pedition, frequently of the most interesting conſequence, and the properest to recommend the prudence, bravery, and addreſs of any officer that has the fortune to ſucceed.

It must be evident that the succeſs of ſuch a commission depends upon ſecrecy, and that it is impossible to fulfil the intention without keeping out of sight of the enemy. It is incontestable, that a numerous party cannot glide along ſo imperceptibly as a ſmall handful of men. As theſe detach­ments must finiſh their courſe quickly, it is necessary that they ſhould consist of cavalry only ; but if they are to go far, they may increaſe each with 30 foot, to remain in ambuſh about half-way in a wood or covered place, with whom the cavalry can leave their proviſion they brought with them.

An officer charged to reconnoitre in front, ſhould take his instructions in writing, and ſet out at ſuch time as to ar­rive at the place proper for beginning his obſervations at day break. Every time that he has occaſion to stop, the party ſhould face toward the enemy, and send a non-commissioned officer with two horſemen to run over the neigh­bouring heights, and cloſely examine the environs. When near the enemy, avoid flopping in a village.

The officer, and geographer who is ſuppoſed to be present, ſhould remark every interesting particular : The heights, woods, ponds, moraſſes, rivulets, rivers, fords, bridges, roads, crossings, difficult and dangerous partages, by-ways, mea­dows, fields, heaths, gullies, hills, and mountains ; the distance and strength of villages, hamlets, houſes, farms, and mills ; what ſovereign the country belongs to, and what are its productions.

If the enemy comes in sight, the officer ſhould quickly assemble his party, though his reconnoitring be not finiſhed, and let him retire to his infantry, if he placed any ; but if not, let him gain ſome other place that he has choſen for a retreat. After being refreſhed, let him go back with the cavalry to finiſh the reconnoitring ; but if he was obliged to return quite to the post, he ſhould not go back till next day. Midday is the time of being least incommoded, as detachments are less frequent at that hour. The command­ing officer ought always to avoid coming to blows, even though he thinks himſelf ſecure of ſucceſs, unleſs he happen to be on his return, and near to his post, ſo that he foresees the grand guard, hearing the firing, cannot fail to run to his assistance. If obliged to engage with a party who are cutting off your retreat, and that no other means is left of turning them, you must riſk all without hesitating, by ruſhing on, and try to save the geographer with the fruits of his commission, eſpecially if the reconnoitring was of impor­tance to the general of the army, and merits the ſacrificing a dozen men, which they can easily retrieve on another occasion.

When a party goes out to obtain news of the enemy, it ought to approach as near as poſſible, but cautiouſly : day­break is not the time proper for ſuch a purpoſe, becauſe at that time the enemy send their different parties and patroles to make diſcoveries ; you ſhould therefore prevent them by approaching in the night. You may easily reconnoitre their position and extent by their fires, which they never extin­guish at the head of the guards and picquets ; and you may easily remark if they are about to change their position, by hearing a more than ordinary noiſe ; besides, as it is eaſy to approach by night, you may diſcover a number of things by the light of the fires.

A partiſan ought not to neglect to reconnoitre every place round his post for two or three leagues, or farther, if it is poſſible on the side of the enemy; and for that purpoſe he ſhould employ the method of Mr Jeney ; who, during the campaigns that he made, often examined the enemy’s posts without approaching, in the following manner, which he recommends as infallible.

I ſuppoſe myſelf, says he, with my party at Soest in Westphalia A (fig. 2.), and the enemy ported at Bervick B, two leagues from me. To know the situation of this place with­out stirring from Soest, I take the map of the country; and from Soest as centre, I draw a circle whoſe circumference partes half a league beyond Bervick. I draw a circle of the same size upon a leaf of paper, to make my plan as in fig. 2. and then place Soest in the centre A ; and I mark all the villages which I find in the map near the circumfe­rence, upon my plan, with the diſtances and bearings as they are repreſented in the map, making uſe of a pencil to mark the places DDD, ſo as to correct the errors more easily which the map may have led me to make.

Having thus formed my plan, with a ſcale of two leagues (which is the distance I ſuppoſe Bervick), I go to the burgomaster of the town of Soest, where I cauſe ſome of the most intelligent inhabitants to come, ſpeaking to them freely, and openly induce them to communicate all the information I have occaſion for.

The better to conceal my designs, I begin my reconnoi­tring by Brokhuſen, a village distant from the enemy. **I** ask the distance from Soest to Brokhuſen ; if they say it is ſeven quarters of a league, I correct the distance of my plan which made it two leagues : then I inform myſelf of all that is to be found on the road from Soest to Brokhuſen ; cha­pels, houſes, woods, fields, orchards, rivers, rivulets, bridges, mills, &c. If they say that at half a league from Soest they paſs the village of Hinderking, I mark that place upon my plan. I aſk if the road from Soest to Hinderking is crossed by any other road ; if there is any moraſs or heath ; if the road is incloſed, paved, or straight ; if there is any bridge to paſs, and at what distance. I take care to mark every thing in my plan, forgetting nothing, even to mills, buſhes, gibbets, gullies, fords, and every thing that can be got from their informations ; which will probably be perfect, becauſe one always knows more than another. I continue my questions from Hinderking to Brokhuſen ; and advan­cing by little and little, obſerve the same method on the roads of the other villages round, marked DDD. In this manner I cannot fail to acquire an entire knowledge of all the places; besides, I find myſelf imperceptibly instructed in the position of the enemy, by seeing the different routes by which I can approach most ſecretly.

It is plain that ſuch a plan must be very useful to regu­late ſecret expeditions. It is chiefly uſeful, not to say necessary, for a commander of a party, who can give more ample and preciſe instructions to his officers, by accompa­nying them with a copy of the routes marked out, which they can conſult even in the night, if it happens to be clear ; by which they will be guarded against being deceived by ig­norant or treacherous guides, which occasion the mistakes of ſo many who go unprovided with ſuch helps.

There is still another means to ſecure a reconnoitring party ; which is, to compoſe them of people who ſpeak the language of the enemy, and give them ſurtouts of the colour of a regiment of the enemy, and cockades the same. This ſcheme may be carried ſo far as to line the ſurtouts with the colour of another regiment of the enemy, provided that by turning the ſurtouts, they appear to be a different corps, and deceive guards, ſpies, and peaſants, and confound their reports.

Sect. V. *Of the Defence of Posts.*

When a partiſan has taken every precaution that pru­dence ſuggests in reconnoitring a place where he would fix