

osity to state the grounds, on which this new opinion was taken up.

The member who first informed the house of their mistake, had taken up an idea, that in order to preserve the same *difference* in the valuation of lands, the same nominal sum should be taken from each, and strongly reprobated the notion of deducting only a proportionable part.—This extraordinary opinion, he steadfastly maintained, and published some calculations in order to convince the world of its propriety. When wise men are led astray, their example will be apt to draw many after them.—In the present instance, many were for a time induced to give up their opinions, perhaps from a reliance on the known abilities of that gentleman. It may be imagined that a transaction of this nature, in which so many able men were at variance, could not escape the attention of the public, which (in the city at least) appeared to be universally engaged.

Not only our legislators, but others, of all ranks and descriptions, had their attention taken up with this disagreement.—Every head was filled with *calculations, average and proportions*; every corner of Annapolis resounded with disputations.

Not the nose of the courteous stranger who traversed the city of Strasburgh, could have caused more perturbation.

To those who can be diverted with subjects of so serious a nature, there is no doubt; but these circumstances afforded considerable entertainment. Two small poetical pieces, under the title of Fables, appeared at the time, which were generally suspected to allude to this occurrence, and indeed it must be owned, that they appeared to place the whole affair, in a striking point of view.

The public I apprehend are at present so well informed on this subject, that it would be equally unnecessary to trouble them with a fuller relation, or to offer any arguments on it. Some time was afterwards taken up in framing the bill for raising the supplies of this year, and although the taxes must unavoidably be burthensome to the people, they will not appear very enormous, if we consider the many great claims we have to discharge. It is likewise to be observed, that although a tax for twenty-five years is granted to Congress, the whole amount of our contributions is very little en-