

christians and enterprising merchants that are to be found in any State.—Their representations are therefore entitled to great weight; and their memorial to the most deliberate consideration of every member of the Legislature. They tell us that the lottery system “is as ruinous to the morals, as it is destructive to the interests and happiness of the people.” And indeed when we reflect upon the vast amount of lottery tickets that must be sold in the course of a year, to raise the sum of twenty thousand dollars, the State’s ordinary revenue from this system, the committee cannot but assent to the position taken by the memorialists in creating an excitement in the minds of all its votaries, this system engenders a desire in many to trust to its chances for fortune, rather than to the toil and industry of the ordinary pursuits of life. It is therefore a system which not only cripples the energies but impairs the resources of the producing classes of life. It wars too with the best interests of the community, in fostering that thirst for the rapid accumulation of wealth, which cannot be realised, but which, alas, too frequently, carries its victims from the disappointments of the lottery to the despair and degradation of the gaming-house. And were it in the power of the Legislature immediately to bring the whole system to an end, your committee would cheerfully join in an effort to produce so desirable a result. But unfortunately, at the time of the alteration of the constitution in 1834, there were certain existing grants which would only expire when the several sums, to raise which they were made, should be realized. These private grants have not yet been exhausted, but from the best information your committee could obtain, they would have expired about the year 1845, if no new grants had been made. Unhappily for the community, the alteration in the constitution in 1834, was, only “that after the expiration of the existing grants, no new grant should be made.” The system must therefore necessarily be extended by the creation of every new lottery. For every new scheme thrown into the community, by crowding the market, causes a less sum to be realised annually, upon the old grants.—It is impossible now to say, what will be the ultimate effect upon the system, of the action of the last and the present Legislature, but your committee fear that it will entail this system with all its ruinous consequences for many years upon the State. Your committee have heretofore reported a bill to amend the constitution so that the Legislature shall not possess the power hereafter to grant any lottery whatever; and they are happy to say that this bill has met with the unanimous approbation of the House, and will no doubt, meet with equal favor in the Senate. If confirmed by the next General Assembly, the lottery system must, in the course of a few years, be brought to an end, and the citizens of the State relieved from its burden. Your committee are of opinion that it would be impracticable to prevent the sale of foreign lottery tickets as long as the lottery system exists in your State, but that at present, and while the system remains, it is better to grant the privilege of selling foreign lottery tickets upon the payment of a heavy