ſelves ſo that they can fire upon any who may attempt to extinguish it. If there are chausse-traps, they must be ſwept away, by dragging a tree or two over the ground where they are ſcattered.

In the attack of detached buildings, you must ſeize the approaches, and strive to ſcale them ; to get on the top, and cruſh the people who are below, with the tiles or states; but if the enemy has uncovered the houſe, you must throw as many grenades as you can in at the windows and doors ; or dry fascines, with lighted faggots dipped in rosin ; or fire-balls, to endeavour to set fire to them, and smoke them out. If the weather is windy, you ſhould profit by it to set fire to the houſe, and try to ſhut up the loop-holes -which the enemy have pierced near the ground, with bags of earth, ſo as to sap the corners. If you have ſome can­non, you may ſhorten the ceremony, by planting them against the angles of the post. If you have none, you may ſucceſsfully ſuſpend a large beam by a rope, to three bars placed in a triange, in imitation of the Roman battering ram : this beam puſhed violently against the walls, will ſoon make a breach ; but you must observe, in ſuspending it, to do it in a dark night, ſo that the enemy cannot prevent it by firing at the ſoldiers who are employed in the work. If it is glorious to get out with honour on ſuch an attack, it is no leſs ſo to make it ſo as to cost but few people. The blood of the ſoldiers-is precious, and cannot be too much prized, and an able chief will neglect no means that can contribute to their preservation. The comparing of two examples will ſhow the importance of what is advanced.

During the two sieges of Barcelona, by Monsieur de Vendome in 1697, and Monsieur de Berwick in 1713, the first of theſe generals cauſed the convent of Capuchins, ſituated out of the place, to be attacked ſword in hand by ſeveral detachments of infantry, and carried it in three hours, with the loſs of 1700 men. Marſhal Berwick caused the same convent to be attacked in the year 1713. They were equally intrenched, and reckoning to make him pay as dear as Monsieur de Vendome had done; but this general having opened a sort of trench before the convent, they not expecting to be attacked in form, ſurrendered at diſcretion, after having held it 24 hours. The reader is left to judge which example to follow.

You ſhould prepare for the attack of a village, or ſuch like post of large extent, as has been directed in the section for detached posts: but as theſe sort of attacks are always more difficult than others, on account of the multiplicity of ſchemes they have to encounter at every step, an officer ſhould not march there till he is acquainted with the strength of the intrenchments ; the situation of the ſmaller posts ; the obstacles to be met with in every street or ſquare ; and even what terms the inhabitants are on with the ſoldiers of the garriſon.

While the assistants have penetrated into the village, the commanders of each division ought to take care to leave ſmall detachments at all the churches and ſquares they find ; to stand firm and ſustain the main body in case they are re­pulſed. You must watch very carefully that the ſoldiers do not withdraw to pillage the houſes of the inhabitants, as whole detachments have been driven from towns and vil­lages where they had penetrated, from having neglected this precaution.

Three days after the ſurpriſe of Cremona in 1702, ſome Germans were found in the cellars, where they had got drunk, and were astonsſhed when they were told that they must quit theſe agreeable retreats. An officer who would ſhun a diſorder ſo fatal, ſhould forbid his ſoldiers to stir from their party on pain of death ; and by placing a ſerjeant in the rear of each division, take care that no one falls behind.

If you find cavalry drawn up in the ſquares or open places, the assailants ſhould remain firm at the entrance of the streets that meet there, while ſome go up to the houſes that are at the corners, and fire upon them from the windows ; if this causes any diſorder among them, they ſhould be char­ged with fixed bayonets to make them ſurrender. If the interior part of the village is defended with cannon, you ſhould march quickly to the place where they are, and take them, or nail them up, or turn them against the enemy or principal post of the village.

Polybius, in his seventh book, gives an account of an attack full of instruction for military men. The blockade of Sardis by Antiochus the Great, had lasted two years, when Lagoras of Crete, a man of extensive knowledge in war, put an end to it in the following manner. He considered that the strongest places are often taken with the greatest eaſe, from the negligence of the besieged, who, trusting to the natural or artificial fortifications of their town, are at no pains to guard it. He knew likewise that towns are often taken at the strongest places, from their be­ing perſuaded that the enemy will not attempt to attack them there. Upon theſe considerations, though he knew that Sardis was looked on as a place that could not be taken by assault, and that hunger only could make them open their gates, yet he hoped to ſucceed. The greatneſs of the difficulties only increaſed his zeal to contrive a means of carrying the town.

Having perceived that a part of the wall which joined the citadel to the town was not guarded, he formed the design of ſurprising it at that place : he obſerved that this wall was built on the top of a rock which was extremely high and steep, at the foot of which, as into an abyſs, the people of the town threw down the carcasses of their dead horſes and other beasts of burden ; at which place great numbers of vultures and other carnivorous birds assembled daily to feed ; and after having filled themſelves, they never fail­ed to rest upon the top of the rock or wall, which made our Cretan imagine that this place was neglected, and with­out any guard upon it.

On this thought, he went to the place at night, and ex­amined with care how he could approach it, and where he ought to place his ladders. Having found a proper place for his purpose, he acquainted the king with his discovery and design ; and the king, delighted with the project, advised Lagoras to purſue it, and granted him two other officers whom he asked for, and who appeared to him to have all the neceiſary qualities for assisting him in his ſcheme.

The three having conſulted together, they only waited one night, at the end of which there was no moon ; which being come, they choſe 15 of the stoutest and bravest men of the army to carry the ladders, to ſcale the walls, and run the same risk that they did. They likewiſe took 30 others to place in ambush in the ditch, and to assist thoſe who ſcaled the wall to break down a gate into which they were to enter. The king was to make 2000 men follow them, and favour the enterpriſe by marching the rest of the army to the oppoſite side of the town. Every thing being prepared for the execution, Lagoras and his people ap­proached ſoftly with their ladders ; and having ſcaled the rock, they came to the gate which was near them, and ha­ving broke it, let in the 2000 men, who cut the throats of all they met, and set fire to the houſes, ſo that the town was pillaged and ruined in an instant.

Young officers who read this account, ought to reflect on this attack. The attention of Lagoras, who went himſelf