Leigh House, January 17th 1804

My Lord

I went to Portsmouth immediately on my return to procure as much information as I could, upon the subject of the letter I took the liberty of addressing to your Lordship so hastily from London on Friday evening. I am enabled to give you a full and I verily believe a fair statement of all that has taken place since the first establishment of the Volunteers at Portsmouth, if your Lordship should require it? But as I learn from a private Communication that General Whitelocke has transmitted the resignations of the three Captains to you, without any comments thereupon of his own, it may it may be therefore sparing you a good deal of trouble and annoyance to let the matter rest here for the present, and let the General pursue his mistaken plan until he becomes sensible of his error and recommends the adoption of a system more congenial to the nature and disposition of Volunteers.

I find Major Maxwell whom the General selected as the most eligible person to be their Commandant, has signified his intention to resign, and I happened to dine in Company, with a Young Man sent for from Shropshire where he was Major of a Corps of Volunteers by the General, to be placed at the head of the Portsmouth Volunteers, he having formerly been in the Regulars. I learn also that two serjeants of Militia are nominated to be Adjutants of these Corps upon permanent pay (observing that not a single Volunteer ever had any idea of permanent duty until they saw mention made of it in the Gazette). I cannot think from the knowledge I have of your Lordship's sentiments, that all these measures were in your contemplation in the early stages of the Volunteer Establishment here or that the Country should be put to expence of 3 Field Officers with 3 Adjutants upon permanent pay when there were Men who were ready to come forward without! I have even heard that Major Maxwell at first thought his situation here was as saleable as the Commission he held in the 48th regiment which he was persuaded to give up in favour of a nephew of General Whitelocke a Major Seevell. The other Field Officer Major Carter is a Nephew of Sir John Carter! I ought not to feel any longer supriz'd at my not being thought an eligible person to hold a command even though I might have influence to raise ever so great a number of Men.

Pardon me, My Lord, for so much intrusion on your time, I could say much more than you will have the patience to hear and yet in some respects it were right you should be aware of the springs of action of those, who cannot accomplish their ends but through your Lordship. You know me I hope too well to suppose me capable of asserting any thing that facts cannot be adduced to support me or that “I set down aught in malice” I assure you I rejoice most heartily at being taken out of Portsmouth, and that I shall feel most sensible obliged to you for your friendly conduct to me on that occasion.

I have the honor to be with sentiments

Of sincere regard and respect

My Lord, your Lordships

Most obedient servant

William Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton