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**Animadversions of warre; or a militarie magazine of the truest rules, and
ablest instructions, for the managing of warre**

Ward, Robert

London, 1639

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Section XXI.

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RULES AND OBSER- VATIONS TO BE USED AFTER FIGHT.

SECT. XXI.

CHAP. X.

Divers Rules and Observations to be used after a Battell is either wonne or lost.



AVING in the precedent Chapter discoursed of such things as are requisite to be done in the time of Skirmish; in this Chapter I shal demonstrate what is to be done after a Conquest either gained or lost. Wherefore the first thing to be considered, is, how a General shal demean himself, so that the Forces which are left may not be quite destroyed, and so the overthrow to redound to his utter confusion. Wherefore a General must order his affaires so, that his enemies should not follow his men to overtake them in their flight from the Battell: and for this

purpose he must use some policy to hinder them, as *Sertorius* practised: *Metellus* having vanquished his Army, and knowing it was to no purpose for him to flie, commanded his Officers to retire unto divers places, as scatteringly and disperst as possibly they could, (knowing that the enemy would not make pursuit after such disbanded persons, but rather such as went by Troops) and having first advertised them where every man should come to his Rendezvous and meet again; this was the means of saving most of his men: but if they should be pursued, then every man must cast such treasure as he hath in the way as they flie, that the enemy may stay to get it up. King *Mithridates* made use of this policy to escape from *Lucullus*. Likewise *Frotho* King of the *Danes* being landed in *England* deceived the Natives that pursued him; they being laded with the *Danish* goods and jewels, and scattered about here and there to gather them up, were set upon again by the *Danes* with some of their forces they had rallyed together, and vanquished the *English* at their pleasure.

Many that have been overthrown in Battell, by reason of Woods and other secure places, have saved themselves, and being come together, have secretly returned in the night, and charged the enemy who hath thought himselfe secure, and have taken them so disorderly, that they have routed them.

If the Conquerour have taken many prisoners, and the vanquished should rally his forces againe, thinking to have an advantage to assault the Conquerour; then there is no way, but every souldier must kill his prisoner, lest they should take an opportunity to resist. If a Battell should be fought, and neither side be utterly vanquished, but the darknesse of the night cause them to give over, the best way for him that hath

It is policy for a General not to divide his Army to follow the pursuit, but rather let such small Troops depart quietly. Neither is it good to let the souldiers know the place of meeting before-hand, but only the chief Officers.

lost most men in the fight, to cause some of his Souldiers to steale away the bodies of their owne slaine men, and privately bury them; so that the enemy shall conceive that he had the worst of the fight, in regard he sees most of his men slaine; this will make him loth to encounter againe.

The victour after he hath discomfited his enemies army, and scattered them about, ought to send a sufficient number of Horse and Foot, to lye upon some passages, secretly in the night-time, which leads to some Town or Fort of theirs of greatest strength, and neere at hand, where they shall bee sure to entrap all such as shall seek by flight to save themselves.

Likewise when a Generall sees there is no way but to be routed, let him send speedily certain Troops of Horse and Foot to the next straight passage, which may so provide for themselves, that they may defend the passage, so as divers of their own souldiers may safely escape; for an enemy will not divide his Army to weaken it, to follow the chase of the subdued enemy, much lesse to seek to gain a passage which is fortified, to hinder their escapes: for he that with disorder followeth the enemy after he is broken, will doe no other, than to become of a Conquerour a Loser.

Many things more you may expect should have been here inserted; but I have been plentifull in setting down divers observations most proper to these Discourses, in the Office of a Generall, and in the Discourse of Marching and Retraiting from an enemy. In the next place I shall endeavour to portray to your view sundry forms of Imbattellings, which have been, and now are in use, and some newly invented; with a demonstration of the manner of framing them and the true use of them.

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