Portsmouth 10th September 1803

My Lord,

I am very glad to find that Sir John Carter and Mr Fitzherbert have determined to wait upon your Lordship tomorrow and to take with them a Correct list of the Companies of Volunteers belonging to Portsea Island. I am very sorry to say that the numbers are falling short, and that I percieve some abatement in zeal owing to the delay that has taken place, and I therefore earnestly hope that your Lordship will not experience further difficulty in the conclusive arrangement. I am told this morning that Mr Arnaud has resigned his Company, and I own that I am not sorry for it, as I think we shall do better without him.

I find by your Lordships letter of the 8th that Mr Budd is desirous of joining the whole or a part of the Volunteers of Hayling Island to those of Havant, and as Mr Budd was told from the first that Fort Cumberland was the Post where alone his Corps would be made useful, I hope your Lordship will confine him to a measure which he decidedly consented to, and which plainly the most sensible one that could be adopted. His wishing to join Mr Garrett at Havant is only for the sake of shew and nonsense, calculated to gratify the vanity of the Officers and to Sicken the Men of the real Service they will have to perform.

I shall attend to what your Lordship recommends with respect to Arming the Artillery Companies with Pikes.

Sir John Carter and Mr Fitzherbert will be enabled I think to furnish your Lordship with what further information you may require.

I have desired Lord Charles Somerset to do all he can to preserve zeal and unanimity amougst the Gosport Volunteers, but to do that is not an easy task on either side of the Water, of such a nature is the kind of ambition they so anxiously wish to gratify, I mean of course the leading people amougst them.

I am, my Lord

With great respect

Your faithful and obedient servant

John Whitelocke, M. G.

Rt. Honbl. Lord Bolton.