

up their minds on the subject, and anxiously waited a determination which might in its consequences, so deeply affect their property.

The extensive publication of the proceedings of the Assembly on this subject, will render a minute account of them unnecessary here.—I shall endeavour, however, to give a slight sketch of them.

In Mr. Harford's memorial, were stated a number of losses for which he expected a compensation, the amount of which was no less than the enormous sum of £. 300,000. A sum which it is probable the people must have shuddered at the repetition of, even after they were happily freed from the danger of having it wrested from them.

The sentiments of the two branches of the Legislature appear to have been very widely different on this subject: and, perhaps, if a conclusion had been drawn from the conduct of either, at the time of passing the acts of confiscation, the Senate, instead of the House of Delegates, might have been expected to give countenance to Mr. Harford's claims.

We find the House of Delegates were so fully impressed with the necessity of contributing to his relief, that they appointed a committee to prepare a message to the Senate, desiring a conference on the subject, and accordingly a message was brought in, couched in such terms, that a great many, even of those, who had favored the principle of granting a compensation, were under a necessity of disapproving it: and on a division it appears that a considerable majority voted against it.

Another message, however, was prepared, in which those parts were omitted, that had in such strong and pathetic language, pressed the necessity of coming upon terms and making a compromise with Mr. Harford, and the House contented itself with recommending his case as a fit subject for the deliberation of the united wisdom of the State, and therefore deserving of a conference on it.

It will, I am persuaded, be matter of surprise to the people to find that these *very liberal sentiments*, with regard to Mr. Harford, prevailed so generally amongst their immediate representatives.

It is to be observed that counsel were employed on the occasion, who no doubt, stated the case with all possible ingenuity.—It seems probable however, that in pointing out their client's pretensions