

Executive Department,
Annapolis, February 20th, 1829.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have received your resolution of yesterday's date, requesting us to inform you "to what amount the rights given to the visitors and governors of St. John's and Washington colleges, to draw schemes of lotteries for the purpose of raising the sum of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, have been extinguished;" also to report to you "whether in our opinion, the law or laws authorising the drawing of such lotteries, and also the law passed at December session 1823, are so ambiguously expressed or framed, that any fraud or injury may be committed or suffered by the state," and respectfully inform you that we are not in possession of information sufficient, to enable us to determine "to what amount the rights given to the visitors and governors of St. John's and Washington colleges, to draw schemes of lotteries for the purpose of raising the sum of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars have been extinguished." The said colleges, soon after the enactment of the law of 1823, sold to Palmer Canfield, of the city of New York, the rights given to them to raise the sum aforesaid. We are not informed, with exactness, what amount of capital is contained in the several schemes proposed and drawn by Mr. Canfield, but we are in possession of evidence of his having proposed the following schemes, viz.

5th class, new series,	\$66,640 00
6th do.	98,000 00
7th do.	98,000 00
8th do.	784,000 00
9th do.	98,000 00
11th do.	78,400 00
12th do.	78,400 00

\$1,301,440 00

It is believed that the 8th and 12th classes or schemes above mentioned have not been drawn; but it is also believed that several others numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10, have been proposed and drawn by Mr. Canfield.

The laws appear to us to be defective in not making any provision for ascertaining the amount of the schemes that may be drawn under the authority which they confer, or determining when the rights they grant may be extinguished. They do not appear to be framed in such manner as to express distinctly and clearly the nature or extent of the rights they confer; but whether their ambiguity is such as that fraud or injury to the state may be committed under