

It is obvious that, if called upon to vindicate his character from what he holds to be an unjust accusation, the only course open to an Engineer, in the employ of the Government, so long as he holds his position, is to address his remonstrance to the Minister at the head of the Department.

He cannot with propriety avail himself of the columns of the newspapers or of a magazine, neither can he publish a pamphlet in his vindication. To the mind of the writer it is still more objectionable to have recourse to a borrowed pen, and to get published anonymously what he holds inexpedient to state above his signature.

The writer, therefore, respectfully asks leave to address the Minister on the subject of the charges made against him in Parliament.

They may be formulated:—That the writer has recommended an ill-judged and unwarranted site for the bridge-crossing of Red River; that he was long absent in England from his duties, during which time the railway work was unconsidered, and his responsibilities neglected; that the original estimates given for the work under contract have been greatly exceeded; that he has caused needless expenditure at Cross Lake on an improper location, and, that he has permitted large sums of money to be carelessly wasted.

The writer has submitted, at length, the reasons which have led him to recommend the location of the Red River Bridge. They are set forth in his report to the Government, of 8th December, 1879, to be laid before Parliament. Subsequent enquiry having confirmed the facts he cannot change or modify his opinions. He respectfully submits that, if the question be examined and the facts and the circumstances be fully weighed, it will be found that his view of the case will be sustained and his recommendation justified. It is known that the location recommended by him is not looked upon with favour in quarters and localities adversely interested; but his own convictions remain unchanged, and he holds it incumbent on him, in the general interest of the public, to adhere to the selection he has submitted, and to ask that the considerations which dictated it be fully examined.

On this point of the censure directed against him, he begs leave respectfully to refer to his report to the Government, and to ask for it impartial consideration.