

retained by them. So far, therefore, as these Reports are concerned, they must be taken, I think, to be representations made by the Company. I will presently invite your Lordships' attention to what are the statements contained in those Reports.

But, passing on to the second head of the Plaintiff's case, I beg your Lordships to observe what great danger would ensue if a concluded transaction of this kind were permitted to be afterwards questioned, upon the ground of some other general conversation passing between the individual and the Secretary of the Company at the Office of the Company. This gentleman appears to have gone to the Office of the Secretary for the purpose of making inquiries. He represents himself to have been received with great courtesy by the Secretary, and a conversation to have taken place between them. But there are no allegations in the Bill which at all tend to show that representations were made by the Secretary to the Plaintiff with a view to any definite statement made by the Plaintiff, that he wanted to purchase shares in the Company, and would be induced to do so, or not, in consequence of what he might be told by the Secretary. It would be exceedingly dangerous to hold the Company liable in consequence of a loose general conversation of that kind.

But, my Lords, it may not be necessary to rest any decision of your Lordships upon such considerations; because I will now beg your attention to the nature of the representations as alleged in the Bill, and I think you will see that it would be impossible, upon the utmost accurate sifting of the allegations in the Bill, and the evidence in support of it, to arrive at the conclusion that there was any material misrepresentation made to the Plaintiff which induced him to enter into the contract in question.

My Lords, these representations are divided, as I have