Hackwood Park, 21 August 1803

Private

My Dear Lord,

I will not persecute you upon the subject of Portsmouth and Gosport, and intreat you to consider the singular situation of those place and the immense consequences of such superintendence and Instruction to the Volunteers there as may not only make them useful but may render them the means of liberating in case of Exigency, a large body of Regular Troops for General Service. I mentioned in a former letter the whole plan and reasons for being anxious to have Military Officers at the Head of the Arrangement, in order to prevent confusion and jealousy. We could not have obtained any thing without the equality now settled by means of Companies only, commanded by persons of the place or Neighbourhood. I had thought of three or four with the Rank of Major, but it will not do. I enclose a private letter of General Whitelocke’s by which you will see the exact state of the case. I can have no wish upon Earth but the real good of the Public Service, and I am solely induced thereby again, to press for the three Gentleman named. There cannot by another similar case except perhaps Plymouth. Lieutenant Colonel Duke is on half pay and it is only wished to give him full pay. Captain Deacon wanted for the Victualling Office People, and Captain Meredith now in full pay in the Artillery to be attached to this Service of Instruction. They will only besides want and Adjutant, for which I would recommend a Portsmouth Gentleman, Captain Missing of the South Hampshire Militia.

I again refer your Lordship to General Whitelocke’s letter, and intreat an early word or two, because all is at a stand.

Ever My Dear Lord,

Etc, etc

Bolton