Portsmouth 23 January 1804

My Lord

I was yesterday honoured by your letter of the 21st. I have furnished myself with several particulars, but really they are so voluminous, that they cannot be conveyed by the post and in fact I do not exactly know whether your Lordship is in town or at Hackwood. I venture to address this to you in the Country, if you are not there it will be forwarded to you, to say that I will wait upon your Lordship at Hackwood next Sunday morning about eleven o’clock. Provided you are there, and if not I will attend you there at any time and on any day you will be pleased to mention, after your arrival or should you not propose being in the Country before the Assizes. I will even wait upon you in Town, for I am anxious to make you acquainted with all that has passed here since you were at the Guild Hall at Portsmouth.

In the meantime, I have to say that on the three Gentlemen saying to the General that they would themselves signify their wishes to your Lordship to resign, He flew out in violence forbidding them to write saying "for if you do I must write also". You are not likely therefore to receive any other notice of it, He evidently did not wish that there should be any communication between your Lordship and these Gentlemen. You will exercise your own superior judgement on the occasion, but I hope you will not deem me officious if I presume to suggest to you, whether you might not desire to be put in possession of the reasons why these resignations are desired? for in fact if General Whitelocke will let the parties alone and not interfere with them, expecting only, what they are ready and willing to submit to viz to exercise together whenever it is thought proper, but not to be regimented and to be obliged to dress in a manner that is intended only to mark them in his Garrison as Volunteers and to distinguish them by a certain style of dress, which is expressly contrary to his original wish or desire, they would suppress their feelings and remain with their Companies.

You have My Lord judged right in those motives to General Whitelocke he has been throughout endeavouring to supersede your authority and privilege and to take to himself the credit of the whole making the world believe that through his influence here every thing was in harmony and that the Volunteer system in his Garrison was in the only proper state of discipline.

Waiting in no small degree of anxiety your Lordship’s answer, when I may have the pleasure of waiting upon you, as I think no time is to be lost in repelling the possible injury he (General Whitelocke) may design, in his statement of the business to General Brownrigge with a view to its being communicated to the Duke of York, the intimation of which you have obtained and which I consider as very fortunate.

With every sentiment of unfeigned regard and esteem I have the honor

To be, My Lord

Your most faithful servant

William Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton