

MEMORIAL

OF

INHABITANTS OF WINDHAM COUNTY, CONNECTICUT,

*In favor of restoring the Deposites, and of rechartering the Bank of
the United States.*

JUNE 24, 1834.

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

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

The memorial of the undersigned electors of the county of Windham, in the
State of Connecticut,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That for a number of years past, under the guidance and smiles of Providence, and the fostering care of the General Government, the people of this county, in common with those of other sections of the country, have enjoyed an unexampled degree of prosperity. To the active enterprise of the inhabitants new sources of industrious and profitable business have, from time to time, been opened, and new incentives to active and vigorous effort have been constantly presented. The well-directed labors of all classes of citizens, in the various departments of social life, have been crowned with the most ample and cheering success. In all departments, industry and patient perseverance have been well rewarded; and a contented, prosperous, and happy community, relying upon the continued protection and support of that Government under which they had been rendered thus prosperous and happy, were successfully pursuing their business, and new fields of industry were continually presented to their view. With nothing to disturb them in the prosecution of their business, they found their own enjoyment increased by the continually increasing evidence of the prosperity and happiness of those around them. The farmer found a ready and profitable market ever open to reward his labors; the mechanic's shop was the happy theatre of honest, industrious, and successful enterprise; while the numerous manufactories of the county were daily affording employment and the means of comfortable subsistence to thousands of the honest poor, and returning to their proprietors an adequate equivalent for the investments which their confidence in the wisdom of the General Government had prompted them to make. All classes were happy; for all were industrious, and their industry

was well rewarded. Your memorialists are not disposed to indulge in a painful review of the past, nor to dwell with an improper spirit of murmuring upon the present. Evils which come upon them in obedience to the stern call of public necessity, they can bear without a sigh. To sacrifices which they may be called upon to make of individual comfort or interest for the public good, your memorialists will ever be ready promptly to submit. While they enjoy, in common with their fellow-citizens, the protecting care of Government, they will not be found more unwilling than any portion of the country to bear their share of the burdens, however unexpected may be the call, or however severe the trial. But while your memorialists will ever be ready to act in accordance with this great and fundamental principle of civil government—a principle without which Government cannot exist, nor its blessings be enjoyed, still they claim the right inquiring into the causes of deep and wide-spread evil, whenever it is found to exist. It is not only their *right, upon every principle*, to inquire into the causes of existing evils; but in a tone becoming freemen, respectful, yet *firm and decided*, to raise their voice whenever, in their honest opinion, public calamities thicken upon society which might have been avoided. In accordance with this principle, in the honest opinion of your memorialists, silence might be construed into a *suicidal act*, and a tame and servile acquiescence in a state of things which is producing a desolating common evil. In the section of country in which your memorialists reside, a section, until recently, thriving and prosperous, contented and happy, a calamitous change has recently taken place. The farmer finds no market for the crops which his careful hand has nurtured and matured; the mechanic finds no incentives to urge him forward in the pursuit of business; the manufacturer, whose establishment has given bread to hundreds, and has been to him a source of honorable profit, has been compelled to suspend his operations, and to turn his laborers upon the cold charities of the public, or to continue his business at the very time when the bell which calls his workmen to their unproductive labors is tolling in his ears the knell of his hopes. Contrasting present suffering and distress with past prosperity, your memorialists have been led to inquire into the cause. This they have done; and they have done it with no other than a desire to ascertain facts. The result of all their investigation has been a firm conviction that present distress, and the derangement of all the active interests of society, is to be attributed to the ruinous policy of the Executive, and an unauthorized interference with the well-regulated currency of the country—an interference called for by no principle of public policy, and tending, as a necessary consequence, to a destruction of public confidence in the community at large, and the introduction of a paralyzing influence upon all the varied enterprise and interests of our country. They believe, in short, that the attack of the Executive upon the Bank of the United States, and a recent order for the removal of the public deposits which the late public functionary of the Treasury Department had the firmness to disregard as wholly unauthorized, and at war with the plighted faith of the Government, is the procuring cause of all the evils which are now preying upon the community. The purpose of the Chief Magistrate seems to be fixed; and in applications to him, judging from the past, your memorialists have nothing to expect but sporting with their sufferings, and obstinate perseverance in present measures. They believe, too, that nothing can restore public credit and public confidence, give life to all the desponding energies of the community, re-

store to the farmer his prosperity, to the mechanic his spirit of honest enterprise, and to the manufacturer, his wonted vigor, and to all the blessings which till recently they have enjoyed, but an immediate restoration of the public deposits to their former place of custody, and a renewal of the charter of the Bank of the United States, or the incorporation of a new bank, upon such principles as are calculated to secure to this section, and to every part, a safe and well-regulated currency. To the Senate and House of Representatives your memorialists look as to the only source of relief from present evils, and from still greater ones in prospect. They do and will believe that, in the integrity, patriotism, and philanthropy of your honorable body, they may yet confide with safety; and in the exercise of what they deem a well-placed confidence, in the firm persuasion that a "redeeming spirit" yet lives and breathes in our National Legislature, they ask the attention of Congress to the distresses of, not a single county, or State, but of a vast and, until lately, prosperous and powerful nation. They ask you to throw yourselves, as a protecting power, between a suffering country and the oppressive usurpation of an unfeeling Executive; and by the exercise of your constitutional prerogative, by a restoration of the deposits, and the establishment of a national bank upon proper principles, with suitable modifications, and on a permanent basis, to save our country from the dreadful consequence of an Executive experiment dangerous alike to the honor of the Government and the interests of the people.

