

Ordered, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending, or of remodelling, the system of state lotteries, with a view to the improvement of the public revenue.

Ordered, That the commissioners of lotteries be required to report to this house, at their earliest convenience, from the last obtainable information, the aggregate amount of all the schemes of lotteries, drawn or to be drawn in the city of Baltimore, under the authority of the laws of this state, from the lottery last drawn in 1825, until the completion of one year from that time; and that they also report such amendments of the system of state lotteries, as experience may have suggested to them to be best calculated to promote the public interest.

Ordered, That the treasurer of the western shore be required to lay before this house the report of the managers of the Washington Monument lottery, containing their assent to the act of December session 1824, chapter 125, and an account of their proceedings, together with a statement of the amount and objects of their expenditure, if such assent and report have been communicated to him.

Mr. Thomas moved the following as a substitute for the first order:

Ordered, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the lottery system. Determined in the negative.

The two first orders were assented to, the third ordered to lie on the table.

The clerk of the senate delivers a communication from the governor, suggesting the propriety of appointing a committee to examine certain accounts of expenditures by him referred to, under resolution No 49, session of 1822, and to have an inventory of the furniture in the government house taken; referred to Messrs Goldsborough, Cockey and Estep.

Also the following message:

By the Senate, Dec. 31, 1825.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have received your message proposing a joint committee, to consider the propriety of opening a direct communication with the legislatures of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, on the subject of absconding slaves. We are of opinion that the importance of the subject, and the absolute necessity of some decisive measures to relieve the citizens of our state from the immense loss which they are daily experiencing from the diminution of their property, and the abstraction of a very large proportion of the labouring class of our population, will not only justify, but require, that the legislature shall pursue the most effectual means to arrest the growing evil. We think the mission of members of the legislature to the several states above named the most probable means in our power, or at least the most proper at the present period, and therefore propose, for your concurrence, the following resolution:

Resolved That a joint committee, consisting of one member from the senate and two from the house of delegates, be appointed and directed to visit the legislatures of Pennsylvania, Jersey and Delaware, to confer with those bodies respectively, upon the measures best calculated to prevent the absconding of slaves from this state, and of securing their recovery. We have named Mr. Chambers, to unite with such gentlemen as