let none of the inhabitante leave the place, and send con­tinually ſome strong patroles to the rear on the road of your retreat, and eſpecially to the passages by which they can cut off your communication with the ambuſcade. Every horſe- man holding his horse by the bridle must be ready to mount, ſo that upon the enemy’s appearing you may retire quickly from the village, and fall back one after another upon your ambuſcade.

When a partisan has no infantry, he may form an am­buſcade with cavalry, which ſhould be as near as poſſible to the enemy. In the night, he ſhould send out two or three waggons covered with white linen, that they may be ſeen at a distance : care must be taken that the harneſs be in good order, ſo that no troubleſome accident happen by the want of attention to it. Each carriage to have four horſes mount­ed by two dragoons diſguiſed like waggoners, with their arms in the hands of two or four comrades concealed in each waggon, ſo that they may repulſe any patrole they chance to fall in with.

The waggons ſhould go ſlowly on ſome road parallel to the front of the enemy, and passing at ſome distance from their post (for it is not necessary that they paſs through them), and regulate their march ſo, that they may be with­in half a league or the ambuſcade at day-break, and readily perceived by the enemy ; then let them stop while one mounts a tree or ſome height to see round them. When they perceive the patrole of the enemy, they must move off, for the others will not fail to follow ; but if the enemy ap­pears not to be inclined to follow, which the non-commiſsioned officer must attend to, and make one of the drivers stop, as if something were the matter with his waggon, which will draw them on till they fall into the ambuſcade.

Among the thouſand opportunities that the different marches of the enemy offer for ambuſcades, there is none more proper than the retreat of an army which decamps to fall back. When a partiſan happens to get information of it on the eve by good ſpies, he ought to set out immedi­ately with his whole party, making ſuch a round as has been drawn in fig. I. leaving his infantry in ambuſcade at half-way.

The cavalry must be diligent to arrive at the place of am­buſcade by day-break, which ought to be placed on the route that the enemy is to take, and two or three leagues in the rear of his camp.

To be more secure of his retreat, he ſhould leave two or three detachments of cavalry between him and his infantry, at a good distance from one another ; the remainder to line the road in ſeveral ranks parallel to it, and 300 or 400 paces behind one another, concealed from the view of paſſengers by the favour of hollows, woods, or hills.

The first line being near the road, must take care of ſutlers, equipages, &c. which arc the forerunners of an army, and the first to decamp when they are retiring. When they ſecure ſome waggons or mules, the first detachment ſhould paſs them to the second, and ſo on till they come to the in­fantry.

You must hasten to carry off what you can for a full quarter of an hour ; after which you must press your retreat, expecting that the alarm will ſoon paſs to the army, and the light troops be inſtantly at your heels.

Sect. X. *Of the Retreat.*

Every march in withdrawing from the enemy is called a *retreat.* That which is done in sight of the enemy, who purſues with a superior force, makes the preſent subect ; and is, with reaſon, looked upon as the glory of the profeſsion. It is a manoeuvre the most delicate, and the properest to display the prudence, genius, courage, and addreſs of an officer who commands.

The ſucceſs of the retreat depends upon the knowledge of the country that is to be passed over, and the goodneſs of the diſposition that is made for the troops to defend them­ſelves. The first offers advantages, and contributes greatly to the ſeizing them ; the second restrains the ardour of the enemy, and keeps up the force of a party to its highest pitch. Both deserve to be studied.

1st, Every officer who commands a detachment ought to apply himſelf carefully to reconnoitre every step he takes, and examine perfectly every route that can conduct him from one place to another ; he ſhould obſerve attentively all the stratagems that can be employed for ambuſhing infan­try, or poſting cavalry ; the courſe of rivers, their bridges and fords ; the roads most covered with woods, hills, gullies, and villages ; and, in a word, he ſhould know all the advan­tages, as well as the dangers, that lie in his way. It will be eaſy for him to acquire a knowledge of all this, if he will uſe the method recommended in a former ſection. With the assistance of ſuch a plan as is there deſcribed, he may regulate his retreat with eaſe, and put it in practice to advantage, profiting by every means proper for his defence, or ſurprising the enemy.

2dly, The diſpositions that ought to be made for a par­ty, to ſustain their retreat in the face of the enemy, depend upon the number and kind of troops in both corps ; for they must be varied according as they happen to be of cavalry or infantry united, or of either singly.

Every forced retreat in conſequence of an unfortunate ac­tion, would be almost impracticable, if it were not premedi­tated before you come in pretence of the enemy, or when you are obliged to fly by unknown routes. That which can be made in a fog, or in the night, is easiest, when your rear is ſecured, as you can slip out of sight of the enemy without any difficulty, and they will be afraid of following you for fear of being ſurpriſed in the dark : we ſhall only therefore ſpeak of that which is to be made in open day, and under the fire of the enemy.

To conduct it properly, you must abſolutely know the strength of the enemy ; for it is ſhameful to be the dupe of a false alarm, and to retreat precipitately from an ill founded fear at the approach of an inferior enemy. You must there­fore be convinced of his great ſuperiority, and know what his party consists of.

If they come with a strong cavalry, united to a more nu­merous infantry than yours, you must immediately render their acting uſeleſs, by hurrying your infantry as quick as poſſible to retreat to the first place where they can lie in ambuſh, and serve the cavalry advantageouſly, if they can draw on thoſe of the enemy, as has been ſaid in ſpeaking of am­buſcades.

To conceal from the enemy, and favour the departure of your infantry, you ſhould cauſe your cavalry to advance, and pretend as it they were going to attack the enemy A (fig. 2.), your party forming into two divisions B and C, each drawn up in two lines, the second double the first, and disposed as in the plan.

The division C is to retire first 100 or 200 paces, and then fronting the enemy divide into two wings, leaving an interval for the passage of the division B, who, in retiring, must leave a rear-guard at 50 paces, which must be divided into ſeveral parties D, to ſcamper about the enemy’s front; and in case they appear desirous to attack you, your ſmall parties must keep a constant fire, particularly on the sides that advance the most ; and continue this manœuvre till they have joined the diviſion C, which ſhould immediately detach ſome ſmall parties of the best mounted to ſerve for a rear­-