

get an account of the magazines of provisions and forage destined for the support of the garrison, the number of inhabitants, in order to calculate how much the whole consumes daily ; if their arsenal be well supplied ; what quantity of cannon, powder, ball, &c. with their qualities, for from such intelligences the commander in chief forms his plan accordingly.

THE time being come to undertake the siege, the ranger surrounds the place with his light troops and gets possession of all posts that may be useful to be interested, or advantageous to the besiegers ; he then forms with his irregulars a sort of chain round the works, and blocks up all the passages and avenues of communication even to the foot of the glacis, if practicable ; prevents any person from coming in or going out ; and learns by his spies what is doing within the walls, particularly whether the garrison have any intention of falling out to molest and retard the carrying on the siege when the army arrives ; and prepares every thing on his part that can forward the undertaking, that his chief, upon receiving notice of all he has done, and been able