

above act of assembly, it appears that they have from year to year, since the passage of said act, made contracts for lotteries, and granted licences for vending tickets in the same, according to its provisions. And that on the first day of December last, they contracted for lotteries and granted licences for one year from the date in reof; that they received all monies paid over to them for the account of the same by the contractors, deducted their commissions therefrom, which the law authorized them to receive, and paid over the ballance into the Treasury of the State, as appears by their report made to the Executive, dated on the first day of March, and by him transmitted to the Legislature, and printed by order of the House of Delegates.

Having referred to the law in relation to the duties prescribed for the government of the lottery commissioners, and the proceedings of the late commissioners under it, it is apparent that they could neither contract for the drawing of lotteries for a less period than one year, nor grant licences for a shorter term. The commissioners accordingly; at the usual time, and precisely on the terms of the preceding year, made their contracts, granted licences, and received the regular payments. For the greater security of the State, they have, for the last two years, required one fourth of the five per cent on the amount of sales to be paid in cash, and the residue in quarterly payments.-- The first payment was made in December, and the second, due on the first of March, (on which day they were in office,) on the 20th of February. For the circumstances under which this last payment was made, your committee refer the house to the statement of the late commissioners, made to the General Assembly. Of this payment the present commissioners complain, not that the State has suffered pecuniary loss, but because their predecessors did not reject it when tendered, and leave it to be received by them, with a view to the commissions, on the day on which they entered upon the duties of the office, notwithstanding they had not performed a single official function. The present commissioners further complain that their predecessors received commissions on the sums paid in December on licences, and that they way were left to discharge the duties under the license law, "nine months without compensation."

This is one of the grave charges which they have preferred against their predecessors. They evidently mean to assume that they were entitled, to a commission on three fourths of the sum received by the late commissioners from licences, notwithstanding the sum was received early in December, at the *usual* time, and in the *regular* prosecution of the lottery system as in operation for several years past. They must claim one of two alternatives, on which to predicate this most extraordinary pretension. Either that their predecessors ought not to have granted licences at all, in December last, or have carefully put aside the commission on three fourths of the sum thus "raised," for the benefit of those whom the fortunes of the day had destined for their successors. Can either of these assumptions be sustained? The licences granted on the first of December, 1837, expired on the 30th of November, 1838, consequently new licences had to be is-