



The plan to which Mr. Errington was confined, was not only a plan of the superstructure, but also of the foundation, and of the manner in which such foundation was to be laid.

In March 1782, the bridge was thrown down, from which circumstance it is evident, that to rebuild it according to the same plan would be ineffectual, and from the nature of the contract, it is not in the power of the contracting parties to alter or vary it; indeed, Mr. Smeaton, whose direction Mr. Errington was bound to obey, has declared that it is not in his power to devise a better. If therefore the County should insist on Mr. Errington's rebuilding the bridge, a great portion of the seven years would expire before he could complete it; (two years and a half having already elapsed since the certificate)—and if by favourable seasons it should be capable of being upheld till the end of the seven years, he would then be discharged from his obligation, and the burthen would fall upon the County; Mr. Errington in common with the land owners of the county in general, and by having an estate in the vicinity of Hexham in particular, feels himself interested in having a bridge built, which by an alteration in the mode of structure may be attended with a probability of being permanent, and he has been informed that other engineers lately consulted by the Justices are of opinion that it is practicable; he, therefore, conceives that it would be more advantageous to the County to accept from him such sum of money as shall be estimated equal to the expense of repairing the bridge, and putting the same into such a situation as his contract requires, and apply such sum together\* with the materials, (which are of more than four times the value of those received by Mr. Errington from the County), towards building a new bridge according to some other plan, than to require him to repair the old one upon the former erroneous principles. — And if the Gentlemen and Magistrates should be of the same opinion, Mr. Errington doubts not the Justices will, as trustees for the public, readily adopt what shall so appear to be the sense of the County.

* Value of materials received by Mr. Errington from the County, and acknowledged by him to be estimated at	£
Which multiplied by 4	3000
	- 12,000

Which is 2900l. more than the penalty of Mr. Errington's bond to the County, and many thousands more than expended.