

of 1834, were shown at that of '35 to be fallacious and not to be depended upon.

The committee, however, observe that "whatever may have been the vagueness and uncertainty of the estimates of 1835, those furnished to the present Legislature, may, it is believed, be certainly relied upon; and they fix the amount that may be required, at something less than three millions of dollars." The State, upon the statements presented at the session of 1835, was induced to appropriate three millions of dollars more to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and since then, at the session of 1838, additional appropriations were made;—the whole of which has proved to be inadequate to the accomplishment of the object which the Legislature was assured at the session of 1834 two millions of dollars could accomplish.

These facts from the Legislative history of our State are not given with a view to prejudice the House against the canal, but merely to call its attention to the importance of examining, without too much confidence, the estimates submitted by that company. It has been shown, that near five millions of dollars will be required, admitting the accuracy of the statement of the engineer, to carry the canal to Cumberland, and to relieve the company from its liabilities; if, however, we make a calculation, warranted by past disclosures, we are justified in saying, that twice the amount asked will be necessary for merely the work to be done.

This being the case, it is for the Legislature to determine what ought to be done at this time. The enormous amount of money which the State has invested in that work, seriously embarrasses deliberate consideration. We are surrounded with difficulties on all sides. If the State at this time should refuse to make an additional appropriation to the canal, great injury, it is apprehended by some, would result not only to the work finished, but seriously embarrass the company and spread throughout the Western part of this State a degree of suffering which could not fail to be afflicting to the heart of every one who can feel for another's woe; whilst on the other hand, if an appropriation be made at this time, great loss both to the State and company must be sustained. If the bonds cannot be sold at less than their par value by the provisions of the act of appropriation, it would be impossible, in the present deranged state of the monetary affairs of the world, to sell them at all, and in that event, all the evils apprehended from a refusal to