

# HISTORY

OF

## THE ENGLISH ARMY.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### *Of antient Fortifications, and the Attack and Defence of Places.*

THE antients seem to have had but very imperfect ideas of the benefit arising from that kind of mutual defence which constitutes the very essence of our modern fortification. Their chief dependence appears to have been on the height and thickness of their walls; they however found that when the enemy was close under them, they could not molest them by arrows, darts, or stones, unless by such as they could let fall perpendicularly on their heads. Hence the kind of defence, called a machicolation, was probably among the first discoveries on that subject. They, however, soon found that persons who could not be seen from the main ramparts might be seen and shot or thrown at from towers projecting beyond these walls. Round towers were then constructed at small distances one from the other, and portions of wall between them were built in a right line, so that the circle which was probably the original figure of most antient towns was changed into a polygon; this, in

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