Whitehall 9 March 1804

Private

My Dear Lord

I conceive General Whitelocke as Governor of a Fortified Place, is perfectly justified in his idea, that the Volunteers while they are under Arms, even for a Drill, are entirely under his Command, and that he can without assigning any Reason order any Corps or Company not to bear Arms, and in short give what directions he think fit, in this behalf, for the safety and good order of his Garrison. The Principle of necessity in which this is grounded is obvious, and it appears to be to extend to a considerable degree, to give similar Persons under certain circumstances to Generals Commanding Districts and Places not fortified, at least so far as to authorise them to forbid there Corps from assembling or marching about armed without notice, or Permission first given, or obtained, on the other Hand I am clear that the Lieutenant Governor cannot with any colour of authority interfere with the particulars of the Clothing and uniform of Volunteer Corps.

I agree with your Lordship in your construction of the Clause about the Command of General Officers when the Volunteers are called out, and think that it already provides for every thing that is necessary.

I have the honor to be, etc

C. Yorke

I am rather suprized at what you mention of the unarmed state of your vessels at Cowes, etc.