cannon plays with much greater advantage upon depth than upon breadth : besides, not being able to get near the enemy, there are only the head of the columns able to fire, and the rest remains inactive, exposed to the cannon. The position of the column is therefore only very good, when it can get up to the enemy and charge him.

The marſhal de Puysegur asserts, that an army in an open country, formed in two lines, the first of which is without intervals, ought of course to beat an army that is formed with intervals.

The reaſon he gives for it is plausible : it being certain, that a full line keeps itself much closer in marching ; and that, charging the first line of the army that has intervals, it ought to have broke through it before the second line, which is 150 toises or 300 paces behind, can have time to come up to its assistance ; which might very well happen, and examples of it may alſo be cited. But could not there be another diſposition oppoſed to this disposition in wall, keeping the necessary intervals, not only capable of resisting it, but also stronger, whether by the position and arrange ment of troops, or by the ready assistance they can give each other, without being confused in their motions ?

Let two armies be ſupposed in a plain country, without support to the wings of either side, or without any obstacle that may prevent their getting up to each other. The enemy’s army, as hath already been ſaid, is in two lines the first of which is formed in wall, both infantry and cavalry ; the second is formed with large intervals, and a body of hussars in the rear. The army to be oppoſed to it is of equal force, and consists of 40 battalions and 54 ſquadrons, caval­ry, hussars, and dragoons. The following teems to be near­ly the manner in which it ought to act against the enemy, who is ſupposed to be drawn up in wall.

The first line of infantry compoſed of 15 battalions, has the distance of three toises between each battalion, and the distance of half a battalion between each brigade, eight ſquadrons on the right, and as many on the left, with their proper intervals : 15 battalions in the second line, 200 paces distant from the first, ſeven ſquadrons on the right, and the like number on the left, in the rear of the intervals of thoſe of the first line, ſupporting the infantry of the second ; 10 battalions in reserve in two columns, one of which in the rear of the ſquadrons on the right of the second line, and the other of the same force ported in the same manner on the left; 12 ſquadrons of dragoons in the rear of the se­cond line, half on the right, half on the left ; and 12 ſqua­drons of cavalry, or hussars if there is not cavalry, in the rear of thoſe of the first line.

By this disposition, the army appears to be ranged in two lines, with a reserve, and will leave no room for the enemy to doubt of the motions it may make in marching : this diſposition will undoubtedly have that effect, and does not appear very formidable ; but as ſoon as the two armies begin to move forward, the second line of infantry must ad­vance as unperceived as poſſible, forming itself in columns by battalions, each of which, with its head to a battalion of the first line, will form as many T’s. The 10 battalions in reserve, which form two columns of five battalions each, will march and fill up the ſpace on the right and left, between the infantry and cavalry. The cavalry, or hussars, which are in the rear of the first line, one by a motion to the right, the other by a motion to the left, will post themſelves sidewise, at 100 paces from the wings of the army; the dragoons must post themſelves in the rear of them in a se­cond line. This will be performed much easier marching, because it is not complicated ; it is alſo performed in the rear, and the front of the first line is not put into diſorder ; and conſequently, the enemy will not perceive it ſoon enough to change his position, and oppoſe the diſpoition which is preſented to him. This first line, by this diſposition, forming as many columns as there are battalions, of course ought to break through the enemy’s army, which is in wall, but not above four deep, because the impression of a column ought to be much stronger than that of a bat­talion four or six deep. See Plate DXXI.

Supposing the wings of each T to give way, the batta­lions which penetrate there will find themſelves between two columns hedged in with bayonets ; the to battalions in reserve, which, according to this diſposition, ought to join the right and the left of the infantry, ſhould of course separate the two wings of the infantry, which are on the outside of the diſposition in columns. Four battalions ſhould remain in purſuit of them, and the two last take the line in flank, at the same time that it is attacked in head. The cavalry ſhould charge the line which is in wall with great vigour ; and the second line ſhould follow it very cloſe, but in good order : the cavalry, or hussars, which are port­ed sidewiſe, will attack it in flank, and the dragoons must remain in their port, in order to keep back the enemy’s se­cond line.

Whatever diſpoſitions are made in the drawing up of an army, they ſhould always have ſome object. A general ſhould foresee all that may be done by the enemy, whoſe diſposition he ſhould always suppose to be a good one, and to which he ſhould oppoſe one at least as strong, and always better it poſſible ; he ſhould particularly conceal from him the motions he intends making, or diſguiſe them from him in ſuch a manner, that he ſhall not have time to oppoſe them, or at least not readily enough: neither ſhould a general be so near as to give the enemy an opportunity of diſcovering and profiting by the method he intends following.

The diſposition of an army in wall is good ; but in gene­ral only ſo with reſpect to infantry, because that body acting by itself requires but very little ground to retreat, or present itself to the enemy, or to make a motion to the right or to the left. But this same diſposition is defective,and even hurtful for cavalry, unleſs there is a moral certain­ty of its getting the better : but as, with regard to war, a moral certainty would be a real preſumption, this diſposition of cavalry in wall would be dangerous, because it may be broke. If that which is oppoſed to it marches up to it reſolutely without confusion, and without being afraid of that mass of cavalry, and charges it the first, sword in hand, how can it retire in order if it is broke, being as much straitened in its retreat as in its disposition ? All the ſquadrons filling up the ground, it will neither be able to make any evolution, or to act ; and if it retreats through the large intervals of the second line, it will carry it away with it in its flight : were there even six lines behind it, they would all be carried away, the second by the first, the third by the second, and ſo on with the others.

It is true that it may give the first charge, and conſe­quently make thoſe ſquadrons which have intervals give way ; but as theſe last have more ground to act on, they can retreat with greater eaſe than thoſe who have none, by passing through the intervals of the second line, which is not to be done by a line, that hath no interval. They can rally in the rear, while the second will charge the line that is without interval, and which is already diſunited by its first attack ; even when theſe two lines are beaten, they can retire with greater eaſe, each ſquadron having ground enough to act upon. They will never be ſo much disordered as the line which has no interval, which cannot eſcape being cut in pieces if broke, or which can only find its ſafety in flight ; whereas, thoſe that have intervals can retire one after another, and in a ſoldierdike manner, ſustaining each other.

Besides, in order to prevent the impetuosity of this caval-