18th August 1803

Private

Memorandum of a letter to Lord Hobart

Meeting at Winchester General Uneasiness about the chance of a check to the spirit of the Country in offers of Volunteers. Interpretation of the notice respecting, arming only six time the Militia in hope that it means only supply of Arms to that Number by Government and exlcusion of Volunteers under the Regulations. The County would by Subscription find Arms as well as Cloths for the rest hope too that Portsmouth may be considered as a seperate Object and on that account may not be included in the calculation for Quotas some Companies there may be Armed with Pikes, as may others on the Sea Coast, Instructions wished about this, Aware of some necessary check to the excess of zeal for Arms - but afraid of it too sudden and great restraint, which might have bad effect on this occasion. Of clothing - disposition of Country to help the people but to keep simplicity and avoid competition in dress. Example hoped for in the some of the Principal Gentlemen of the Country.

Question of the numbers allowed or wished in Companies of Volunteers under the Act - class men should be 120, but we have none. I have kept Volunteers at 80 - fear of attempts merely at rank. This is no harm where real respectable Gentlemen can be recommended but difficulty is to guard against the urgency of inferior pretensions. Clases in no Act points out 60 as a company of that amount allowed to charge for a Serjeant. This will be caught at.