London 23 May 1803

Private

My dear Lord,

I very sincerely lament, that I am not yet enabled to give you an account of many offers for the reestablishment of the Volunteer Corps, since I last had the honor to receive and circulate your Lordship's communication of the terms proposed to such Corps according to numbers and circumstances. I have not however failed to represent such inducements to their zeal and loyalty as I had hoped would have produced more immediate effect. But I mean to take an early opportunity of calling a County meeting and of requesting the assistance of the Principal Gentlemen from their several districts.

I must not here omit confidentially to mention one great cause of backwardness among the best disposed in this county of Southampton. They have been struck will the discouragement given to the commandant of the Corps who (Mr Garrett), at his own expense in every respect but arms, raised and kept on foot his at Portsmouth in a most respectable and exemplary state of appearance and discipline and consisting of almost two hundred men. On the very day of the Peace this Gentleman's Brother (His Father and himself having declined the business for some time) was deprived of his engagement to supply Beer to the Navy, without any complaint, and it was given to Sir J. Carter, who had uniformly acted as an impediment to the measures of Government, and during the whole war had, I believe, not contributed one farthing except by involuntary payment of taxes to the efforts of the Country in its defence. Mr. Garrett's family has in respect of contribution also acted most liberally; and they have had since to withstand more irksomeness from the ridicule of their Successors Party than from the loss of profit. I really think, that some notice, likely to have effect in the Country, should be taken of this Family in the way of compensation, which might perhaps be done by a Baronetcy to the Father. Mr Garrett, the son, was High Sheriff of the County two years ago. I just throw this out to your Lordship in this way for your consideration, being very anxious to have it made apparent to the County that they who at great inconvenience and expense have manifested their zeal and loyalty in aid of the public service at very critical periods should not be exposed at least to the mortification of suffering and derision from those, who have done worse than nothing for the cause of their country under such circumstances.

Your lordship will excuse the intrusion of this [?] being well aware of my motives.

I have the honor to be

Ever, my dear Lord

Your most faithful humble servant