ſo that they can neither discover the number nor quality of your corps. During the whole time of stopping, you ſhould not be ſparing of sentries, and have always six horſemen ready to ſecure any perſon by whom your magine you are perceived ; when their number becomes considerable, they ſhould be tied together, and great care taken that none eſcape till the stroke is struck. The officers ſhould be equal­**ly** attentive that no ſoldier gets out of sight ; and if they meet a deſerter from the enemy, he ſhould be conducted im­mediately to the corps, and then to the army, under the care of a non commissioned officer.

When necessity obliges you to stop in the neighbour­hood of ſome farm or hamlet, you must take possession of it, and carry off the farmer or chief of the place at going away, threatening to kill him and let his houſe on fire if any one stir from the place before he is releaſed. Every horſe- man ſhould take care to have a ſpare fore shoe, and a peck of oats.

If an officer of the infantry marches a detachment to re­lieve a post at a distance, he ſhould not mount his horse till out of sight of the camp, and ſhould diſmount on coming in sight of the post ; but if it is only about a league distant from the army, and near the enemy, it is better to go on foot, ſo as to be leſs encumbered in case of engaging with any parties of the enemy. The men ſhould not be pressed too much for fear of lagging in the rear, but ſhould march cloſe without stopping, and in as many files as the roads will permit, keeping profound silence, that they may hear any or­ders that are given.

An officer who marches at the head of a party, ought to keep exact order and profound silence, that they may be in a state to execute whatever he may order for their defence ; but in giving his orders, he ſhould take care to do it with a firm and determined countenance, ſo as to make the ſoldiers think that he is ſure of what he is about, and that no­thing better can be done. When the men see their officer hesitating, or varying in his orders, they imagine he does not know what to do ; and seeing him diſordered, they be­come ſo. It is upon ſuch occasions that an officer ſhould be steady to restrain his party, and make them instantly obey. The danger is greater on a march than in an attack. Here the ſoldiers have their arms in their hands ; and, see­ing the enemy before them, are ready to engage. It is otherwiſe on a march ; they are leſs upon their guard, and have not their arms in readineſs : then, says Vigetius, an at­tack confounds them, an ambuſcade diſorders them. An of­ficer ought therefore to take every precaution in examining, by his advanced guard, all places that may conceal any of the enemy.

But as the greatest precaution cannot prevent an officer on a march from being attacked, it is necessary, as ſoon as he perceives the enemy, to obſerve if the party is ſuperior to his detachment ; whether it consists of cavalry or infan­try, or both together. If it is cavalry, and ſuperior, there is no necessity of being diſcouraged ; but, on the contrary, he ſhould profit by every advantage that offers, by gliding into land that is furrowed, uneven, cut, and difficult or inaccessible to cavalry ; or if the country is incloſed, he ſhould line the hedges, and cheer up his ſoldiers by ſome encoura­ging language, while he dispatches a trusty fellow with ad­vice of his situation to the general. If the enemy march up to him in this situation, he must do all that he can to ſustain the attack, by ordering his party not to press upon one ano­ther, to keep up their fire, and not to discharge their pieces till they are at the muzzles.

When you have the advantage of rocks or other obstacles to the acting of cavalry, continue the route as near as poſ­ſible, keeping the party cloſe, and always ready to receive the enemy. If the number of the enemy’s cavalry do not exceed your party, you may continue your route ; and keep­ing your men cloſe together and prepared, they will not ven­ture to attack you. If an officer sees no means of possessing an advantageous post, or of getting to the post he was detached to, he can do nothing better than retreat to the camp, along ſome river or wood, to prevent being broken : but if he is ſo cloſely purſued that he cannot avoid being beat or taken, there is no better manœuvre to imitate than that of the Barbets @@(a) ; who ſcatter themſelves, and re­tire from tree to tree, from rock to rock, and destroy a nat­ty, who can neither beat them, nor take one of them.

The moment of taking posſession of a post is the most critical that a detachment can have ; officers have been fre­quently attacked at the very time they thought they had nothing to do but quietly take the necessary meaſures for remaining in ſafety.

If the party which arrives at a post is to relieve another, the officer that is to be relieved gets under arms as ſoon as his ſentries give notice of the approach of the relief. The detachment being known, they are permitted to enter and occupy the post in the room of thoſe that ate to depart ; at the same time, the corporals go to relieve the ſentries, and the officers and ſerjeants give the counter-sign, with the de­tail of all that is to be done at the post by day or night. He ought likewise to get information from the officer he re­lieves, if the enemy make incursions in the neighbourhood ; if their guards are distant, whether cavalry or infantry, and whereabouts placed. After theſe precautions let him guard against his post being ſurpriſed.

The ſentries being relieved, the officer that is to go out must form his detachment, and return to camp with the same precautions as in coming. The new detachment remain un­der arms till the other is gone 50 paces : then the officer is to make them lay down their arms against the parapet, put­ting their havre-ſacks against the gun-locks, to prevent dust from ſpoiling them, or the dew of the night from wetting the powder. In an open country without fortification, the men must not go to any distance from their arms when they lay them down in the day, and keep them between their knees when they sit round their fires in the night, with the locks inward, to prevent accidents.

Sect. IV. *Of Reconnoitring.*

Parties ordered to reconnoitre, are to obſerve the coun­try or the enemy ; to remark the routes, conveniences and inconveniences of the first ; the position, march, or forces of the second. In either case, they ſhould have an expert geographer, capable of taking plans readily : he ſhould be the best mounted of the whole, in case the enemy happen to ſcatter the eſcort, that he may save himſelf more easily with his works and ideas.

All parties that go for reconnoitring only, ought to be but few in number. They ſhould never consist of more than 12 or 20 men. An officer, be his rank what it will, cannot decline going with ſo few people under his orders ; the honour is amply made up by the importance of the ex-

@@@(a) They are peaſants ſubject to the king of Sardinia, who abandon their dwellings when the enemy take possession, and are formed into bodies to defend the Alps which are in his dominions.