Hackwood Park

27 September 1803

Private

Dear Sir

The request I have now received from Lieutenant Colonel Rose I think it necessary to first to communicate by private letter. He has seen, he says, in repeated gazettes the title of Regiment given to several Volunteers Corps, and he therefore solicits the same distinction with its consequences for his and for himself. I can only, after what has already said to me on that subject, make the representation again to you.

I perceive by the Gazette, that Lieutenant Colonel Duke, whom I had the honor to propose as Commandant of the Volunteer Force (and who, I understood, had been approved of as such) at Portsmouth and its Dependencies, is appointed to one of the General Inspectors, which I suppose will disqualify him from any other engagement. I am sorry to be obliged to add, that by letters from Portsmouth I learn that the Volunteers have refused to take the Oath of Allegiance etc till they shall know that their officers have been gazetted. The long interval from their first enrolments and their repeated drills in this state of suspense have, I am afraid, occasioned a great relaxation of zeal for the service.

I will not repeat the subject of arms. I only mention, that I go tomorrow to Winchester, where I have hoped to have been enabled to make the most satisfactory distribution with the General for the Corps on the Coast. I go from thence to the Isle of Wight for three and four days, where also the Volunteers upon the exposed coast have no arms.

I really feel much distressed at the repeated trouble I am under the necessity of giving to you. I wish that I could avoid it.

I have the honor to be

With sincere respect and regard

Dear Sir

Your very faithful humble servant

Bolton

Right Honorable Charles Yorke