Portsmouth 28 September 1803

My Lord,

I am very happy to find that Sir John Carter forwards to your Lordship to day all the Returns of the Volunteers of Portsmouth. I have had considerable difficulty in getting that from the Victualling Officer but I hope now that every obstacle to the Officers getting their Commissions will be done away, as your Lordship may be assured that the unavoidable delay that has already taken place has equally diminished our Zeal and Numbers. Few of these people Volunteer from the kind of Spirit Your Lordship flattered them they prossessed, but during the suspense have been looking about and enquiring if their exemptions lessend, that appearing to interest them a thousand times more than the very fate of the Country. I have however rallied them again and now if I could but see the Names of the Officers in the Gazette, I believe all would go well. I believe we shall not get Colonel Duke as he is appointed Inspecting Field Officer of Volunteers for the County which will be pleasanter to him as he may not remove from his own House. I find that an Officer of that Rank is to be named for Portsmouth and Gosport and the Commander in Chief has been pleased to allow me to recommend a Field Officer or a Person having held that Rank with Credit to himself. As yet I am not certain if Lieutenant Colonel Forster late of the 24th Regiment will be allowed to hold the situation being an Equerry to the Duke of Gloster but you Lordship may be satisfied that out of the number of Military Men with whome I am acquainted I shall help myself advantageously. It was you Lordship’s recommendation of a Field Officer of the Line to Command the Volunteers here that has occasioned the General adoption of that measure at least I am told so.

I am My Lord

With great respect

Your faithfull

And obedient servant

John Whitelocke Major General

Right Honorable Lord Bolton