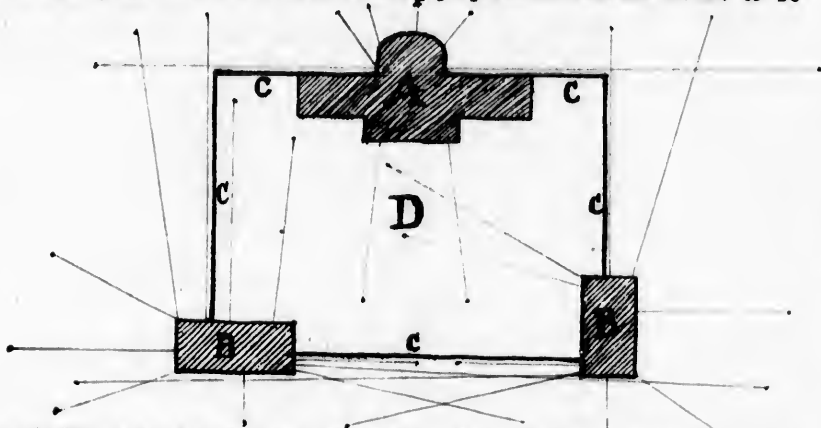


maintain a casual fire blindly all through the night, from any flank bearing on it, on the chance of keeping the enemy off; instances are on record of men being in the morning found by this proceeding killed near the gate, with petards in their hands.

Buildings very strongly constructed, isolated from others, such as old castles, churches, and substantial public edifices, are most readily made defensible; flat roofs, if not commanded from other ground or buildings are advantageous, that they should be little susceptible of catching fire is of great importance. A building that is thatched, or that contains a great deal of Hay, Straw, or other combustible, may generally be considered indefensible.

Outbuildings may sometimes be turned to valuable account, if they can be barricaded, and made to afford mutual defence to one another; in this way they may protect some important interior space and premises, thus, suppose A to be the main building prepared for defence B. B. to be



outbuildings, so disposed as to be capable of giving a flank defence to the enclosure walls C. C. the entire space D, may be thus secured, for not only will the fire from A. B. B. make the approach to the attack difficult, but it may perhaps in a great degree, if not entirely, be made to range over the whole interior of D. In such a post as this, the communications to the exterior would not be directly out from A. B. B. but first into D. and thence out.

Even after the lower or ground floor of a building has been forced or abandoned, the upper range has frequently been defended with success, by firing through openings in the floors.

If a post is in advance of a position, from which it may obtain support, or to which the defenders may have to retreat; for instance, if it is in front of an army; or on a shore, with the possibility of communicating by boats with shipping in the offing; the openings must be in the rear, and those communications must be made as secure from attack, or at least from view as possible.

All the communications in the interior, from one part of a post to the other, should be made clear; thus suppose two or three contiguous buildings to be occupied for defence, openings must be broken through in the interior for ready inter-communication as a whole.

It must be borne in mind, that an ordinary door, or gate, even of the strongest, is by no means musket shot proof; and while efforts are made to force it, the defenders by firing through, will probably kill or disable any of the assailants who may be behind it.