

The Commissioners of Lotteries are fully aware of the strong prejudices which exist against Lotteries, with certain portions of Society, and did the Lottery System of the State as at present organized, create the evils and abuses that are represented in the memorials to the Legislature to exist, they trust that they are too well known to many of that honorable body, to be supposed being willing even to have administered it. But possessing, as they do, a thorough knowledge of its operations, they cannot in justice to the system, to the Legislature under whose acts it has been established, and to themselves, hesitate to pronounce the principal allegations set forth in these memorials, to be unfounded and untrue. In making this declaration, the undersigned do not wish to be understood as charging the many highly respectable citizens, whose names are to be found to some of these memorials, with asserting what they know to be false, as it is notorious that many individuals are in the habit of signing their names to memorials, without knowing their contents.

That evil consequences do sometimes arise from lottery speculations, no one will presume to question—but that they are confined to this sort of speculation business *exclusively*, it would be preposterous to suppose. Comparing then, the lottery business of this State as it is now conducted, with others of a speculative character, the Commissioners do not hesitate to declare it as their opinion, that it possesses on the score of protection against “frauds and impositions,” decided advantages. Being under their constant observation, any attempts of the kind could not fail to be immediately detected by them, and the perpetrators brought to punishment. With such powers then, to restrain abusers, but which they are happy to say have not, to their knowledge, occurred since the revision of the system, it cannot be surprising that the Commissioners should repel the imputation made in one of those memorials, and tending to impeach their official characters, of “frauds and impositions being extensively practised in this business,” and with dealers of lotteries being “permitted to filch from the blind and ignorant.”

As respects the allegation that the speculators in lotteries “are chiefly of the laboring and poorer classes” and “that a large portion of the bank officers and confidential clerks who have betrayed their trust and robbed their employers, have been seduced to their ruin, by lottery gambling,” the undersigned have full confidence in the truth of the statements