

(Copy.)

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 6th July, 1858.

SIR,—I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to inform me at what time and in what way it will be acceptable for me to secure and pay to Government the sum of £1,375 19s. 9d., the amount of interest allowed by the Bank of Upper Canada on public moneys at my credit there, from February, 1851, to November, 1855. I beg at the same time to make the following explanations and remarks on the subject:

After having been called upon by direction of the Inspector General in 1856 to account for the money thus coming into my hands, I addressed a letter to him on the 29th December of that year, giving an account of it in detail, and stating the grounds on which I had thought, and then thought myself entitled to it, stating also at the same time that I did not desire to retain a farthing of it if the Governor General in Council did not think I was both legally and equitably entitled to it. I received no reply to my letter, and not a word from any member of the Government on the subject for more than six months, until the following September; while in England I was informed by a private letter that an Order in Council had passed, to the effect that I should pay the sum in question. Immediately on hearing the rumor of this, Mr. Hodgins (Deputy Superintendent of Education), in my absence, tendered to your predecessor in office the amount of that sum, partly in money, and partly in public debentures. After my return from England I repeated my readiness to do the same thing (notwithstanding my own convictions as to what was equitable, if not legally, due to me), and was as often told not to trouble myself, until I received official notice and instructions on the subject.

In the meantime, Mr. Langton has gone before the House of Assembly Committee of Public Accounts, and charged me with having, not only not accounted for the receipt of the sum in question, of which I had transmitted an account in detail to the Inspector General in December, 1856, but with having refused to obey an Order in Council for its repayment—a charge proved to be without a shadow of foundation by the testimony of both the Attorney General and your predecessor, before the Committee of Public Accounts.

I have also been informed, on what I conceive to be good authority, that owing to the late period of the session and the pressure of other business, there is no probability of the Committee on Public Accounts doing more than reporting the evidence taken before them on the subject.

But statements are made in the public prints, and otherwise, that I have retained in my possession public money to which I am not entitled, and even the Government is attacked for permitting me to do so. I have likewise reason to believe that there are many disinterested and candid persons in the community who think it was not proper or wise for me to have derived any advantage in the way of interest on public moneys passing through my hands, even under the former system, when I was accountable for their safe keeping, as well as for their faithful payment, and though the fact of such having been the usage in other cases is undoubted.

I have never professed to have had Governmental authority for anything that I have done in this respect—never having considered a private conversation an official, much less a governmental act. I have felt that the official responsibility of the proceeding rested with myself, and as such I placed it before Government in my letter to the Inspector General, dated 29th December, 1856. But had I heretofore, or even now, the formal sanction of the Government for retaining interest on public moneys gratuitously allowed me by the bank from 1851 to