

lose it, let it be by overindulging in their pleasures, by the bullet aimed at them by the hand of honour, or by the bayonet of their King and country's enemy.

I shall not dwell on that early stage of my military career but limit myself to a few circumstances which, not concerning me directly yet appear deserving to be mentioned. Being in garrison, I applied for a leave of absence to the Commandant of the place, who transmitted my application to the minister at the war department.—Before the return of his answer application was made to the commandant, for a permit for post horses for the next day, a formality required on the frontier fortresses in France. The stranger that made it, added at the same time that in case the Commandant knew any person wishing to go to Paris he offered a seat in his post chaise on paying for the additional horse. Thereupon the Commandant sent for me and asked whether I would take advantage of this offer; on my answer that I would if he gave me leave, he granted it under the condition, that I should not appear publicly until he had transmitted to me the Ministers answer.

It was late on an evening in the month of November; the stranger had ordered the horse for 6 o' clock the next morning and of course I had very little time to make the necessary preparations. Happily a Subaltern residing in Barracks is seldom over loaded and encumbered with goods and chattels and I was ready at the appointed hour and place. I found my unknown fellow Traveller already sitting in his chaise. Having informed him that I was the person addressed to him, by the commandant on his invitation I seated myself at his side; the door was shut upon us the Driver's whip cracked lustily, and our four tho' not sure footed animals rattled our vehicle as fast as they could on the rough pavement. I have already said that it was in that gloomy month so fatal to those afflicted with the disease learnedly called *tedium vitæ*, but more vulgarly known under the name of *blue Devils*. Thank God! I never was under the influence of that dismal affection and foggy November was then as welcome to me as gay May. Notwithstanding the sleepless night, I had spent in prepa-