

of the time, his exploits and his books find frequent mention.* The story of his prowess in the single-handed capture of a highwayman went the round of the taverns. His portrait in full Ranger uniform, with Indians in the background, adorned the windows of the print-shops, and was even reproduced in Germany. His tall figure, in half-pay officer's uniform, became a not unfamiliar object in the Court quarter of the town. He undoubtedly enjoyed the patronage and favour of the King. One of his enemies writing in 1770 to Sir William Johnson, complains that "Robert Rogers has the ear of the court; that many of the great are pushing for him; and that Mr. Fitzherbert, an officer high in the household of George III., is his particular friend."† Indeed, to the end he seems to have enjoyed the not entirely unequivocal distinction of King George's approbation. Lord George Germaine, writing to Gen. Howe as late as 1776, says, "The King approves the arrangement you propose, in respect to an adjutant-general and a quartermaster-general, and also your attention to Major Rogers, of whose firmness and fidelity we have received further testimony from Governor Tryon."‡

George III.'s choice of instruments at this period, notably in the case of Lord George,§ himself, as Secretary for the Colonies, is not generally regarded as betraying exceptional political sagacity.

Notwithstanding the royal favour, which does not seem to have been alienated even by his alleged eccentricity in appearing for a wager, on one occasion, at the King's levee, in the buckskin gaiters worn by rangers during their woodland campaigns, Robert Rogers was probably more at home in the society of soldiers of fortune, where his prowess as a boon companion and *raconteur* was doubtless popular.

In 1772 we find him writing from his lodgings at Spring Gardens, Charing Cross.|| Soon after that, his superfluous energies found vent in foreign warfare. A true Captain Dalgetty, he fought in Northern Africa in the Algerine service. We know from a letter of Washington's that he was assigned to service in the East Indies,¶ when the outbreak of hostilities in America recalled him to the scene of his earlier activities. That he arrived in America with an open mind is not impossible. Unlike

* Gentleman's Magazine:—1758, Mar, Aug., Oct.; 1760, Nov, Dec.; 1765, Dec.

London Monthly Review, xxxiv.9-22-242.

† Johnson MSS. xviii. 185-186.

‡ American Archives, Fourth Ser., iv. 575.

§ Lord George Germaine, better known by his former name, Lord George Sackville, was the officer who, in command of the English cavalry at Minden, in a fit of spleen refused to charge and so marred the completeness of Prince Ferdinand's victory.

|| Johnson MSS, xxi. 238.

¶ Spark's 'Washington,' iii. 440.