Hackwood Park

17 March 1803

Private

My Dear Lord,

In consequence of the communication which you privately made to me of your wishes respecting certain Volunteer Corps I have contrived to draw an offer from those of Gosport – viz – one Company of Artillery commanded by Captain Robert Forbes, and two Companies of Infantry commanded respectively by Captain Thomas and Captain John Whitcombe. These gentlemen declare themselves ready with the concurrence already obtained of most of their former associates to come forward again with the zeal against foreign and domestic foes, whenever I should signify to them His Majesty’s gracious acceptance of their services. I make this letter private, because I am desirous of meeting your exact ideas and wishes, and I shall therefor be glad to be informed before I give more encouragement to them or make any official application to you, whether the same terms in respect to pay etc as before will be allowed to them.

There is one Corps at Portsmouth which I should much wish to draw forward. But I will not intrude further upon you at this moment.

I have the honor to be

With great truths

My dear Lord

Your most faithful

Bolton