

ming, from spending their time, and injuring their health and characters, which else they had done in some of those places, where, in defiance of law, gambling and frauds of the deepest dye, are nightly practised.—This, then, is something gained, and in this view alone, if Lotteries cannot be defended upon moral grounds, of which we are not sure, they certainly can be upon the score of policy, presenting as they do, a less, in the place of a greater evil; but it must be conceded, that much positive good has been effected by Lotteries, even in our own State, and under the former more objectionable practice of granting special acts, often loosely expressed, and wanting the proper provisions to guard against frauds, or to secure their proper and economical management; and if the ‘tree is known by its fruit,’ then indeed, will Lotteries stand not only justified, but upon ground truly elevated; for by what other single means have an equal number of public improvements been made; let any one look at the Churches, Colleges and Academies, that have been erected; the Roads that have been made, the pestilent marshes that have been drained, the bridges that have been erected, and the monuments that have been raised to departed worth; and then lay his hand on his heart and say, if he can, this is a barren Fig tree, “cut it down.”

In some of our sister States, as well as in our own, great aid has been derived from Lotteries, in promoting useful improvements, and extending the blessings of education to all classes, and at this very time, considerably more is paid into our own Treasury from this source, than is disbursed therefrom, to all the Colleges, Academies and Schools in the State; were the proceeds of the Lotteries expressly appropriated to this useful purpose, we humbly conceive that it would be admitted by all, to fully compensate for any innate evil in the system; it is not so pledged, but where is the difference? It enables the State to continue its beneficent aid to those institutions, without resorting to onerous taxation upon her citizens, the tax paid through the medium of her Lotteries being entirely voluntary, none being required to contribute but of their own free choice.

The late Governor Howard in his message, has recommended the abolition of lotteries; and with great good sense has pointed out the only practicable mode in which it can ever be effected. We entirely concur in opinion with him, as to the impossibility of preventing the dealing in tickets in any one state, unless all shall simultaneously prohibit them. The Governor truly remarks, that the reason is evident why such a course ought to be adopted, for should