

The present lottery system went into operation on the 1st of March, 1832; Messrs. Stuart, Hughes and Williams were then in office, and so continued down to the 1st of March, 1839—making seven years. By the 6th section of the act above referred to, they were of course entitled to have received as compensation for their services during that period, the sum of \$42,000, *and no more*; for those who drew up the act of 1831 had been so careful, as to provide that *in no event* should the compensation exceed the sum of \$2,000 per annum. How much did they actually receive? All their accounts are made out quarterly, and the fiscal year of the lottery system seems to have ended on the 30th November in each year. The committee could find only one quarterly account in 1832, viz: for the quarter commencing on the 1st September and ending on the 30th November, in that quarter the commissioners deduct for their compensation the sum of \$1,681.71, which does not appear to be a commission of ten per cent. on the amount paid in that quarter—the committee conclude that it was the balance of their commissions due them, for the three quarters of that year, from 1st March to 1st December. If that be the case, and the committee think there can be no doubt of the fact, they must have received in those three quarters, the sum of \$4,500. By their accounts in 1833, the deduction is made for the annual compensation of \$6,000. The same in 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, and up to 1st December in the year 1838—making in all six years and nine months, during which time the commissioners received the sum of \$40,500: the same being the highest compensation which they were entitled to receive under the law of 1831. And by the last quarterly account of the said commissioners, commencing on the 1st December, 1838, and ending the 28th February, 1839, it appears that they retained the further sum of five thousand three hundred and seventeen dollars, fifty cents: thus receiving in the seven years, from 1st March, 1832, to 1st March, 1839, the sum of \$45,817.50—being \$3,817.50 more than they were entitled to by the provisions of the above mentioned law. The committee think that this view of the case clearly shows, that the former lottery commissioners were in error in supposing, that because they sold the lottery licenses in December, 1838, they had a right to retain a full commission of ten per cent. upon the amount received. Such a construction would defeat the proviso of the 6th section of the said act, and would in many cases work great injustice. For suppose the commissioners to sell on the 1st December the licenses for one year, say to the amount of \$10,000: this would give to each of them the sum of \$1,000, and if one or more of them should immediately thereafter die or resign, the person who should succeed to the appointment would either have to perform the services for the year for *half* of the regular salary, or the State would be compelled to pay in that case \$3,000 instead of \$2,000. It appears also by the communication of the present lottery commissioners, referred to this committee, that on the 18th February,