

R E P O R T
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON LOTTERIES,

TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, FEBRUARY 9th, 1835.

The committee on that subject, to which has been referred the several memorials, asking the abolition of lotteries in this State, beg leave to report, that after giving to the subject the most serious consideration, they have come to the conclusion, that the respectable signers to the memorials from the city of Baltimore, have been imposed on as to some of the most material statements therein made, and your committee are of opinion that the lottery system is not properly chargeable with the evils set forth in said memorials, and that it is impracticable to prevent the citizens of this State, from purchasing or selling lottery tickets, whilst they are permitted to be sold in the District of Columbia, and in adjoining States. This fact they consider as conclusively proved by the highly respectable and disinterested testimony of the Messrs. Cohens' furnished by the commissioners of lotteries, in answer to a call made by this committee, for information; it is also in the recollection of some members of the committee, who have been members of the Legislature in former years, that efforts which they have always understood proved unavailing, were from year to year, made, to prevent the sale of what was called foreign tickets, (tickets of other states) within this state. They are, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that the attempt to abolish lotteries, would fail to accomplish the end proposed; that is, to prevent the dealing in tickets, by citizens of the state. This being, in their opinion, the situation in which we are placed, whilst tickets are to be had almost all around us, they think nothing would be gained, even in a moral point of view, by an attempt at abolition; on the contrary, it is their opinion that the evil would be increased, as they have no doubt, that what is now done legally, would continue to be done illegally; and perhaps very many of those abuses that have been practised in other states, where no well regulated system existed, (and which have