Hackwood House 21 June 1804

Private

My Lord

I have the honor according to my promise to transmit to your Lordship the letter, which General Whitelocke has at last thought fit to write to me in answer to mine, in which I simply told him, that the three Captains had desired to resign, and I thought it right to apprize him of it.

I have every reason to suppose that he had not intended to honor me with any notice upon the subject, although he read to Mr. Garrett part of a letter, which, he said, he should send to the Duke of Cumberland desiring H. R. H. "to cause me to refuse the resignations, that the officers might be dismissed with disgrace." I cannot possibly conceive upon what ground […] could found a charge against them; for although I wish, that, even […] circumstances of previous ill treatment from the six companies, they [...] at once agreed to come out in the way presented, they were not obliged to do so. And I certainly at a loss to know how he would justify the public invitation to the men to come forth without their officers. The attorney, to whom the General alludes, is Mr Greetham, a very respectable Gentleman of whom the General has himself been formerly used to speak in terms of high commendation and respect. But unfortunately his [?] upon the least charge or prejudice are very strong indeed. I think it my indispensable duty to mention these things frankly to your Lordship. As however my only real wish is the preservation of as much good order and tranquillity as I can, and as I foresee much inconvenience in every way to result from public enquiry in such case, I wrote the answer to the General, copy of which is enclosed and I shall take no further steps in the business unless obliged to do so by any public attack on these Gentlemen, whom I think myself bound in honor and justice from my situation to protect from greater censure, than they may really deserve. I cannot however think myself justifiable in any endeavour to prevent their resignation, as I am now satisfied, they could never succeed in gaining any certain forbearance on the part of the General. I know nothing at present of what is to become of the Men.

I really hope most cordially, that I shall have no further occasion to trouble your Lordship on such subject.

I have the honor to be

With great respect and regard

My Lord

Your Lordship’s most faithful humble servant

Bolton