

Then that £1,688 5s. is required to replace the *Sinking Fund*, as he calls it again, for 1854, 1855, and 1856, for monies withdrawn from it; this again including *interest*.

I cannot, on the whole, say how much interest has been so improperly placed in this Estimate; but it seems there is something not quite right about it.

I am therefore of opinion

That the Council could not *redeem* the County of Halton's own Debentures, either with or without the Governor's consent;

That all parties concerned in so doing have made themselves liable for it;

That the Treasurer could not buy up any Debentures of his own, however justified he might have been in taking them from others;

That he was not warranted in charging interest as on money borrowed from himself or from others, while he had public money in hand, or while there was no occasion for borrowing at all;

And that he is punishable for having done so, and for having failed to keep proper accounts in his books, and making up wrongful estimates.

The 12th Vic., c. 81, § 171, the 12th Vic., c. 81, § 172, as amended by the 13th and 14th Vic., c. 64, and the 16th Vic., c. 182, § 76, show what the Treasurer's duties are.

Proceedings may certainly be taken against him and his sureties, upon their bond; or he might be proceeded against as for a misdemeanour for disobedience of the statute.

I believe I have answered all the matters referred to me.

I remain

Yours very truly,

ADAM WILSON.

