the wind, to save their eyes from the dust and ſharpneſs of the air.

At 300 paces from the place, the foot and part of the cavalry ſhould dismount and fix their bayonets, the rest of the cavalry to remain with the waggons near ſome trees or houses, the waggons turned for a retreat. Divide your infantry into five detachments, and instantly run at a great rate, keeping your men as close as poſſible, and passing the barrier and gates, ſeize all the ſentries and the guard without firing or making the least noiſe, which may be executed with an extreme quickneſs, to be acquired by practice. While the first detachment ſeizes the gate and all the (entries of its environs, the rest must run rapidly into the town. One must go quickly to ſeize the main guard ; another to ſeize the governor or commanding officer; the fourth, which ſhould be the strongest, ſhould fly to the caſerns or mens barracks, to ſeize their arms; the fifth to remain in the street near the gate for a corps de reserve.

Every detachment must be conducted by priſoners made at entering ; and orders ſent with all ſpeed, to cauſe half the cavalry to advance and patrole the streets, as the infan­try get forward.

As this kind of ſurprise can ſucceed only under favour of a storm, which rarely continues any time, it is evident that the march and execution must be conducted with inexpressible ſwiftneſs, and the orders be perfectly understood. It is true, that rain is inconvenient for the infantry, whoſe feet slip on clay-ground ; but they must do their best, and frequently it is found that the roads which are most uſed are not therefore the most slippery.

If it happens that you are perceived in taking possession of the gate, and they take the alarm, you must quickly divide your party into two wings, mounting them on the rampart, the one to the right, the other to the left ; and ſeizing the loaded cannon, turn them upon the town ; and at the same time ſummon the garriſon to ſurrender. If you happen to fail, and are obliged to retire, you do not risk much, as they will not care to molest your retreat.

There may be a reluctance in attempting such a ſurprise ; it may appear to be hazardous and rash, and a conduct too nice not to deſpair of ſucceſs : but Mr Jeney says that ex­perience convinces him of the validity of the means propoſed, and relates what happened to him upon two occasions, to prove that the cold east winds or storms are the most pro­per times for attempting ſurprises.

Being at the head of 30 hussars, says he, and willing to ſhun a storm which was gathering behind us, I puſhed to get to a place which was well fortified and occupied by a numerous garriſon : the wind was strong, and I passed the barriere and all the gates with my horſes, which made a great noiſe, without any ſentry either seeing or hearing ; and though I called to the first guard to declare myſelf, no one perceived me. I crossed the whole town without seeing a soul in the street ; and hurrying to an inn in the other ſuburbs, I went out at the gallop, and ſaw only the ſentry at the last barriere, to whom I anſwered without our com­prehending one another ; nevertheleſs the rain had not be­gun to fall, but the wind was violent. I experienced the same during the winter, when the east wind was very proper to facilitate the ſurprise of a fortified town or post. On Christmas night 1757, I passed through the country of Ha­nover with 80 horſe between two guards of the enemy with­out being perceived. I marched over the middle of a plain when the night was clear, with a violent east wind, which prevented any ſentry from turning his head to look at me, and I went quietly to carry off horſes in the rear of their army. The following night at my return, I passed two different posts of our army ; the one guarded by a party of hussars, the other by a regiment of dragoons, without be­ing ſeen but by one ſentry in the middle of the dragoon post, who durst not challenge, becauſe it was no longer time, ha­ving paſſed the first guards.

You may likewiſe take the advantage of bad weather to ſcale all sorts of posts ſurrounded with walls, as towns, ab­beys, castles, &c. to do which, you must approach in the dark, and ſeize the moment of a great ſquall, or when a cold east wind obliges the garriſon to take ſhelter from the rigour of the seaſon : then there is no one upon the ramparts, and the ſentries turn their back to the wind, or remain in their boxes, while your people are warm with marching, and animated with the hopes of ſucceſs. You need not be apprehensive of the enemy seeing you if you advance on the side next the wind to place your ladders, becauſe the ſen­tries will cover their faces, and bend down their heads to save them from cold.

The time of a thick fog is not leſs favourable for approach­ing and forcing an intrenched post. When the fog is low, the infantry ſhould creep on all fours, the better to conceal them from the enemy’s ſentries. Theſe sort of ſurprifes are the least dangerous, you run ſcarcely any risk ; but if you cauſe ſome falſe attacks, the garriſon will not fail to run to arms, and ſometimes make you pay dear for failing.

When you would ſurprise the enemy in a village, farm, monastery, or ſome place detached from the army, you ſhould divide your party in two bodies, each compoſed of cavalry and infantry ; the one to take the enemy in the rear, the other in front, taking care to cauſe ſome waggons to follow, which may carry off the wounded in case of need. You must calculate exactly the time it will take the first detachment to go round the enemy. The two commanders ſhould agree on a word for rallying, and the time of making the attack, which ſhould be in the night, eſpecially if the post is ſo distant from the army that they can receive no assistance ; for in that case the time is favourable till day-break. They must regulate their departure according to the distance they have to go ; and the detachment which goes round the enemy, ought to take no more infantry than can be car­ried behind the horſemen. This detachment having got round, ſhould form about a quarter of a league from the post, and 100 paces out of the road.

When the other detachment has arrived within a quarter of a league of the post, your cavalry ſhould form out of the road with the waggons and drums near them, who are not to advance till ten minutes after the departure of the in­fantry, who must advance towards the fires of the enemy, stooping as much as possible. They must take care to con­ceal themſelves from patroles, as has been directed ; and when they see them paſſed or entered the post, the infantry must hurry on to gain the village, and clear the entry by which the cavalry must paſs, in case it has been barricadoed with waggons. You must run rapidly to the place where you see the fires lighted, and make as many detachments as you see fires, in order to ſurprise the whole at once.

The cavalry who followed slowly, must instantly join to the noiſe of your arms and cries their trumpets and drums, advancing with all ſpeed, and leaving only a non-commiſsioned officer with ſome horſemen near the waggons. The detachment, which is advanced on the other side of the vil­lage to turn the enemy, on hearing the alarm, must imme­diately advance, founding trumpets, beating drums, and at­tacking all who would lave themſelves on that side. You may rely on it as certain, that the enemy, seeing all his guards ſurrounded by your infantry ſcattered in the village, and hearing the march of different bodies of foot and horſe who arrive on all sides, will not delay to ſurrender, or ſeek to save himſelf by a disorderly flight ; it will be eaſy then