ſo that when the whole army ſhall have paſſed, the troops who occupy the redoubts may retire with ease. The ca­valry will paſs the bridges without stopping behind the re­doubts.

In a retreat of this kind, the infantry ſhould march in co­lumn, and the cavalry in order of battle, upon the flanks of the infantry. Before the march is begun, ſome troops must be sent to occupy the redoubts ; and as ſoon as they ſhall be in possession of them, the army will put itſelf in march, and proceed towards them. The cavalry of the right must paſs over the bridge nearest to it, and that of the left will do the same. The columns of infantry must enter by the ſpaces which are between each redoubt ; the grenadiers and the piquets must remain, in order to ſustain the troops oc­cupying the redoubts : ſome pieces of cannon ſhould alſo be left to fire upon the enemy in case he ſhould approach too near ; the columns must paſs over the three bridges ; the grenadiers and the piquets must alſo draw near the head of the bridges at night-fall ; the troops occupying the redoubts must quit them ſilently, and paſs the bridges; they must be followed by the cannon that has been left during the day ; the grenadiers must paſs last of all ; after they are passed, the bridges must be broke down. This may be eaſily executed, provided order and silence are preſerved ; but if the enemy entertains the least ſuſpicion of the redoubts being abandoned, he will come in full strength to attack the troops still remaining on that side. These troops, too weak to resist a ſuperior number, cannot avoid being beaten, slaughtered, or drowned, the cannon taken, and the bridges burnt.

For greater ſecurity, the grenadiers and the piquets may be fumiſhed with chevaux-de-friſe, which will make an en­trenchment, till the troops which occupied the redoubts are retired. A retreat never merits the epithet of fine, except it is performed with order, and with the loſs of as few brave men as possible, to save the rest of the army.

In every enterpriſe formed by a general in difficult places, he must, according to Μ. de la Valiere, provide for his retreat. In retreats of all kinds, adds the duke of Rohan, a general cannot be too attentive to render it ſafe\, and to avoid disorder : when it is the effect of his own choice, it ought to be made ſo early, and ſo expeditiously, that he may not be under a necessity of fighting.

During the passage of a river, or even after a general has passed it, if he ſhould be repulſed, the retreat becomes very difficult, and cannot be performed without great loſs ; it is for that reaſon that many generals, who have been mistrustful of the firmneſs of their troops, have burnt their ſhips in the port, in order to animate them to victory, from considering the impossibility of retreating.

The following retreats by Μ. Saxe acroſs rivers, will give the reader ſome notion how ſuch enterpriſes ſhould be con­ducted.

In the campaign of 1742, the diſposition of that com­mander for passing the Danube owed its whole ſucceſs to secrecy, to his addreſs in profiting by circumstances, and particularly to a very thick fog.

The two armies were encamped two leagues distant from each other, and the light troops ſkirmiſhed together the whole day. At ſeven o’clock at night, count Saxe ſent for the general officers, furniſhed them with instructions, and cauſed the guards to be doubled. At nine o’clock, the baggage off over two bridges ; one of rafts and ano­ther of piles ; after which the infantry paſſed, and the gre­nadiers, who formed the rear-guard, cut down and burnt the two bridges. The enemy advanced in order to charge his rear-guard ; but 18 pieces of cannon that had been planted beforehand, very ſoon silenced the fire of their muſketry, and he lost not a single man. At day-break the army formed in order of battle, upon two lines, in order to give time for the Imperialists to retire from Pladling ; and as ſoon as they had joined, the army put itſelf in march in four columns.

It is particularly neceſſary, either in passages or retreats, to be acquainted with the nature of places, and if they are fit to furniſh the timber neceſſary for making rafts and bridges. In Germany, and countries where wood is very plenty, in order to paſs with greater expedition, a general can make uſe of rafts or flying bridges.(See *Flying Bridge.)* Two may be placed, one upon the right, the other on the left, of a bridge built upon piles ; by which means three columns can paſs at once. It ſhould be ob­ſerved, that the flying bridges are by no means ſecure against torrents.

Ip 1742, count Saxe having beforehand possessed himſelf of Thonastauf, cauſed two flying bridges of rafts, and a great work of redans, to be erected, in which he posted five battalions and ſome cannon.

On the 9th of September all the baggage paſſed the Da­nube : on the 10th the army put itſelf in order of battle in two lines, which retired ſuccessively toward the river. The lines paſſed one after the other ; that is, the cavalry at the ford, and the infantry upon the flying bridges.—Six thousand of the enemy’s advanced guard were witnesses of this retreat without daring to molest it ; ſo prudently were the orders given, and ſo exactly executed.

It is in retreats that bridges are most liable to break un­der the weight of the troops ; it is at that time the precau­tions are neglected, becauſe the danger becomes more preſsing, and they are not ſufficiently acquainted with the rivers over which the bridges are thrown.

Sect XI. *Of Battles.*

Of all the operations of a campaign, the most important, and that which is most deſerving of attention, is a battle, becauſe it is generally decisive; every other operation is but preparatory to, or conſequent of it. A general engage­ment, says Vigetius, is often decided in two or three hours; after which there ſcarcely remains any reſource for the vanquished. Battles, says M de Montecuculi, bestow and take away crowns ; from their decisions princes cannot ap­peal ; by them war is put an end to, and the name of the conqueror immortalized.

A general ſhould by no means ſuffer himſelf to be forced to a battle ; neither ſhould he offer it but when there is a real necessity for it ; and even when he gives battle, it ſhould be rather with an intention of laving than ſhedding blood ; more with a view of aſſerting the rights of his master, and the glory of his country, than of oppressing mankind. However bloody a battle may be, it is always leſs so than a long war; which, by reiterated troubles, consumes the treaſures of ſovereigns, that sinew of a state, and drains the blood of the ſubjects.

Nevertheless, there are ſome occasions where it is not left to a general’s choice, cither to give or accept of battle. An army of obſervation, and an army acting on the defensive, neither can nor ought to be desirous of coming to action. Both the one and the other ſhould have no other object in view, than that of posting itſelf in ſo advantageous a ſituation, that the enemy may neither entertain a thought of attack­ing it in its camp, or any hope of forcing it. The army of obſervation, whoſe only object is to protect, or to cover the troops forming a siege, ſhould never ſeek to fight the enemy, unleſs attacked by him : the other, obliged by its want of strength to act upon the defensive, ſhould only be