

*Letter from the Commissioners of Lotteries to Messrs. J. I. Cohen, jr. & Brothers.*

*Baltimore, January 26th, 1835.*

TO MESSRS. J. I. COHEN, JR. & BROTHERS.

*Gentlemen:*—As you have heretofore been largely engaged in the Lottery business, and contractors for the Maryland State Lotteries, the undersigned take the liberty, respectfully to ask of you to reply to the following questions, viz:

1st. What portion of purchasers, or speculators in lottery tickets, were then, or are now, in your opinion, composed of the labouring and poorer classes.

2d. Do you believe it to be practicable, to prevent the dealing in lottery tickets in this State, by any enactments of the Legislature, so long as lotteries are allowed to be drawn in other States.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient serv'ts.

WM. R. STUART,  
E. HUGHES,  
J. S. WILLIAMS.

*Answer to the first Interrogatory.*

*Baltimore, January 26th, 1835.*

Messrs. WM. R. STUART,  
E. HUGHES,  
J. S. WILLIAMS, } Commissioners of Lotteries.

*Gentlemen:*—We have your letter of this date. It will afford us pleasure at any time, to give you any information we possess relative to lotteries. To the enquiries you make on that subject, we could reply more in detail, did our time allow it at the present moment; it may, however, be sufficient to say in brief, that during the time we were engaged in the sales of lottery tickets, which, however, was previous to the last 4 or 5 years, the amount purchased by the poorer classes of the community, bore no sort of comparison to the whole amount of the sales; we do not know exactly the proportion, but we do not hesitate to say, that our sources of sales were from the more wealthy and sportive classes of the wealthy—the large bulk, certainly of those, who could afford to bear the risk attendant on their purchases.

*Answer to the second Enquiry.*

As to your 2d enquiry, whether it be practicable to pre-