Portsmouth, 15th June 1804

My Lord

I was honoured with your Lordships letter yesterday the contents of which are such as I looked for after the conduct of the persons concerned. I have ever felt it to be my Duty to mark His Majesty’s Birthday with all the respect in my power to Command, and this consideration alone induced me to call upon the Volunteers inviting them to form a part of the Line on Portsdown Hill. I found no interruption to my wished but from the three Gentlemen in question, and I suppose their Resignation has been occasioned by the notice it became my indispensable Duty to take up their Proceedings. If I do not learn that they have set up a regular Defence of their conduct, I shall not think it incumbent on me to trouble either your Lordship or my Professional superiors upon the subject, more than express my regret that one troublesome attorney should have so long, and with impunity, have worked at the ruin of the Volunteer System as far as my Command extends, for subject to such insults it could not be expected that a General Officer could longer afford his support, which if ever so feeble, must have tended their improvement.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your very faithful and obedient servant

John Whitelocke, Major General

Right Honorable Lord Bolton