Leigh House 23 July 1804

My Lord

It seems very much to be the desire not only of the Officers but of several of the Man of the late Portsmouth Companies that your Lordship should be informed of their earnest wish to act still as Volunteers, though from circumstances they are unwilling to engage in any Corps in Portsmouth or Portsea. They flatter themselves that now that General Whitelocke can have no longer any motives for Interfering or any opinion to give upon the question, that there are hope for their wishes being acceded to by your Lordship, when you shall be convinced, that the purpose for which they were originally intended will be as well accomplished by their being consider’d as belonging to the Havant Corps as if they were attached to a Battalion at Portsmouth.

It seems that in consequence of a Ballot having taken place at Fareham the other day Mr Rood soon got a Company together, who were prompted by no other motive than that of exemption. Every endeavour to get the Men to go into other Companies having failed, and the Men being continually asking me to suffer them to join my Corps, I am at length induced to yield to their wishes so far as to consult your Lordship about it. If you have no objection I think there is every reason to believe that every Man will be recover’d to the service and I really do not see any strong objection to it. They profess a willingness to join the Havant Corps and every Inspection day and on all particular occasions. They will be drilled and have their proper days of Exercise at Portsmouth and should we be called into actual Service, the Havant Volunteers will act in the Garrison of Portsmouth.

The offer to be made, for your Lordship’s consideration and approbation is, that one Company should be raised at Portsmouth under the command of my Brother as Captain, Mr Greetham as 1st Lieutenant and Mr Hickley as 2nd Lieutenant to consist of 70 or 80 Men to be added to the Havant Corps.

The Men that will form this Company will not enter into any other, therefore it is a force gained and if I thought there could be the slightest objection to the public good to acceding to it I would not, I assure you my Lord, venture to propose it. On my own account, I am not in the smallest degree anxious or desirous for it and I hope it is not necessary for me to add that I am not instigated by any motive of personal ambition. I pledge you my word of honor that I will not ask or wish for, higher rank. I never had a desire to be higher in rank that I am, I hope it was an honest and an excusable object in me not to be lower in rank in this War than I was in the last.

Without your Lordship;s sanction no answer can be returned to the impatient applications of the Men I allude to, and the sooner they are told what to do the better. You will therefore much oblige by signifying your opinion as early as is convenient. I most sincerely hope your Lordship will recover your Health and I have the honor to be

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Most obedient and faithful servant

William Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton