Carisbrook Castle

4 July 1803

My dear Lord,

I am force to be once more troublesome to your Lordship from having omitted before to enquire about the situation of the several Corps offered at Gosport and the one which I communicated to you in the letter of Mr Garrett at Portsmouth, with respect to the new Levy. Will they be considered as accepted in such a way to exempt them from the ballot? You will be aware, that I do not seek to require for them any indulgence which may not have been give to others circumstances as they are – I only wish them to stand upon equal ground.

Perhaps your Lordship may think it advisable to include Portsmouth and Gosport in the condition of doing Garrison Duty with other places already named in the bills but I rather suspect, that you have looked only to large manufacturing towns, and may wish to confine your views in that respect to such.

I think it however right to enclose a letter, just received from Mr Arnaud, who in the last war commanded a Corps of Volunteers consisting of four companies with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I make these communications at present private, because I would be glad to learn by a single line, how you would wish me to proceed.

I also enclose Mr Hood’s letter and one from Mr. Buckley, and I request your Lordship to have the goodness to order them to be sent back to me, when you shall have cast your eyes upon them.

I am truly sorry thus to plague you

Ever, my dear Lord, your Lordships

Most faithful humble servant

Bolton

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Enclosed]

Portsmouth

30 June 1803

My Lord

Major General Whitelocke the Lieutenant Governor and commanding officer here, having on the 22nd instant suggested to me that an efficient corps of volunteer artillery would be of much service in this Garrison at this crisis; I have endeavoured to ascertain what numbers of persons would come forward to serve as such, and eighty have already undertaken to serve with me in such a corps, and more will, and very many more would so as to form a strong Corps, if they could be exempt from being liable to be drawn for the new Levy, but allege that they cannot be expected to serve in both. And as the situation and consequences of this Garrison is such, that the services of such as are willing to serve as Artillery in it, may perhaps be deemed sufficient to exempt them from the County Levy, as others are of several large Towns, I take the liberty of offering to raise to or more Companies of Volunteer Artillery to serve with this Garrison and dependant Forts as recommended by General Whitelocke, notwithstanding the Levy, but I beg leave to suggest, if an exemption from the new Levy could be made in their favour from the particular situation, within a Garrison of so much consequence, a considerable number of men may be raised to serve as artillery and learn the use of the Great Guns, as well as small arms, to use either as the Service may require.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships

Most obedient humble servant

E. B. Arnaud

The Right Honorable

Lord Bolton