Portsmouth 22nd April 1804

I am commissioned by the Gentleman to whom your Lordship’s favour of the 17th Inst. is addressed to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to express their most lively sense of gratitude for your Lordship’s kind and friendly communication, in which sentiments I most sincerely participate.

We cannot my Lord, present to enter into any argument on the several points alluded to, in your letter, but merely beg leave to state, that by your proposing to appoint Mr E. Arnaud and Mr James Deacon Field Officers we conceived it was in your Lordship’s contemplation, to abandon the system of Independent Companies. With respect to the Powers said to be allowed to Major General Whitelocke however delicate the subject is, we lament that we cannot agree in opinion with your Lordship, as to the necessity of applying to the General as Lieutenant Governor of Portsmouth, for his approbation of the Day, and hour, and place, or our Drills, and other business relative to the perfecting ourselves in Military exercise, not observing such powers to be given to any General Officer or Governor of a Garrison in the Volunteer Bill now pending in Parliament; and which powers were granted might be unpleasant, inconvenient, and very prejudicial to us, and the Men, as to the Business we are respectively engaged in.

We are less concerned to conceive your Lordship’s apprehension of difficulty in the adoption of the plan we took the liberty of offering you for your Sanction, which we did from a conscientious belief that it was the best was we could devise to remove all the difficulties that have so long existed on this question, and which we were not aware would be objected to, as Corps are in the County in several instances, more widely distant that we are from Havant, especially as my Brother, from him peculiar situation, can with convenience and good effect, attend to the concerns of the whole.

I am particularly desired by my friends to thank your Lordship for the anxiety you have been good enough to express to put us upon a comfortable footing, and for your kind Intention of doing the best you can towards it, which we have always considered to be the case, and have felt the sincerest gratitude for it.

I have the honor to be

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Much obliged and very obedient servant

G. Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton