

MESSAGE

Of Governor Lincoln, and other Official Documents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the subject of Lotteries.

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*To the Honorable, the Senate,
and House of Representatives:*

The sympathies of the community, excited in an unusual degree by a recent melancholy occurrence in this city, have led, through diligent and painful inquiry, to the most astounding disclosures of an extensively prevalent, although hitherto almost unheeded cause of personal and domestic distress, of legal transgression, and of wide spread and overwhelming moral evil. It has been satisfactorily ascertained, that a high handed system of dealing and gambling in Lotteries and Lottery Tickets is now carried on in this Commonwealth, in despite of the prohibitions of law, in defiance of the vigilance of the prosecuting officers, and in utter disregard of the inflictions of the tribunals of justice. A highly respectable Committee of an Association of Citizens of the Metropolis, have, with the most commendable spirit, directed their attention to endeavors to arrest the frauds and mischiefs of this demoralizing trafic, and in furtherance of their object, have addressed to me, in my official capacity, an earnest and impressive memorial on the subject. They represent that Tickets of Lotteries granted in other states, are openly sold in this; that Tickets are manufactured in fictitious Lotteries; and halves and quarters of Tickets, representing the same number, are multiplied indefinitely, both in real and pretended Lotteries, and these indiscriminately and successfully, to an immense amount, imposed upon ignorant and deluded purchasers.

The influence of such schemes of deception to allure the laborious poor from the path of honest industry, and to