London, 13th January 1804

My Lord,

Being in town upon some particular business I accidently returned to my Lodgings in time just to write a short letter to your Lordship in consequence of the I have just received from my brother Mr. George Garrett of Portsmouth who tells me that in consequence of some harsh measures of General Whitelocke towards him and two other Captains he has been induced to solicit his resignation and that General Whitelocke has signified to him and his friends that he shall represent his conduct as disloyal and disaffected and that he would ruin Mr Greetham one of the Gentlemen in his profession, he being Judge Advocate of the Navy. My Lord I earnestly adjure you to hear both sides before you decide, I will not presume to predict what the impression of your mind will be when you hear the whole story but I can confidently sacredly and most solemnly assure your Lordship that the conduct of these Gentlemen has not been such as to give offense to any reasonable mind but General Whitelocke having unfortunately interfered in the enrolment of the Volunteers at Portsmouth and enter’d into a most unnatural condition with the Corporation they will not rest until they have affected the ruin and degradation of those who have hitherto been the most loyal and my family with Mr Greetham because he is attached to us and because we will not yield submissively to their present views are the destined victims. To you my Lord My Brother and the other Gentleman will appeal and if their situation claims it they will have protection at your Lordship’s hands. On my return I will enquire into the business and your Lordship shall be fully acquainted with it, I am only at present anxious to beg you to suspend and opinion until you have heard both sides.

I have the honour to be

My Lord, your Lorship’s

Most obedient and obliged servant

William Garrett