

Office of the Commissioners of Lotteries, }
 Baltimore, 26th January, 1835. }

To the Honorable Thomas Burchenal, Chairman of the Committee on Lotteries,

SIR:—In obedience to the order of the Committee on Lotteries, of the 23d, requiring the Commissioners of Lotteries to communicate as soon as practicable, such information as they may deem important, respecting the operation of the Lottery System of the State, and whether any abuses exist under the same as have been represented in the memorials presented to the Legislature on the 13th and 16th inst.

They have the honor to represent, that the Lottery System of the State, since the date of the act passed December session, 1831, amending the same, has been placed upon a more acceptable footing, than it had been at any former period, by reason of that act affording to the Commissioners the ability to negotiate contracts with safety and certainty, as well as advantage to the State, and enabling them to regulate the operations of the system, so as to guard the public against any frauds or impositions, that might otherwise be attempted to be practised. Besides yielding an increased amount of revenue, which may hereafter be relied on, to a certain extent by the State.

The Commissioners of Lotteries are fully aware of the strong prejudices which exist against Lotteries, with certain portions of Society, and did the Lottery System of the State as at present organized, create the evils and abuses that are represented in the memorials to the Legislature to exist, they trust that they are too well known to many of that honorable body, to be supposed being willing even to have administered it. But possessing, as they do, a thorough knowledge of its operations, they cannot in justice to the system, to the Legislature under whose acts it has been established, and to themselves, hesitate to pronounce the principal allegations set forth in these memorials, to be unfounded and untrue. In making this declaration, the undersigned do not wish to be understood as charging the many highly respectable citizens, whose names are to be found to some of these memorials, with asserting what they know to be false, as it is notorious that many individuals are in the habit of signing their names to memorials, without knowing their contents.

That evil consequences do sometimes arise from lottery speculations, no one will presume to question—but that they are confined to this sort of speculative business *exclusively*, it would