

System, in which the State has been so unfortunately involved by the unadvised legislation of former years; and from which she cannot constitutionally extricate herself until the grants so improvidently conferred have been gratified. No one will deny the policy, so long as this curse is inflicted upon us, to draw from the system as large a revenue as possible, as some equivalent for the many evils it has inflicted upon society. Soon after the commencement of my official duties my attention was directed to this subject; and being satisfied that the State was receiving a much smaller revenue than she should derive from a system so pregnant with evil to her citizens, I determined with the assistance of the gentlemen who had been appointed to the State Lottery Commissioners to bring about a different result for the future; and every one I am satisfied will bear with pleasure the extent to which the revenue has been consequently increased. The annual revenue from the lottery system prior to 1846, has ranged from six to eight thousand dollars. By the contract entered into by the Commissioners in November 1845, for one year from that date, the revenue for the fiscal year ending on the first of December 1846, was increased to seventeen thousand nine hundred and seventy one dollars; and by the passage of the Act of 1846, Chapter 92, which requires lottery tickets to be stamped, the revenue for the fiscal year ending on the first of December instant, including a payment of \$4,371 for stamps made since, but which accrued before that day, has amounted to about thirty nine thousand six hundred dollars. As satisfactory as these results for the two last years must be, I will now proceed to show, what was my object in adverting to this subject to show, that the revenue from this source for the current and two following fiscal years will greatly exceed that of the last year. Prior to the Act of 1846, Chapter 118, the lottery Commissioners were not authorized to contract for a longer period than one year; by that Act they were empowered to contract for the drawing of the State or consolidated lotteries for a term not exceeding three years, provided the contract made by them should be submitted to, and approved by the Governor. Acting under this law the Commissioners have made a contract approved of by me, with ample security for its fulfilment, by which the State will receive for the current and two following fiscal years, the annual sum of fifty one thousand dollars: thus exhibiting an increase of about fifty thousand dollars over the revenue received from this source for the year 1844; and an increase of about eleven thousand four hundred dollars over the receipts of the past year. You have therefore, gentlemen, from this