

NEW JERSEY.

PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

OF

A MEETING OF INHABITANTS OF ELIZABETH TOWN,

*In relation to the Currency.*

MAY 12, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

At a numerous meeting of the citizens of Elizabethtown, in the State of New Jersey, convened at the court-house, pursuant to public notice, on Tuesday evening, March 25, 1834, "for the purpose of expressing their views in relation to the present embarrassed state of the country." Mr. James Ross was called to the chair; S. P. Brittan and Aaron Woodruff were appointed assistant Chairmen; and James B. Burnet and Elihu J. Crane, Secretaries.

The object of the meeting having been stated, a committee was appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the meeting. The committee retired for a short time, and upon their return reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, to wit:

Whereas this community is now laboring under the disastrous effects of that mistaken policy which has blasted the fairest and brightest prospects ever enjoyed by a free people, and convinced as we are that these evils have fallen upon our country from the ill-advised and ruinous "experiment" of the Executive; and that it is not only our privilege but our duty, as freemen, respectfully and firmly to express our disapprobation of a course of measures which have involved in the general ruin of the financial concerns of the nation the enterprise and industry of our own citizens: Therefore,

*Resolved*, 1st. That while we feel it to be the duty of every patriot to sustain the administration in the exercise of all proper and constitutional powers, we, at the same time, feel it to be a paramount duty solemnly to protest against all Executive encroachments.

2d. That the removal of the deposits from the Bank of the United States is an assumption of power by the Executive, under cover of the name of the Secretary of the Treasury, which militates against the principles of our free institutions, and the liberties of the people.

3d. That the distress and alarm which now pervade all classes of the community, and for which the future promises nothing that is cheering,

call in loud and emphatic language upon our representatives in Congress to exert their every energy to restore that confidence and prosperity which the hasty and fallacious experiment has destroyed.

4th. That as Jerseymen we feel deeply mortified at the resolutions adopted and readopted by the majority of the Legislature of this State, approving of the course of the Government in the removal of the deposits, and are fully satisfied that those resolutions resulted from party dictation, and do not express the views and sentiments of the voters of New Jersey.

5th. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the honorable Theodore Frelinghuysen and Samuel L. Southard, by their able, manly, and independent course, in sustaining the true interests and views of their constituents, in opposition to legislative instructions, are entitled to the unlimited confidence, and will receive the cordial support of their fellow-citizens.

6th. That the members from this State in the House of Representatives are earnestly, solemnly, and respectfully requested to pause, and take a view of the present sad and ruined condition of the agricultural, manufacturing, mechanical, and commercial interests of New Jersey, before they, by another vote, sustain the destructive, the withering "experiment."

7th. That the experience of our country furnishes abundant evidence that a National Bank, properly regulated, is indispensably necessary for the preservation of a sound and equal currency.

8th. That the rechartering of the United States Bank, with proper modifications, is of vital importance to the nation, and the only measure which will restore confidence, stability, and harmony in the land.

9th. That we deprecate the principle now professedly acted upon by some members of Congress, that the substantial interests of the whole country should be sacrificed to subserve the interests of a party.

10th. That as Jerseymen, the descendants of those patriots who shed their blood, and "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors," for the inestimable blessings of civil liberty, we view with a jealous eye all acts of the Executive tending to the usurpation of the control of the Treasury, believing that the concentration of the *purse* and the *sword* in the Executive is a measure fraught with danger to those liberties so dear to us, and calls for an expression of our firm and decided disapprobation.

11th. That we protest against any *experiment*, the effect of which is to paralyze the enterprise, and prostrate the credit of our country, filling it with the most unparalleled distress, depriving the laborer of employment, and shutting up the workshop of our mechanics, thereby substituting poverty, distress, and gloom, for the animating and happy prospects which cheered the patriot a few months since in every section of our country.

12th. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the officers of this meeting, be published; and that Messrs. J. J. Chetwood, J. J. Bryant, and Wm. Ross, be a committee to forward a copy of the same to each of the representatives in Congress from this State.

JAMES ROSS, *Chairman*.

S. P. BRITTAN,

AARON WOODRUFF,

*Assistant Chairmen.*

JAMES B. BURNET,

ELIHU J. CRANE,

*Secretaries.*