Memorandum

Most private

I did not care to put the following Memoranda into the body of even a private letter to you upon such a subject, but I think it absolutely necessary that you should know the circumstances and I therefore thus separately set them down.

The General wishes it to be supposed, that to him is owing the number of Volunteers in Portsmouth. I have no wish to detract from his merits or exertions, but there most assuredly would have been many, although not all the same Volunteers as Present, unless the Corporation had absolutely continued (as during the last war) active only in checking the spirit of every Voluntary Service. But the General evidently has some views indicative of a violent sudden attachment to the Corporation to gratify whom he has laboured in all his recommendations of their friends or creature in all his endeavours at removals of their appointments, without sufficient regard for the merits or demerits of the Persons. This prevailing spirit with a good mixture of jobbing and of vanity has assuredly occasioned the concealed arrangements and recommendations which the General has made. The one led to the private appointment of Major Carter, the other to Major Maxwell.

The first is a very young Man, son of an Inhabitant of Portsmouth and himself living there and Nephew of Sir John Cater, the Guide of the Corporation. The history of the appointment of Major Maxwell is very curious, and I am assured, positively true. The situation was designed for a Major Sewell, who, it seems, married Mrs Whitelocke's sister, but it was thought a better thing for him to exchange with Major Maxwell who was Major of an Old Regiment, and was prevailed upon to relinquish his Majority in favour of Major Sewell on the promise of being also appointed to the Command of this Battalion of Volunteers, which was represented in a very advantageous light. He came to Portsmouth with the impression of commanding a Corps on regular duty, and proceeded accordingly in his orders and regulations, which caused a good deal of uneasiness to some of the Volunteers, and also very soon made the Major repent of his exchange for a command, which he expected to be able to sell. His remonstrances etc at least procured him permission to sell a Company, and he has been appointed an Inspecting Field Officer.

The Gazette has already announced his successor at Portsmouth, a Major Sibbald, of whom I know nothing, having never from the beginning been honored with the most distant Intimation of any of these measure, which, I am sure, the General thought would not have been as recommended by me.

In my conduct towards the Corporation and their opponents I have uniformly been guided by a desire to put an end to all discordances in encouraging united efforts for the Public Service. I have been ready at all times to follow up the principle of removing all cause of jealousy by abstaining from recommendations of Persons of either Party to higher rank than that of Captain, which idea in fact with a view of conciliation originated from me, as I can shew by letters at and previous to the Establishment of the plan.