Portsmouth, 14th January 1804

My Lord,

I am sorry to have occasion to send you the paper herewith enclosed, and at the same time to acquaint your Lordship that the Dirty Family Quarrels amongst the Inhabitants of this town, in the mind of some of them totally get the better of the duty they owe their King and their Country.

It would be trifling with your Lorship’s time to trouble you with a detail of their nonsensical disputes and I shall therefore content myself with requesting that the Resignations of Captain G. Garrett, Captains Hickley and Greetham may be accepted and that you will be so good to recommend the succession of the Lieutenants of each.

With this change, I think the Machine will work again for some time, but I am sorry to say that I am now too well convinced that the whole system requires some essential alteration to render the Volunteers what I once considered they might be – a less number, regulated by laws which would bring the Volunteers nearer to the real soldier would in my opinion benefit the Country. As a many Militia or other Ballots as you please for those who retire not wishing to become really useful to the state.

I have experienced a very considerable degree of awkwardness relative to Captain Deacon of the Navy who had constantly done duty with Victualling Office People, in consequences of the assurances he had upon the formation of the Volunteers. If therefore your Lordship should find it impossible to prevail on the Secretary of State to admit the Appointment, may I request that you will take the trouble to write Captain Deacon a line to that effect.

I am My Lord, & &

John Whitelocke, M[ajor] G[eneral]

Rt. Hon.bl. Lord Bolton