

FEBRUARY 5, 1840.

To the Senate and House of Delegates:

I send herewith, a communication from the lottery commissioners.

WM. GRASON.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF LOTTERIES,  
Baltimore, 31st December, 1839.

*Sir*:—Having in January last conferred upon us the appointment of lottery commissioners, we consider it proper to communicate to you our proceedings in discharging the trust confided to us.

On the 18th February, 1839, a majority of our board (the other being confined by sickness,) informed our predecessors that they had complied with the provisions of the law, and were ready to enter on the duties of their office. On the following day we received for answer, "That on the 1st March, by which time they could conveniently have all the accounts with which they had any concern, closed up, and the books and papers of the office ready for delivery. We respectfully propose to deliver up the office to you on that day." Willing to extend every facility to them in closing their accounts, we waited until the 1st March, when one of the undersigned received from one of our predecessors, the books and papers of the office. Upon examining their accounts, we found that they had received on *the 20th February*, 1839, the sum of \$3,750 from the agents of the contractors, Messrs. D. S. Gregory & Co., as the second instalment on the lottery contract, which was *only due* the early part of March, and believing that the contractors had no right to make the payment of this instalment when they did, to our predecessors, and that they had no right to receive it after our communication to them of the 18th February, we informed Messrs. D. S. Gregory & Co. on the 14th March, that we should not recognize the payment made by their agents to our predecessors on the *twentieth* February, 1839, as the second instalment on the lottery contract, *only due* the early part of March, as we believed, the receipt was illegal and that no part thereof had been paid into the Treasury of the State, as may be seen by the following statement.

The commissioners of lotteries are appointed annually, usually in the last week in January. Our predecessors entered on their duties on the *twenty-first* February, 1831, when the salary was *one thousand dollars* each, per annum; and they were each paid by the State up to 1st March, 1833, say one year and seven days, the sum of \$1,026.88.

The present lottery system went into operation on the 1st March, 1832, and our predecessors gave up the office on the 1st March,