

against another, and some were thrown down. — Frederic was separated from the guards; putting on his father's wig, he availed himself of that moment of trouble and consternation to make his way through the crowd, and pass through one of the gates of the town—thus was he once more at liberty.

After a tedious journey of many hours, by avoiding the public roads, he was enabled to arrive in a village, where he hired a carriage, pretending he was a surgeon, and that his services were immediately required by a sick person. He carried with him some victuals to eat on the road, and in this manner regained the frontier, having lost his passport, his drawings, gown and portmanteau.

Happy in having escaped this danger he folded the wig and set out with all speed for the capital. He immediately waited on the minister, who was quite surprised to see him so soon. He related what had happened. The count smiled when he learned to the wig he owed to his life, or at least his liberty, and pressed him to his heart. Although Frederic had lost his sketches, he could, however, furnish valuable information relative to the condition of the fortress; for he had learned, in his conversation with the inkeeper, that the garrison of the place did not exceed two thousand men, and that they were poorly supplied with provisions and arms. It was his opinion, that a sudden attack would be attended with the most happy consequences, if it were directed by skilful officers.

The minister did not lose any of Frederic's observations and reported them to the Prince.

The matter was discussed in a council of war, at which the young surgeon assisted.

As his stay in the town was sufficiently long to enable him to know the situation of the fortress he knew the weakest places, and volunteered to guide the troops, to show them the fordable parts of the river, and concluded by promising success.

The votes were taken. The eldest officers were of opinion that the attack should not be made; but the prince, who relied on the valor of his soldiers, and who knew from other accounts that the place could not hold out long, decided that the enterprise should be undertaken. He foresaw that the capture of this town, at the beginning of the campaign would have important consequences, and might, perhaps decide the event of the war. To deceive the enemy, he caused it to be rumoured that he would attack a point entirely opposite to that where the fortress was situated, and in fact, he ordered troops to march in that direction. The stratagem was entirely successful.

the frontiers which the count of Lowe intended to attack, were left almost entirely destitute of troops. Four thousand men suddenly appeared before the fortress in question, and being led on by an excellent general, to whom Frederic was aid-de-camp, it was carried at the point of the bayonet. Frederic, who exposed himself nobly in this gallant enterprise, received a slight wound.

When the town was taken, Frederic repaired to the tavern where he had stopped fifteen days before, and demanded his portmanteau; but not finding it he went to the guard-house, where he was fortunate enough to recover his effects, which had been put away in a press.

The capture of this fortress changed the face of affairs. The enemy, surprised and defeated in different engagements, asked for peace and obtained it on hard and humiliating terms. Frederic rejoiced, with all the inhabitants of his country, to see hostilities so soon terminated; but did not doubt that a part of the glory of this successful campaign would be attributed to him.

The Prince sending for him soon after, received him with touching kindness, and said: "My dear Maltain, I wish to testify to you in my own name and in that of my country, the lively gratitude which I feel for the services that you have rendered me. It is to you that I owe the freedom of my minister Lowe, whose fidelity I esteem so highly I am indebted to you also for the information which enabled me to take this fortress, the capture of which has produced the happy results that I had foreseen; I am consequently indebted to you for peace! for you were instrumental in bringing it about. Although these actions can be rewarded neither by weight of gold nor by titles, nor any recompense, I should think myself wanting in my duty, if I did not give you a solemn mark of my affection for you. Receive, then, this decoration, with these parchments, which you will read when you return home. I hope that you will continue to render me in future all the service in your power; I know how to appreciate your knowledge and your merits. Remain always religious, upright and prudent, and my friendship will be yours forever." He embraced Frederic, called him his son, and then dismissed him, astonished at so many marks of kindness.

Frederic returned home, but had scarcely the strength to open the three parchments. The first that he opened was his nomination of knight of the military order of the country; the second, a diploma which conferred on him nobility; and the third his nomination of private counsellor of the Prince, an office to which was annexed a salary of six thousand crowns.