

him. Sir George was Secretary at War from 1782 to 1791, when he was succeeded by William Windham. He also held the offices of Vice-Treasurer for Ireland, and Master of the Mint. In 1797 he became Governor and Commander-in-Chief at the Cape of Good Hope, succeeding Lord Macartney there. He died at Hampton Court, September 26, 1812, æt. 80.

In the debates taking place in the House of Commons during the movement in the American Colonies which resulted in their independence, Sir George Yonge took a favourable view of the intentions and wishes of the colonists. Thus, in reply to Lord North, when some resolutions were being adopted on a petition from Nova Scotia setting forth the grievances of that loyal colony, and calling respectfully for a redress of them at the hands of the Imperial Parliament, Sir George Yonge said: "The sentiments of the petitioners were the sentiments of the General Congress: they alike acknowledge the Parliament of Great Britain as the supreme legislature; they alike own it their duty to contribute to the exigencies of the State; and they alike claim the right of giving and granting their own money." He added, "that it was in the power of the Ministry so to frame the bill as to give peace to all America, and he wished that were their inclination." Thus his remarks are summarized in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of December, 1776. As a specimen of Sir George's speeches at a later period, as Secretary at War, I give the summary of one preserved in the same periodical, which will show that he possessed tact and address. It relates to a proposed reduction in the Household Troops in 1787, to effect which, however, a larger sum than usual was to be asked for from the Parliament. The point was to make it clear that the extra charge on the revenue would result in a "saving to the public."

The reporter of the *Gentleman's Magazine* informs us that "The Secretary of War rose and said, that when he presented the army estimates, he had not included in them those of the King's household troops, because, as he had long since informed the House, His Majesty had at that time under consideration a plan of reform in those corps by which a considerable saving might be made to the public. It being impracticable, however, to digest this plan so soon as was expected, the intended reform could not take place till the 24th of June next. It was therefore necessary to vote the pay of all the household troops from Christmas Day last up to Midsummer.