be­ides, however ſmall the number of soldiers who ſmoke may be, the wind may carry the ſmoke and the ſmell of the to­bacco toward that part where the enemy patroles. The ambuſcade ſhould not be cumbered with ſervants, or any thing elſe that is unnecessary ; orders ſhould be given that the horſes are tied with care, and that a profound silence is obſerved by every body. As it is very difficult for hussars or dragoons to march without leaving marks behind them, by which means the road leading to the ambuſcade may be diſcovered, they ſhould try to enter it by ſome bye-way, or at least by as dry a one as poſſible. In order to efface the marks of the horſes feet, eight or ten hussars or dra­goons may tie branches of trees to their horſes tails, and, by marching behind the detachment, in as large a front as the whole body, will destroy any marks that are made : as ſoon as they ſhall have entered the wood, they will cloſe up the entrance with the same branches, of which they will make a sort of hedge.

If the detachment intended to form an ambuſcade, whether infantry or cavalry, is obliged to march upon a high-way, as ſoon as it comes near the place appointed, the commanding officer ſhould detach a body on before, with orders to take up the same front as the whole detachment. As ſoon as it ſhall have proceeded a quarter or half a league, it will return by another way ; and it ſhould alſo make a large circuit, ſo that the enemy’s parties, coming the same way, will not perceive that they ſhall be stopped by any troops in that place. This body will rejoin the troops which are in ambuſcade, by a road the most out of the enemy’s view, never in a body, but ſcattered, ſo that they may leave fewer marks behind them. Sentries ſhould be concealed behind buſhes, in the front of the am­buſcade, ſo that they may be able to see the country and ways about them, without being ſeen themſelves : two or three ſoldiers ſhould alſo be made to climb into trees, in order to see at a great distance, and give notice if they per­ceive any troops ; the same method must be obſerved with regard to hussars or dragoons.

Before the commanding officer enters the wood where he would form his ambuſcade, he ſhould detach two or three patroles to ſcour it, for fear the enemy ſhould happen to be there in ambuſcade himſelf ; after every part has been searched, the troops must enter the wood, and range them­ſelves according to the order that ſhall have been given them. The commanding officer will form three bodies of his detachment, and place them at a distance one from ano­ther ; one will be destined to attack the advanced guard, the other the centre, and the last the rear-guard. If the detachment consists of cavalry, the half of each corps ſhould be on horſeback; no perſons ſhould slip or paſs the ſentries or vedettes under pain of being declared deſerters. Du­ring the night, the cavalry ſhould be mounted, and the in­fantry under arms : in the day-time, half thoſe on foot will relieve thoſe on horſeback every three hours ; and the same ſhould be done with the vedettes, as well as the in­fantry and sentries.

If the ambuſcade is behind an height or ſmall mountain, ſentries must be placed on the top, lying on their bellies, and without hats : in other reſpects the same diſpositions ought to be obſerved, whether on the march or for the conducting of ambuſcades, always paying a proper regard to circumstances and the situation of the country.

There are divers methods of drawing the enemy into ambuſcades. The general commanding the army or quar­ters sends out a detachment under the command of an in­telligent officer, to form an ambuſcade, at the distance of one or two leagues, more or leſs, according as the country is fitting for thoſe sort of diſpositions, or according to the distance of the enemy. The general must acquaint this officer, that two hours after he is ſet out, he will send out another detachment, of leſs force, with orders to go on the side where the enemy is, to endeavour to meet him, and at first sight to make a feint of charging him ; but, as if find­ing him too ſtrong, he will begin his retreat, directing it toward the place where the troops are in ambuſcade : furniſhed with theſe instructions he will set out.

Then the general will send for the officer intended to command the detachment that is to go in ſearch of the enemy, and inform him of that which is ſet out to form the am­buſcade, and of the place where it is ; he will order him to advance as near to the enemy as he can, and to draw him by a feigned retreat upon the troops in ambuſcade.

Theſe two officers ſhould be the only perſons informed of the design ; but nevertheleſs the commandant of the de­tachment which is to go towards the enemy, may commu­nicate it to the principal officers under his command ; ſo that in case he ſhould be taken or killed in the retreat, he that ſucceeds in the command may be able to act according to the general’s intentions. He must be particularly care­ful, that no ſoldier, trooper, hussar, or dragoon, penetrate into the design of the detachment, as it would then be in the power of a single deſerter to make the ambuſcade miſcarry. The detachment which is to go and ſeek the enemy, in order to draw him into the ambuſcade, ought to be compoſed of hussars, unleſs the country be of ſuch a nature that infantry only is capable of acting.

During the time that the hussars are gone before, endea­vouring to draw on the enemy, the troops in ambush will be on horſeback, and waiting in silence for their command­er’s order to go out and charge. As ſoon as they ſhall have charged and beaten the enemy, for fear left another detachment, at a little distance from that which has been beaten, ſhould come to its assistance, they will take the ſhortest way, and march leiſurely, but with order, towards the camp or the quarters. The detachment which drew the enemy into the ambuſcade, must form the rear-guard of it, and will march ſlowly on, while the rest of the troops will retreat, conducting the priſoners with them. If the enemy sends any ſuccours, as soon as the rear-guard per­ceives them, it will double its pace, but with order; there will be no reaſon to apprehend the enemy’s coming too briſkly upon it, becauſe he will be fearful of falling into another ambuſcade : thus the rear-guard will retreat with eaſe, and the troops who conduct the priſoners have time enough to reach the camp, without any molestation.

It is on theſe occasions that a man ſhould know how to keep his courage within proper bounds, and be ſensible that flight is glorious : the deſpair or an enemy that is surpriſed, and even beaten, is always to be feared, when he is not entirely defeated. A man ſhould always be concent with one victory, without attempting a second : he may, by purſuing the enemy too eagerly, fall himſelf into ambuscades more dangerous than that he has just drawn the enemy into.

If there is reaſon to apprehend that the enemy, having notice from ſome deſerters, are coming in full strength, the ambuſcade must then change its situation and draw nearer to the place from whence it ſet out. This will serve two purposes; for ſhould the enemy appear in force, the ambuscade will have the shorter way to retreat; or it may again happen