

After the latter period, two troops of Life-Guards would be reduced, and replaced by the Grenadier Guards. The pay would be continued to the officers until vacancies happened in other regiments; and to the private gentlemen, all of whom had purchased their situations, it would be but just to make compensation. It was the King's intention," Sir George proceeded to say, "that the two colonels of the troops to be reduced should receive £1,200 each a year for life; but a vacancy having lately happened in a regiment of dragoons by the death of General Carpenter, one of them would be appointed to fill it, and thus £1,200 a year would be saved to the nation; the other Colonel (the Duke of Northumberland), who was far above all pecuniary consideration, and had nothing so much at heart as the good of the service, had nobly requested that the annuity designed for him might make part of the saving that was to arise from the reform. He (Sir George) said that the public would save by the reform, at first, between £11,000 and £12,000 a year; but that when the officers shall be otherwise provided for, or drop off by death, the savings would then amount to £24,000 per annum. Such advantage, however, could not be expected this year; on the contrary, this year's expense would be much greater than that of any which preceded it; but then the cause of its increase would never occur again, particularly as he proposed to move that the sum of £28,000 should be allowed as a compensation to the private gentlemen for their purchase money." Sir George then concluded by moving for the full establishment of 715 men, officers included, of the four troops of Horse and Grenadier Guards up to Midsummer Day, after which one half of their establishment should be reduced; and for the several sums for compensation, which, on the whole, amounted to £79,543 5s. He remarked, before he sat down, that much had recently been said on the subject of patronage; but this reduction was a proof that the extension of patronage was not a favourite object with His Majesty, who proposed it, as it was clear he might have greatly lessened the expenses of the nation, and yet preserved the usual patronage, by reducing the privates and keeping up the establishment of the officers. It is then added: "The sums moved for were voted without debate, and the House was immediately resumed."

The nominally independent action of the King in relation to the Household Troops, and its open allegation by the Secretary, tell of an age when the Stuart ideas of kingly prerogative still, in theory,