

VIRGINIA.

MEMORIAL

ADOPTED AT

A MEETING OF CITIZENS OF WHEELING, VIRGINIA,

Asking the recharter of the Bank of the United States.

MARCH 5, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

At a meeting of the citizens of Wheeling, convened by public notice at the court-house, on the evening of the 11th of February, for the purpose of taking into consideration the causes of the present pecuniary difficulties of the country, Colonel George Dulty having been appointed President, Alexander Armstrong Vice President, and Thomas Sweeny and David Agnew Secretaries, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States, and the hostility which has existed between the Executive and that institution, have proved most deeply injurious to the interests of the country, by exciting throughout the community a general feeling of distrust and alarm, and by forcing the Bank, as a measure of self-protection, suddenly to withdraw a large amount of its funds from circulation, and to contract the vast system of internal exchanges which has hitherto been conducted through its branches.

Resolved, That, in the consequences which have been the result of that unfortunate measure, this section of country has largely participated. The pressure has paralyzed, in a great degree, every branch of our industry; proving, in its effects, not less pernicious to the laborer, the mechanic, and the farmer, than to the manufacturer and the merchant.

Resolved, That, in the restoration of the deposits to the Bank, and the recharter of that institution, or the creation of a new bank with such modifications as experience may have shown to be necessary, we recognise the only means adequate to the relief of the present embarrassments, or capable of restoring the country to that state of prosperity which has been thus suddenly arrested.

A draught for a memorial to Congress having been submitted, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That the meeting does entirely concur in the sen-

timents herein expressed, and that the same be submitted to the citizens of this place for their signatures.

A copy of the memorial is enclosed herewith.

GEORGE DULTY, *President.*

ALEX'R ARMSTRONG, *Vice President.*

THOMAS SWEENEY,

DAVID AGNEW,

Secretaries.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial of the undersigned, residents in the town of Wheeling,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That for many years previous to the present, our whole country was steadily advancing in a career of almost uninterrupted prosperity, all the great interests of society were growing in value and importance, property of every kind was appreciating, industry was quickened and stimulated in all its multiplied channels by the sure prospect of an adequate reward, the vast resources of our country were in a course of rapid development and addition to the stock of national wealth, and a spirit of activity, enterprise, and confidence, was diffused through every branch of business. The place which your memorialists inhabit has partaken in no ordinary degree of the common prosperity. Under the kindly influences of this state of things, the improvement of their town has been rapidly impelled forward ; large and important manufacturing establishments have grown up amongst them, and their whole trade and business have been increased to an unprecedented extent. At no former period was their condition more flourishing than during the past season. Our manufactories were in full and successful operation, our merchants were never more busily or profitably employed.

Your memorialists are constrained to believe that this state of general thrift and improvement has received within the last few months a sudden and violent check. Though, early in the last fall, reports reached them of unusual pressure in our large commercial cities, they were incredulous as to the extent of the alleged distress, and were disposed to regard those reports as the result of groundless apprehension and alarm, which would be temporary in their effects. We have been disappointed in our hopes ; the evil has not been alleviated ; affairs have been growing worse ; complaints have gone up, and are still going up simultaneously from the most opposite and remote sections of the country, daily increasing in frequency and importunity, until they have risen to one loud and universal cry of distress throughout the land. If doubts remained in the minds of any of them, they have been resolved by their own bitter experience. As might have been anticipated, the pressure has at length reached them ; and dependent as they have been for their prosperity in a peculiar manner upon a state of general confidence, they have suffered in no ordinary degree from the sudden withdrawal of their accustomed facilities in trade. Their own and the neighboring banks have suspended their usual accommoda-

tions; the embarrassment among the laboring and business population of the place is unexampled; the demand for labor is reduced; prices have fallen; manufacturers are dismissing their hands, and, unless a change is speedily effected, many large establishments must cease their operations. In short, the evidences of general distress, almost without a precedent both in extent and degree, are too clear and unequivocal to admit the possibility of mistake. There is every reason to believe that this state of things, unless it be arrested in its progress, will continue to grow worse, and will finally result in one wide-spreading scene of bankruptcy and ruin.

Your memorialists have no hesitation in expressing their conviction that the present condition of the country is the legitimate result of the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States in October last, and of the extraordinary and unnatural position in which the Government was placed by that measure in relation to its own fiscal agent. With the motives that dictated, or the reasons alleged in justification of that measure, your memorialists have nothing to do; they present themselves before your honorable bodies not as partisans or defenders of the Bank, but to implore relief for their own and the suffering interests of the whole community. They feel bound in common charity to believe that the evils that have resulted were not foreseen by the authors of that measure, inasmuch as the grossest misconduct on the part of the Bank would afford no excuse for the adoption of a measure the known consequences of which were so extensively mischievous. How far the present difficulties are properly attributable to the Bank, or how far it has exceeded in the present emergency the limits which a prudent regard for its own interest prescribed, are questions involving the estimation of too many contingencies for your memorialists to decide. In the absence of positive and unequivocal proof, they cannot presume that the Bank would be induced, by the doubtful prospect of remote advantage, to pursue a course not more prejudicial to the country than hostile to its own true interest. The character of the measure of which we are speaking was calculated in its very nature to impair confidence, and to produce a violent revulsion in the delicate and complicated machinery of our moneyed system. And it was naturally to have been expected that the Bank would assume the attitude of entire preparation for the worst that might ensue, and would, probably, in the first moment of alarm, be hurried beyond that point at which its own safety permitted, and the welfare of the community required it to stop. But whatever may have been the conduct of the Bank, the measure in question is justly chargeable with the consequences, because it might have been foreseen that it would afford a plausible pretext to that institution for exerting its acknowledged power, over all the interests of society, in a severe and oppressive manner. Your memorialists, however, as already stated, cannot believe that any considerable degree of the present distress could have been anticipated, and therefore confidently indulge the hope that a measure so fraught with unexpected mischief will be abandoned, or that such other mode of relief will be adopted as the superior wisdom of Congress may suggest. In connexion with this subject, they would respectfully represent, that in their opinion every measure must be ineffectual or temporary in its effects, which does not permanently relieve the public mind from its present state of uncertainty and suspense in regard to the future. The experience of forty years has demonstrated the great utility if not necessity of a National Bank in conducting the fiscal operations of

the Government. Independently, however, of this and its other advantages, such an institution is indispensably requisite, in the opinion of your memorialists, in order to carry into execution one of the most important powers of Congress, and to obtain one of the principal objects for which our present Government was instituted, the *regulation of the value of money*. The scheme of a currency exclusively metallic, is generally admitted to be impracticable in the present circumstances of this country. So long, therefore, as our present system is continued, it is obvious that the existence of some controlling agency is indispensable to prevent those ruinous excesses and fluctuations to which a paper currency is, from its nature, necessarily subject. Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray for the recharter of the present, or the creation of a new Bank of the United States, with such modifications as experience may have shown to be necessary and proper. They submit these views to your honorable bodies in a spirit of candor and soberness. They address you with other feelings than those of party. They appeal to you as the guardians of the common welfare, and those who alone can afford relief in the present exigency. They appear before you as men in whose minds every other consideration is merged in the all-absorbing reflection that their nearest and best interests are at stake. They ask, and have a right to expect, that their representations shall be received and attended to in a corresponding spirit. If, however, they are disappointed in this just expectation; if measures involving the happiness of millions, and carrying in their train wide-spreading ruin and distress, are to be adopted and persevered in, from other considerations than their bearing upon the country, then they, in common with the rest of their countrymen must surrender their bright hopes and prospects to the bitter conviction, that there exists not on earth a more *inexorable despotism* than that which is practised under the forms of popular institutions.

Oliver Brison	J. D. Clarke	John Hartman
S. S. Weldin	Joseph Caldwell	Thomas Lewis
M. Nelson	John Ritchie	John Peirce
James C. Armstrong	Redick McKee	John Breimton
John Rogers	William Hill	Joseph Graves
John P. Stewart	J. C. Bayless	John Smith
W. F. Peterson	Alexander Wilson	F. Plunkett
Basil Williamson	Richard Simms	H. S. Beeson
James Caldwell	Swearingen & Selby	L. Stanley
John Lamb	Horace M. Miller	William R. Holliday
G. W. Curtis	Daniel Zane	Allen Miller
Knox & McKee	M. W. Chapline	James Plunkett
J. W. Pomeroy	Charles D. Knox	John R. Haines
John McDowell	Samuel Irwin	Edward Ensell
John E. Baker	John Moore	Charles Ensell
Mark Douglas	Thomas Sweeny	Morgan Thomas
Samuel Sprigg	William Irwin	John Howells
Dana Hubbard	Robert Henry	John Jones
John F. Clarke	C. C. Forrest	Robert McComb
John Thompson	Harlen Dix	David Myers
James McCluskey	Alexander Melrum	George Brown
John Clark	James Hamilton	David Agnew

John Fisher	Samuel Neel	Rederick Grines
Robert Baldwin	Tyson, Moore, & Co.	M. Warren
J. W. Robb	N. P. Atkinson	Neal McNaughten
Robert Hamilton	John Griggs, jr.	John Rodifer
William Dulty	J. W. Tyson	Henry Lockman
B. F. Kelley & Co.	William Bailie	Israel Gibson
James D. Jackson	D. J. Tallent	David Hammond
Francis Dowber	Wilson & Hadden	David Cleurade
John L. Newby	R. S. Irwin	Lawson L. Hammond
Lewis Bougher	James Reed	William Clark
Hiram Martin	James C. Parrott	A. Johnson
Pollock & Knot	George Forbes	D. T. Junkin
James H. White	William Shaw	John Dadd
Edward Coen	Daniel Arthur	James Mathews
H. P. Morris	David Echols	John Fitz
F. Hoyles	William Templar	Elijah Davis
J. O'T. Graham	John W. Tuttle	William Philips
P. E. Zinn	Timothy Church	David Staley
Joseph Garrett	James Conner	Robert Miller
Monmouth H. Purdy	Charles L. Stewart	Robert Gunning
William Ferguson	William Hall	James Junkin
James N. Riddle	J. Stubblefield	G. Hathery
Richard C. Moore	F. A. Dohrman	Owen Mellen
John C. Riddle	John List	Fishers & Co.
Madison Miller	John Hull	George Armstrong
Joseph C. Hull	J. C. Wiley	James A. Cockran
John W. Crane	Alexander Gardner	Joseph Hastings
James W. Clemons	Alex. Thornton	John R. Morrow
William P. Wilson	Samuel Frazier	Joseph R. Crawford
Francis R. Armstrong	John W. Morgan	Peter French
L. Foster	David Harper	Samuel Wallahan
Benjamin Ratcliffe	Isaac Cutts	James H. Marshall
George Hogg	David Morgan	Peter W. Kenedy
David Richards	Frederick Mosure	Abdel McLure
Robert Blake	Mathew McLure	James H. Forsyth
Joshua Hunter	James Hamilton	Forsyth & Atterbury
John Cowl	Thomas Johnston, jr.	Samuel McClallen
Charles Lloyd	Thomas Campbell	Clarke & Cook
Nicholas Richardson	James McConnell	George W. Wilson
Clark Herrington	Ralph Reed	Joseph Jeffries
Jacob Ensburg	Harvey Hines	Andrew White
Hugh McEffee	Daniel Snider	James Tanner
Thomas Hogg	John W. Lockman	Robert Boyd
William Clouston	D. B. Looney	William McKay
William Carr	Thomas Hughes	F. K. O'Ferrall
Robert Hessey	John R. Campbell	F. Hurdley
George Hollis	E. Day	J. M. Ewing
Hugh Clark	J. S. Fowler	James Dare
Thomas Miller	Jonathan Ellis	William Busbey
Richard Phippen	H. W. Keene	E. C. Hawkins
Richard Porter	Daniel Gauger	John McCoskey
Charles Allen	John K. Botsford	William French

John French	S. Atkinson	Robert Purviance
Thomas Hardesty	Thomas Jones	Arche Sprout
Samuel Scovarine	James Baker	John Gooden
William Bills	Andrew Woods	Samuel H. Brown
David Tweedie	Henry Echols	George Brow
John O'Leary	Aaron Varney	Alexander Pannell
John Gilkerson	Daniel Lamb	Daniel Krider
W. T. Tweedie	William Lodwick	David Hasley
Francis B. Hornbrook	J. W. Mitchell	Joseph Reel
P. D. Brown	D. McGenis	George Neel
Randil Brown	George M. Harton	Henry Gibson
William Brown	H. C. Skilman	Clement Reed
Alexander Hadden	Henry Ewing	James Lynn
James Brown	John McCortney	James Reed
John McGaughy	James McCortney	Luke Connant
Thomas Young	W. W. Lessure	Jos. Junkin
A. Ferrell	A. Stroop	Alexander Orr
R. C. Gordon	Harkins & Hall	Benjamin Ford
Richard Hare	F. Brentlinger	Thomas Caldwell
William Cunningham	John Miller	Thomas F. Towle
George W. Beir	John Lesslie	John S. Fenimore
Jeremiah Clemens	Thomas Morris	Hugh Nichols
W. G. Fable	James Flinn	William Greene
G. Piles	James Ohair	James M. Wheat
J. & C. Ritchie	R. H. Sweeney	John Scott
Jesse Gallion	Michael Edwards	George Brazier
Israel Dillie	John Jay	James McCluney
S. D. Harper	J. Moorehead	John K. Smith
Robert Davis	— Borgstead	Henry Helms
J. Fell	R. Strunk	Jacob Hornbrook, jr.
John M. Clarke	J. Russell	Thomas Hornbrook
S. C. Richards	G. W. Carothers	Joseph Brentlinger
Charles S. Snead	Z. Jacob	Mordecai Morgan
Charles Willis	Robert Gray	Thomas Toner
John Goshorn	R. G. Martin	M. H. Houston
Joseph S. Dellinger	E. McLaughlin	William Harkins
Z. B. Curtis	Alexander Garning	William S. Goshorn
John Chaddock	James Duncan	John Johnson
Reuben Preston	Thomas Johnston	Calvin Truesdell
James Sikes	William McConnell	Hiram D. Brown
Robert Morrow	Reuben Jones	Thomas Paul
James Dickson	James Pemberton	Findley Paul
Robert Pratt	J. W. Ridgeway	John Fawcett
William Williams	William Thomas	A. W. Connard
Frederick Smith	Richard Turner	Isaiah Cooper
Thomas Hill	Thomas Todd	R. J. Curtis
W. B. Atterbury	N. Kingman	George McMurray
T. R. Austin	Henry Whitfield	William Paxton
Elisha Lindsey	Thomas McKain	J. L. Sangston
H. Williams	Samuel Jorden	George S. Meredith
James R. Johnston	Joseph Fretwell	F. C. Campbell
H. Teater	Thomas Brant	Robert McConnell

J. Caldwell	Henry Wheeler	Hiram Echols
A. Bennett	John Wilson	Hanson Huckells
William W. King	Samuel Miller	A. Boodgain
William B. King	John Banks	James D. English
Thomas S. Slocumb	John Burns	Abraham Aulnutt
A. Paxton	Jos. Woods	David Ruth
H. S. Stipe	Ira Gregg	John Sharp
James Perkins	Horace Gregg	H. R. Rice
William Morrow	Andrew Fee	John Huffman
Uriah Martin	Adam Fordney	Robert Days
Willis Carney	George Washington	James Johnston
Wm. N. Riddle & Co.	Ellis Bayden	Joseph Rhinberger
G. M. Huggans	James Spalding	J. H. Parrott
James H. Stout	Archibald Johnston	A. Buchanan
O. W. Heiskell & Co.	John Cunningham	Phineas Kenyon
John Sexton	John Philippen	Thomas Kerr
James Godfrey	Jacob Hornbrook, sen.	David Lane
Thomas Bristol	James Clarke	Zane & Pentoney
Samuel Pool	T. J. Bicknell	S. G. Wheatly
George Hardesty	D. McClure	Samuel Dean
Charles Hardesty	John C. Campbell	J. D. Shipley
Richard Cowl	L. Lemasters	Andrew McLure
John Freal	R. Long	Moore & Morris
Mathias Burthart	Andrew Quigley	

The undersigned certify that the within list of names has been accurately copied from the *original* memorial, forwarded to Messrs. Tyler and Rives, to be presented to the Senate of the United States, with the understanding that the within should be forwarded to the House of Representatives, through the Hon. Edgar C. Wilson.

JOHN P. STEWART.
H. M. MILLER.
R. McKEE.

WHEELING, *February* 19, 1834.

Jacob Atkinson	James Blayney	Moses Creighton
Andrew P. Woods	Wm. Potter	J. W. Beck
Parmenus Higgs	Thos. Baird, jr.	John Sallyards
John A. Good	John Crump	Joshua Way
Wm. Wheatley	William Baird	Elias Eller
Silas Gibson	John Carter	David W. Thornburg
Barney Haggens	Francis Melton	William D. Geinan
John Skinner	John Irwin	John Furguson
T. Bowers	James Vance	E. Thornburg
Richard Carter	John Mills	J. Bentley
Robert Cornihan	Wm. Walker	Eph. Thornburg, jr.
S. H. B. Carter	James W. Mitchell	David Feay
B. Maul	Henry Cranford	Henry Harr
Danl. Murray	Robert Mitchell	Hezekiah Thornburg
W. B. Buchanan	Zachariah Mitchell	Daniel Hicks
Elisha Stokes	Dennis M. Lyles	Robert R. Clark
Andrew Kiger	James McColloch	John Scott, sr.
Ketita Potter	John D. Fester	John Scott, jr.

Thomas McConnell
 James McCombs
 Henry Weddle
 Thos. Feay
 David Armstrong
 Samuel Hiss
 W. Owings
 John Stone
 John Johnson
 Ninian Beall
 A. W. Clemins
 Henry F. Beall
 Basil Beall
 Wm. Boggs
 A. Ridgely, jr.
 Absalom Ridgely, sr.
 James Foote

Arthur Carter
 Philemon Frisbie
 Thos. Carter
 Richard Carter, jr.
 Wm. Beard
 Joseph Beard
 Joshua Beard
 J. Gooding
 William Martin
 Hugh Stewart
 Jacob Orwin
 Wm. Waddle
 S. Moore
 Samuel Virple
 Joseph Fleming
 George Boring

James Peinor
 Moses M. Marling
 Samuel Knode
 Abm. Piesch
 James Smith
 William Dickson
 John Kiggins
 John McCoy
 Alexander Smith
 John Faris
 John Feay
 Levi R. Cawthorn
 James Renforth
 Thomas Munel
 John Thornburg
 Wm. F. Good

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JOHN P. STEWART
 H. M. MILLER
 H. MCKER

Witnessed, February 19, 1851.

Moses Crighton
 J. W. Beck
 John Sallards
 Joshua W. W.
 Elias Eiler
 David W. Thornburg
 William D. Geiman
 John Ferguson
 E. Thornburg
 J. Beatty
 Eph. Thornburg, Jr.
 David Feay
 Henry Feay
 Hexekin Thornburg
 Daniel Miller
 Robert H. Clark
 John Scott, sr.
 John Scott, jr.

James Harty
 Wm. Patten
 Thos. Baird, jr.
 John Crump
 William Baird
 John Carter
 Francis Nelson
 John Lewis
 James Yancey
 John Mills
 Wm. Walker
 James W. Mitchell
 Henry Crawford
 Robert Mitchell
 Nicholas Mitchell
 Dennis M. Tyler
 James Mitchell
 John D. Beatty

Jacob Atkinson
 Andrew P. Woods
 Parmous Higgs
 John A. Good
 Wm. Wadley
 Elias Gibson
 Barry Haggans
 John Skinner
 T. Bowers
 Richard Carter
 Robert Corbin
 S. H. B. Carter
 B. Mast
 Danl. Murray
 W. H. Beberman
 Elias Stokes
 Andrew Kegan
 Kelta Patten