

## RESOLUTIONS

OF A

### MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

*Disapproving the measures of the Executive, and the removal of the  
Deposites from the Bank of the United States.*

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JUNE 10, 1834.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

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### PUBLIC MEETING.

Pursuant to previous public notice, a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Mercer county assembled at the court-house, in the borough of Mercer, on Tuesday the 13th of May. The meeting was organized by appointing the honorable Alexander Brown president; and Malcolm McCombe, James Waugh, Washington Tait, and Alexander Black, vice presidents; and James Walker, William F. Junkin, James R. Wick, and Thomas Pomroy, secretaries. The object of the meeting was stated by S. C. Tait, esquire, and a motion made that a committee, to consist of seven persons, be appointed to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. Whereupon, the chair appointed Walter Oliver, James Breden, John J. Pearson, S. C. Tait, Robert Shaw, R. Gillesman, and E. Byers, jr., to compose said committee.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to afford time for the committee to report. At three o'clock the meeting again convened, when the following preamble and resolutions were reported, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas it is the right, the bounden duty of every citizen of our free republic to guard with anxious solicitude the chartered liberties of our country, to look with eagle-eye into the conduct of public functionaries, and mark with the frown of disapprobation every infringement on, and violation of, the laws and constitution; but from the vast power and patronage necessarily given to the Executive, and the facility with which such power may be used to the destruction of our liberties, this branch of the Government, above all others, should be vigilantly watched, and every infringement of the laws promptly repelled. The price of liberty is perpetual vigilance. Prior to the election of our present Chief Magistrate, that distinguished individual, by his public letters, pointed out what he considered and declared to be some palpable errors in the administration of the Govern-

ment. Among others were the eligibility of the Executive to re-election; the appointment by that officer of members of Congress to fill important public posts, tending to sway them from the path of duty, and mould them to Executive will, destroying their independence, inducing them to covet Executive favor rather than consult the interests and obey the will of their constituents, thereby destroying the equilibrium of the Government, by throwing the power into the hands of one man. He also pointed out, in strong language, the departure from the original simplicity and economy of our institutions, by the prodigal expenditure of the public money, and the immense increase in the number of officers, and strongly deprecated the interference of these officers of the General Government in elections; and declared that, in selecting men for places of power and trust, regard should be had to fitness alone without respect to party. These sentiments, blazoned abroad in the papers of the day, together with his military services, aroused the patriotism, and excited the sympathies of a generous people, who, it is to be hoped, in giving their suffrages for General Jackson, had in view the *measures* proposed as well as the *man*. The public believed him sincere, looked upon his declarations as pledges of the course he would pursue. Has he redeemed those pledges? We find him a candidate for re-election, making use of personal means to have himself nominated, resorting to the low measure of falsely traducing one of his adversaries for electioneering purposes, and the officers of his appointment forsaking their posts with his knowledge and approbation, and circumnavigating sea and land to effect his re-election; and he now, a second time, filling the presidential chair; almost all the offices of importance filled by members of Congress; the support of Executive measures in either House looked to as the only means of Executive patronage; offices held up as premiums to members to give their zealous support, inducing them not only to disobey the known will of their constituents, but to act contrary to the interests and honor of the country at large; implicit obedience to Executive will the means and attainment of office, the aim of their acts. He has removed officers the most honest and capable to make room for men possessing neither qualification. Party, and party only, has been the watchword; and, from the highest Secretary down to the tidewaiters and light-house keepers, all have been removed who dared to think and vote as freemen: even silent obedience held insufficient; nothing tolerated but active party co-operation. So that offices and posts originally created for the benefit of the people have been looked upon as a species of plunder to be seized as the legitimate spoils of the victors. Such has been the reform. The retrenchment promised has resulted in an expenditure of from two to three millions of dollars annually more than under the next preceding administration; the number of offices of all kinds increased without any corresponding increase of duties; salaries greatly augmented, and the public money squandered in supporting worthless individuals for electioneering and not for official purposes; the Treasury of the country lawlessly expended without appropriations by law; the Post Office Department, formerly in good credit and a source of revenue, now in debt upwards of half a million of dollars, and become notoriously a broker's office for buying party support. Every attempt to investigate the affairs of that department, by Congress, are strenuously opposed by the friends of the Executive, so that the people cannot but believe a public investigation would expose a scene of bribery and corruption hitherto unheard of in the annals of our Go-

vernment. Such were the pledges of General Jackson, and such have been their fulfillment by him as President of the United States. Can the honest freemen of our country, who have adopted the motto of principles and not men, who have heretofore held that measures alone should command their support—that they would forsake any and every man who would depart from these principles, support General Jackson now on the principles on which they originally gave him their suffrages? He has forsaken these principles: let all who love their country, who love Rome better than Cesar, forsake him. He has recommended the passage of laws of the most dargeous character; he has refused his sanction to others the most wholesome and salutary; he has recommended to Congress immediate action on important subjects, and afterwards declared that action premature; he has, by palpable assumption of powers not vested in him by the laws and constitution, unsettled the currency of the country, deranged the monitory system, and thereby destroyed commerce, ruined manufactures, and paralyzed agricultural pursuits. He has endeavored to destroy the co-ordinate branches of the Government by bringing the judiciary and legislative branches into odium and contempt, by destroying the confidence of the people in their integrity and usefulness; has held at naught their decisions and enactments, and endeavored to concentrate in his own person all the powers legitimately exercised by the others; he has declared that to be constitutional and legal which was palpably unconstitutional and illegal; he has declared that unconstitutional which had been previously sanctioned by the framers of the constitution, by almost every Executive, by successive legislatures, and by judicial decisions; he has, by the strong arm of power, seized the public treasure, removed it from the place where it was deposited by the laws of the land, and transferred it to places unknown to the laws, and unsanctioned by the law-making powers; unsafe in themselves, and solely under the control of the Executive. To effect which, for not obeying his illegal commands, he has removed the officer to whom the law entrusted the keeping of the Treasury, and, in the removal of the depositees, violated the solemn contract and pledged faith of the nation made with the institution in whose vaults they were placed. The people can look to him alone for the consequences; for, relying upon his great power and popularity, he took upon himself the responsibility of the act, though, to keep up the technical color of appearances, he appointed a creature of his own, in whose name the order was issued for the "plunder of the public Treasury." He has censured the Senate of the United States, a co-ordinate branch of the Government, for daring to declare these acts illegal; he has communicated this censure in a manner unknown in the annals of our country, and unprecedented in parliamentary usage. He has violated the rights of the Senate in so doing; and, in his message sent on that occasion, has advocated doctrines of absolute Executive power and prerogative, dangerous, and before unheard of. He has on this, as on former occasions, made appeals to the lowest passions of the people, endeavoring to shake their confidence in the Senate, and excite their sympathies in his favor by means at once dishonest and degrading. He has, in his conduct to the various committees of the primary assemblies of the people, showed a degree of passion and disregard of decency entirely inconsistent with self-government and self-control. His administration, throughout, has been marked with a total disregard for the interest and honor of the country at large, and a base subserviency to faction and party; has assumed on himself higher powers and

prerogatives than is conferred on any constitutional sovereign in Europe; and has shown, by his disregard for the laws and constitution of our country, that he is not fit to be the ruler of a free people. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the late acts in the administration of our Government are calculated to arouse the most careless observer, afford ample cause for serious consideration, and demand the prompt and energetic action of every patriot on the side of liberty and the constitution against tyranny and Executive encroachment.

*Resolved*, That it has been with feelings of regret for the tarnished honor and injured interests of our country, that we have seen cabinet after cabinet disbanded, solemn treaties disregarded, wholesome laws restrained from operation by the odious operation of the veto; our national treasury lawlessly pillaged; the Senate of the United States insulted; our ancient republican institutions assailed; our currency blasted; our constitution violated; and our whole country, in all its branches of industry, scourged by an individual elevated by the votes of a free people to the highest office in their gift; and making the hollow pretensions, common to all tyrants, of allegiance to the people, and solicitude for their interests, while his natural impetuosity of character, goaded on by the machinations of an irresponsible crew of profligate politicians, is making rapid strides to a regal domination more odious and severe than European despotisms.

*Resolved*, That, in the dismissal of Secretary Duane for the purpose of seizing the treasury of the United States, the President, to say the least, has exercised a legal right for an illegal purpose, and, in the removal of the deposits, has violated the pledged faith of the nation; infringed upon the constitution and laws of his country; destroyed the confidence of our own citizens, as well as of other nations, in our institutions; and clouded the hopes of the friends of civil liberty throughout the world for the permanency of our Government.

*Resolved*, That we consider the heads of departments the constitutional advisers of the President, and we believe these officers calculated to exert a salutary influence on the administration of our Government when due importance and consideration are accorded to them and their opinions; and we regret to see these wholesome principles disregarded by Andrew Jackson, the cabinet officers superseded in his confidence by a gang of political desperadoes, unknown to the constitution and foreign to its spirit, alike reckless and ignorant of every thing but their individual interests, and the gratification of malevolent and corrupt feeling.

*Resolved*, That we consider the course of Andrew Jackson as evincing but too plainly his ultimate object of concentrating all power in himself; that we are alarmed at the rapidity with which he advances to the attainment of his unhallowed purpose; and it is with deep concern that we see him overcome the constitutional and legal barriers which intercept his progress by his seductive appeals to the sympathies and passions of a generous people.

*Resolved*, That, among other tyrannical acts of Andrew Jackson, we particularly reprobate his conduct in appointing and keeping individuals in office without taking the constitutional mode of nomination to the Senate, and in many cases after their rejection; and we consider it an insult to a co-ordinate branch of the Government, a violation of every principle of

democracy, and an outrage against all constitutional law, which admits of neither excuse nor palliation.

*Resolved*, That, in refusing to nominate others after the rejection by the Senate of unsuitable nominations, thereby leaving important offices vacant, the President has failed to "see the laws faithfully executed," and has committed a "high crime" against his country and its constitution.

*Resolved*, That the protest of "Andrew Jackson" against the proceedings of the Senate of the United States, and its retraction, are papers anomalous in the history of our republic; alike repugnant to the constitution, to law, to reason, and to each other, constituting one of a series of attacks on the independence and fearless patriotism of the Senate, and giving "confirmation strong" of all our apprehensions of despotic power.

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States has hitherto fulfilled the high destinies marked out for it by the founders of our republic; moderating the sudden impulses of popular passion, and heroically throwing themselves in the path of unbounded ambition and headlong impetuosity. It is with pleasure and confidence we see it stable amidst all change, talented amidst degeneracy, high-minded amidst obloquy and insult, and patriotic amidst venality and corruption: on it, with the action of the people, depend our hopes for political salvation in the present dangerous crisis.

*Resolved*, That while we approve of the able and faithful manner in which our Representative in Congress has sustained the principles of his constituents, we cannot but regret the shameful desertion of Pennsylvania interests and Pennsylvania policy by many of her delegation, particularly as we believe them to have been actuated more by party spirit to sustain the encroachments of arbitrary power, than by a faithful solicitude for the interests of the whole country.

*Resolved*, That Governor Wolf has forfeited the respect and confidence of the people of Pennsylvania by his vacillating and time-serving policy; servilely retracting sentiments which he had just before promulged, upon discovering that he had differed from a corrupt party, whose base behests he revered more highly than the lasting interests of the State over which he presides. We are convinced of his hostility to our western improvements, and believe he has neither political honesty nor capacity to discharge the duties of the high office which he holds.

*Resolved*, That "the majority" in the Legislature of Pennsylvania have proved themselves heartless politicians, regardless of their duty to their country, yielding base obedience to a party which holds no principles sacred but the will of one man.

*Resolved*, That we consider it the duty of all the friends of liberty and the constitution to unite in a common effort to rescue our Government from misrule and Executive encroachment.

*Resolved*, That we cordially approve of the contemplated Convention which is to be held at Harrisburg on the 27th instant, and that delegates be sent from this county.

*Resolved*, That S. C. Tait, esq., and Dr. Robert McCormick, be the delegates to represent this county in the State Convention.

*Resolved*, That we concur in the nomination of Thomas H. Sill, of Erie, and Henry C. Bosler, of Meadville as the Senatorial delegates.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers



and published, and that duplicate copies be made out, with the proper signatures of the officers, and one be forwarded to each of the Houses of Congress.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to superintend the publication and transmission of these proceedings.

ALEXANDER BROWN, *President*.

MALCOM McCOMBE,  
JAMES WAUGH,  
W. TAIT,  
ALEX. BLACK, } *V. Presidents.*

JAMES WALKER,  
JAMES R. WICK,  
WM. F. JUNKIN,  
THOMAS POMROY, } *Secretaries.*



