Portsmouth 15th February 1804

My Lord,

Under an oppression of Spirits I cannot express but which I hope your Lordship will excuse, I humbly beg leave to represent to you that having received a treatment from General Whitelocke this morning of a nature the most Grose and unprovoked on the Public Parade and in presence of a great number of People, I am under the unpleasant necessity of requesting your Lordship to permit me to resign my Commission as a Captain in the Portsmouth Volunteers, as I cannot unless my conduct is satisfactorily understood by your Lordship, consistently with my own feelings and what I owe as a Volunteer Officer continue as a Volunteers. While standing at my own door this Morning the General when passing on the opposite side of the Street called to me a surprized me very much by swearing at me shaking his stick at me asked me how I dared take the command of four companies yesterday.

I told him I was the Senior Officer. His reply was God Damn You don’t you know that you are Independent Companies and that is in our Garrison orders that you should not Drill together, I said I did not know of any such orders; He rejoined then Damn You Sir, You know it now and take this for your orders if you ever presume to go out with them again I will disband you and your company still shaking in a threatening manner his stick and repeatedly Damning me and making use of the same threats and desiring me to go and consult Mr Greetham my Attorney General. I beg leave to explain to your Lordship that the Several Companies of Volunteers were yesterday Inspected and that on our March to the Ground I overtook the other three Companies alluded to by the General and fell into their ranks and their being no Captains with them the Lieutenants requested me to take the command as the Senior Officer which I did without thinking that I acted improperly it having been frequently adopted on other occasions not only by the Companies then with me but by all the other Companies.

I have the honor to be

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Most obedient very humble servant

J. C. Mottley

Right Honorable Lord Bolton