Honorable Sir,

As by your letters which have frequently seen in publick prints respecting volunteers, there is no doubt but His Majesty's wish is to render them effectual; and if your honor as Secretary of State will look to the Victualling Officer Volunteer Artillery which am sure must be 300 strong: you will find that instead of being first as surely Government People ought that from the time they were enroled about 8 or 9 months to this date, there has been no exertion at all on the part of the Officers, for equiping them in uniform, or causing them to be taught the necessary Exercise and Discipline, which is so essential to Soldiers, and would be litigious[?] in me to enumerate to you. The Major is a Master and Commander of the Royal Navy who receives pay while he holds his situation as Major of that Company, and as the Captains are perfectly indifferent as to any order or regularity becoming Officers and Soldiers. He seldom comes or pays any attention to the Corps; the Privates I know well are restrained by all the insinuations the Officers can use, and if they have silenced them for a short time it is not to be wondered at when their civil capacity renders them truly subservient, such men should not have their spirits damped by their Officers in coming forward to serve their King and Country. Nothing but a sense of Duty I owe to my Country and to the Portsmouth Battalion in which I have the honor to be a Private and have been doing actual duty while these men restrained by their Officers have been so long inactive have influenced me to state these facts.

I have the honor to be

Honorable Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

A Volunteer

Portsmouth 8 January 1804