Havant June 4th 1804

My Lord

If there ever was a mind more hurt and vex’d, it is mine at the moment, I figure to myself much more serious consequences than are like to occur perhaps, but my feelings are those of a Man and a Brother, conscious that all the General’s conduct arises from mistake and misrepresentation. It is now I imagine brought to an issue and whether he is wright or wrong I fear nothing can stop the agitation of a question which at this critical moment is to be highly deplored and prevented if possible. Tired and fatigued with a long and anxious Day to exert my utmost with my Corps to celebrate the birthday of our virtuous and amiable King, I have stop’t on our March from Portsdown at the first house where I could meet with Pen and Paper to address a few lines to your Lordship, to adjure you to forbear taking any steps or receiving any impressions, until you are made acquainted with all the facts and all the rashness and intemperance (I will venture to call it so) of General Whitelocke towards Captain’s Garrett, Greetham, and Hickley. On the Hill I was made acquainted with it and from a conversation Captain Brown had with me afterwards I am led to imagine it to be the General Whitelocke’s intention to lay the matter before the Duke of York. I told him, I urged him to advise the General to reflect that I believed in my conscience (whether the Captains were wrong or not) that the General had strongly committed himself by his orders, of which I imagine your Lordship will be apprized by the Captains, who for aught I know may on their return to Portsmouth be put under arrest. Their intention is I believe to write to you My Lord to accept their resignations and take them at once out of General Whitelocke’s power or control. I will not presume to say that they are, or have been correct throughout, if they have not it must now be seen, if they have erred it has been in judgement not in intention. They are cruelly hurt and I feel for them, and so will the generosity and kindness of your Lordship’s mind when you hear what they have suffer’d.

I have the honor to be

My Lord, your Lordship’s

Most obedient humble servant

W. Garrett

Right Honorable Lord Bolton