lieutenant at the head of 20 horsemen to clear round it. If the enemy is too ſuperior, and appears to form an attack on that side, the commanding officer ſhould get there before with all his force to oppoſe them, till all his detachments join, and then regulate his retreat, as will be ſeen in the section of the Retreat.

To be better ſecured in a post which you expect to re­main in for ſome time, and where you find that the enemy will not fail to disturb you, it will be proper immediately to employ ſome of your people with the peasants, to form ſome intrenchments in a hurry in the most dangerous places, to have breast-works of felled trees in the woods ; herſes placed in the fords (see Herse); pits dug at the entries and plains without defence ; ſo that the cavalry coming full ſpeed to charge you, may tumble in. If there happen to be a bridge either in the front or on the flanks of the post, as at N, by which the enemy can facilitate their approach or retreat, it must be instantly destroyed, unleſs you find it may be of use, and necessary to fix a good guard on it.

To regulate the attack and defence most advantageouſly, you ſhould take care to obſerve the places by which the enemy can approach, and form a plan of operations for cutting off, or taking in flank, the different routes which he can attempt. You ſhould inform your officers, and not fail to hearken to the advice of thoſe whole talents, genius, and experience, render them competent judges of your designs, Theſe arrangements will be of great use in ſurprising the enemy’s parties, who will come from time to time to reconnoitre the post. If the enemy approaches in the night, take care how you attack him ; you cannot recon­noitre his force, and you ought to ſuppoſe that he is in­formed of yours.

Do not ſuffer any ſuſpected woman to approach the ſoldiers ; their visits are dangerous in debauching your people, and the enemy frequently employ them to diſcover your strength. Let no deſerter stop in your post ; and if he comes in the night, keep him till day-break is near, and then send him to the army. Every party that approaches your post; will profess belonging to you ; but if they are not provided with a proper passport from the general, or if you do not know any of the officers, trust neither to their word nor uniform.

Theſe instructions may ſerve for the corps of a partiſan according to the propoſed arrangements ; but partiſans of leſs force must regulate their precautions according to their strength; and detachments of 30, 50, or 100 men, will ſeek to post themſelves in redoubts proportioned to their number, or in mills, farms, hamlets, detached houſes, churches, church­yards, &c. obſerving that the more a post is extended, the more care and fatigue it requires.

The principal object for an officer that is detached, says Monsieur Vauban, is to foreſee every troubleſome event. The want of exactneſs, and the ſmallest relaxation in the ſervice of out-posts, may have the most fatal conſequences ; and history furniſhes a thouſand examples of camps being ſurpriſed, and armies cut in pieces, by the negligence of detachments that ought to have watched for their preſervation.

The manner of relieving detached posts has been men­tioned ; but if an officer is detached to a mill or house, let him draw up his party about 15 or 20 paces from the post, and send a ſerjeant or corporal with five or six men to ſearch the chambers, cellars, and barns : which being done, the ſentries must be placed, the post taken possession of, the arms ranged ſo that every one can find his own with­out confusion, and the inhabitants lodged in ſome other houſe ; and then intrench himſelf according to the rules given.

If an officer is to fix in a village where it is difficult to examine every place where the enemy may lie in ambuſh, he ſhould send for the magistrates to come and ſpeak with him, while his party remain drawn up at the end of the vil­lage, that they may declare if they know whether there are any of the enemy’s parties, ſuſpected perſons, or concealed arms in the place ; which being done, the ſentries are to be placed, and the party to take possession ; putting ſmall de­tachments of five or six men, more or leſs according to the strength of the party, at the avenues ; and examining the church, or any detached houſe, to make the principal post in case the advanced posts are forced. The men best ac­quainted with the duty ſhould be planted on the most expoſed and distant places, ſo as to see all the approaches ; and ſometimes in trees, that they may see at a distance, and re­main concealed from the enemy.

If he finds any place near him where the enemy can lie concealed, he ſhould place a corporal with six or ſeven men there, with orders to fall back upon his post if attacked, or remain till they find themſelves diſengaged. The ſoldiers of this lesser post ſhould take care to make no fires, because it would ſerve for a guide to the enemy to avoid them when they want to fall upon the principal post ; but fires may be lighted in the places where they have no guards, to make the enemy think they have them every where, at the same time placing ſoldiers in ambuſh where there are none light­ed. This ſcheme may ſerve for all posts in a level country, where two or three ſoldiers ſhould be kept going all night to stir up the fires.

The exterior arrangements being made, and ſentries placed on the avenues, bridges, and steeples, the works for fortifying the post ſhould be marked out, and executed by the workmen, and the magistrates ordered to send straw to the nearest houſes for lodging the ſoldiers, who must never abſent themſelves. The officer must always be in readineſs to go where his preſence may be wanted, and make his ſerjeants and corporals frequently go the rounds. Monsieur Vauban says, that if an officer is to remain but four hours in a post, he ought to intrench. If he is to paſs only ſome hours in a post, it is a good way to make a parapet of felled trees ; or if it is in a village, to intrench a detached houſe.

The way to guard against being ſurpriſed, betrayed, or made priſoner, is to take precautions against all that the enemy can undertake ; and whatever distance he may be at, we ought not to found our ſecurity on probabilities, but extend them even to possibilities. Neither stranger nor ſoldier of any other party ſhould be admitted into the post ; and the roll ſhould be called three or four times a-day, that the men may not abſent themſelves: the commander ſhould like- wise examine the ſentries, to see whether they are acquainted with the detail of their duty, and ſhould show them how to de­fend themſelves in case of being attacked; obſerving to them, that if the enemy make ſuch a manœuvre, they ſhould oppoſe ſuch another; if they try this ſcheme, to refill with that, and deceive them at every step. He may make ſome of them try to ſcale the intrenchment, to ſhow the difficulty of mounting it ; and by exercising them in this manner, he will prepare them to resist the enemy ; it will flatter their vanity, and give them a confidence in him.

An hour or two before day, the men ſhould be kept alert, sitting on the banquette near their arms ; and the patroles ſent at that time, rather than in the night, to march slowly, to listen attentively, and examine every place round the post where a man can conceal himſelf.

It frequently happens that two armies are encamped op­poſite to one another, and have ſeveral poſts on the same line, and two patroles meet in the night. As it is impossi-