Leigh House 9th June 1804

My Lord

I had written more fully to your Lordship in answer to the letter I had the honor or receiving from you this morning and was going to send it by the Post when I received a note from my Brother announcing their intentions of going to Hackwood tomorrow with a view to explain every thing themselves. I will therefore only content myself with hoping that they will convince your Lordship that, however, appearances may be against them, at not at once acquiescing in putting themselves into Battalion for the occasion of the Birth day, they had such reasons for objecting as will tend considerably to justify them. But goaded as they have been by every species of provocation it is scarcely to be imagined that Men can act throughout a struggle of this nature perfectly correct.

General Whitelocke fancies himself superior to your Lordship and therefore does not design to communicate an affair of this sort to you. I know not whether he is a most a fool or a madman.

I deeply lament your Lordship’s indisposition and as sincerely deplore that any thing from this quarter should increase your vexations.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of esteem and respect

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Most obedient and obliged servant

William Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton

**Memorandum, to mention to Lord Bolton**

That you cheerfully went out in Battalion until they refused to join you. That the General though told by Major Pritzler that it was all the fault of the others, accused you and abused Mr G[eorge] G[arrett] in company with other Gentlemen, that you then repeated your desires to be permitted to resign to prevent confusion.

That on being urged to continue by Lord Bolton in consequence of an interview with the General in London, you went out in 4 Companies sanctioned by the General, by Martin White and Mennoch, and every thing was going on quietly when the Gross and outrageous insult was committed upon you and your men, who for the first time manifested the strongest symptoms of anger and resentment.

This was greatly increased at having the next day that the 6 Companies exulted at having turned their backs upon you, all this you Mark'd in silence and still continued zealous to improve your Men and were putting yourselves to great expense to please and gratify your Men, when the Correspondence took place respecting the Birth Day. You then felt you ought to prevent the mortification of being separated and respectfully remonstrated against it. You pressed your point, the Men from hearing the report of the Town to be that you would be forced into the Battalion, and that you would separated and made to March under their Colours, etc, etc. During your correspondence you had been informed that the 6 Captains had on their parts objected to falling into the post assigned them on the Hill, and that on their expressing their objection General Whitelocke immediately caused the arrangement of the Troops to be altered in compliment to them. He made no accusation against them. You then received the letter which in your minds prevented you from going and if you did not convene your Men and Non-Commissioned Officers, it arose from the pledge you gave General Whitelcoke that your Men should not be made partakers of this dispute. But on finding your Men had been invited to go without you, you determined to accompany them. To explain here all that you suspect and believe respecting the way it was brought about. To tell Lord Bolton that in determining to go to the Hill on the morning notwithstanding the message, you had Major Noel's your commanding officers advice - that you did not consider it an order if it had been you would have returned and that although by the message your Men were requested to go without, yet that the expressed their intention to return with you. That if you erred in this point it was from judgement. What would have been the impression of people's minds at seeing your Men without you. On this occasion the General committed himself irrecoverably. But for the conversation between William Garrett and Captain Brown he would have taken one more violent step for which purpose you had received orders to March to the Glacis and report your arrival to the General in order no doubt to be degraded but fortunately General Whitelocke was dissuaded from taking any further steps on that day. His subsequent conduct should not pass unnoticed, the system of terror adopted in the town. The distrust we all live in of one another. In short, the whole proves the necessity of a change of some kind or other. One reason that led to your disinclination to go according to the first order, was that Major Noel had avowed his intention of equalising the several companies, which you not only knew your men would not consent to but you yourselves thought would be unjust to yourselves being all Independent Companies, and consequently each officer would naturally feel emulous to shew his own Company to the best advantage and if he happed to have a more numerous one it would be hard he should lose some of his men to swell those who were deficient.

Who could blame Volunteers at respectfully stating their objections to being intermixed with men who had treated them so ill as a proof this opinion prevailed in the minds of other Volunteers it was the case of the respectable Corps of London Light Horse Volunteers under Colonel Harries who objected to being brigaded with other Corps.

The Generals motives for writing to me the letter he did on the 19 of February I had no reason to suppose were insincere and therefore I anticipated the satisfaction of a revisal of old Friendship and society but my surprise was inexpressible at hearing a few days afterwards that the General took pains to contradict that he ever written any letter to me expressive of sentiments of any such nature as that which was reported.

The report was never sanctioned by me nor did I show the Generals letter to any but Lord Bolton who happened to me with me when I received it and my own family who felt naturally a considerable degree of pleasure at its contents as our minds had been a good agitated at the things General Whitelcoke had been accused of saying of me in different Companies and upon many occasions. It happened that I did not for some time come to Portsmouth but when I did I was sorry to learn that notwithstanding the trouble taken by the Lord Lieutenant the other 6 Companies in despair at fancying that they adversaries (if by such name they can be called so) had convinced the Lord Lieutenant and the General of their unmerited treatment, took by the resolution of refusing to join or drill any more with them and plainly avowed their determination. The General without investigating the cause strongly marked his resentment at my Brother and his Friends by very strange and unprovoked language \_ this les to an interposition of the Lord Lieutenant again and it was resolved between him and the General in London that the Companies would be separated and allowed to act together namely the four Companies by themselves and the six by themselves - in this way they went on from April without any circumstance arising worth mentioning except that on one day when the 4 companies had to pass the 6 companies who were at drill on Southsea Common and were preparing to pay the compliment of carrying Arms to them (which was the only act of civility that had it in their power to pay them as military men and it evinced on their parts certainly a disposition to shew them respect) when just as they were passing close to them, the 6 Companies were ordered to the right about and turned their backs upon the Companies passing in order to mark the utmost contempt towards them, and this motive is ascertained from the declaration of the Officer Commanding that such was the motive.

We always manifested a disposition to go out in Battalion, Lord Bolton knows our wish to have Major P[ritzler] to command us in Battalion, in which we cordially joined until the other 6 Companies suddenly took and formed a resolution not to act or join with us again. This with the insult and also numberless mortifying insults brought to our ears, said behind our backs brought it to this issue. Which we in truth wished to have avoided by resignation long ago.