

104
the producing classes of life). It wars too with
the best interests of the community, in fostering
that thirst for the rapid accumulation of wealth,
which cannot be realised, but which alas, too frequently
carries its victims from the disappointments of the
Lottery, to the despair and degradation of the gaming
house. And were it in the power of the Legislature
immediately to bring the whole system to an end, your
Committee would cheerfully join in an effort to produce
so desirable a result. But unfortunately at the time
of the alteration of the Constitution in 1834, there were
certain existing grants, which would only expire when
the several sums to raise which they were made,
should be realised; these private grants have not yet
been exhausted, but from the best information your Committee
could obtain, they would have expired about the year
1845, if no new grants had been made. Unhappily
for the community, the alteration in the Constitution in
1834, was only, "that after the expiration of the existing
grants, no new grant should be made". The system
must therefore necessarily be extended by the creation
of every new Lottery. For every new scheme thrown
into the community, by crowding the market, causes a
less sum to be realised annually, upon the old Grants.
It is impossible now to say, what will be the ultimate
effect upon the system, of the action of the last, and
the present Legislature, but your Committee fear, that it
will entail this system, with all its ruinous
Consequences,

105
for many years upon the State). Your Committee
have heretofore reported a Bill to amend the Constitution,
so that the Legislature shall not possess the power hereafter
to grant any lottery whatever, and they are happy to
say that this Bill has met with the unanimous
approbation of the House, and will no doubt meet with
equal favor in the Senate. If confirmed by the next
General Assembly, the lottery system must, in the course
of a few years, be brought to an end, and the Citizens
of the State relieved from its burden. Your Committee
are of opinion, that it would be impracticable to prevent
the sale of foreign lottery tickets, as long as the
Lottery system exists in your State, but that at
present, and while the system remains, it is better
to grant the privilege of selling foreign lottery tickets,
upon the payment of a heavy licence, and so keep
the business in responsible hands, than to enact a
prohibitory law, to be evaded by every one who kept
a lottery Office, and who might choose to disregard
the provisions of your State. The Committee have
thus given briefly, their views upon the interesting
subject brought to their consideration by the Memorial
referred to."

All of which is respectfully submitted,
(Signed) Wm. J. Giles, Chairman.

Chapter 31.

1840. An Act to alter and amend the Constitution, so far
as relates to the power of the Legislature to grant
Lotteries.