

STATE BANK.

THE Committee to whom was referred the Resolution adopted by the meeting of the Stockholders held in December last, and also the Report of the Committee then appointed, made to the present meeting, * have performed the duties assigned to them, and beg leave to

REPORT,

THAT, since the Charter of this Bank will expire on the first day of January, 1835, it requires but a very small share of prudence and foresight to satisfy every one, that some measure ought early to be adopted for collecting the debts owing to this Institution, and closing its concerns within the period of its legal existence. It is a legal proposition, of the truth of which, it is presumed, none can doubt, that, upon the expiration of the Charter, the Corporation altogether ceases for all purposes, and that a suit commenced, or even a judgment obtained, during the Charter, either by or against it, could not be further prosecuted or enforced. Your Committee have, by calculation, ascertained, that if upon a debt, say of \$1500 now existing, curtailments of ten per cent. upon the amount of it, as reduced from time to time, be rigidly required, and punctually paid, every three months, it would require six years and a half to reduce the same to \$100; which would be one year and a half beyond the limit of the Charter. And they are further of opinion, that even that period is earlier than it would be found, in practice, the debt could be collected, because perfect punctuality is not to be expected. It is obvious also, that in closing so large a business as that of this Bank, carried on at so many places, increased vigilance and energy will be necessary: So that, in the opinion of your Committee, few of the existing Officers and servants could be discharged, and the expenses of conducting the affairs of the Bank may be rather expected to increase, while the profits, by reason of curtailing the business done, must certainly diminish, until the latter will not, probably, defray the former.

Your Committee are fully aware, that it will, in many instances, bear very hard upon debtors to exact positively, and at all periods, an instalment of 10 per cent. and it is believed by some of the Committee, that many of the debtors could not comply with the requisition. But, on the other hand, the Stockholders cannot be expected to carry on a business which will be entirely unprofitable, much less one by which, for want of the legal continuance of the Corporation, a large part of the Capital Stock will certainly be lost. This latter evil might be remedied by a renewal of the Charter. But it is believed by your Committee, that neither would the Legislature grant, nor would the body of Stockholders accept a renewal; because your Committee is well satisfied, that there is a great excess of Banking Capital in N. Carolina, which makes it alike unprofitable to the Stockholder and injurious to the Community; and from the chartered organization of this Bank, it is in constant danger of gross mismanagement.

Your Committee, under these circumstances, have anxiously turned their attention to the various modes by which your business may be closed, with the earnest desire to discover and recommend one, by which it can be effected, with as little loss to the owners, and with as much lenity to the debtors, as possible. Many methods have been suggested to their consideration; of which none perhaps are exempt from serious objections. It has, however, in the course of the consultations of your Committee, been suggested by the Gentlemen who represent the State in this meeting, and are serving on this Committee, that the danger of loss from the expiration of the Charter, is not much to be apprehended, because they entertain no doubt but the General Assembly would continue by law the corporate powers, beyond their present limit, for the purpose of collecting debts owing, prosecuting suits pending at the expiration of the Charter, and doing all other acts proper and necessary to the closing of the concern. To such a measure, those Gentlemen suppose that the Legislature would be impelled by the interest of the State as a Stockholder in this Bank, and by a provident disposition to prevent the necessity under which the Stockholders would otherwise lie of providing for their own security by some other measure, insuring the collection of all the debts before, or at the expiration of the Charter; and above all, by that benignity and justice, which should, and it is believed will, always characterize the acts of the Government towards all citizens; and which plainly forbid the extinguishment of a large amount of debt, merely for the want of a legal remedy.

As your Committee suppose, that the great object of the Stockholders at present, is, to secure themselves, and the mode of so doing is not material to them; but, on the contrary, that the mode most acceptable to the community and the public authorities, would, for that reason, be likewise most acceptable to the Stockholders: Your Committee have received and considered, with the greatest respect, the suggestion of the Representatives of the State; and after much reflection, a majority of your Committee are of opinion, that if the General Assembly would pass the act contemplated by the State Representatives, it would supersede the necessity for the adoption of any extraordinary measure by the Stockholders, either for the collection of the debts with unusual rapidity, or for vesting in Trustees such debts as might remain uncollected at the expiration of the Charter.

Your Committee have perused the statute of the last session, under which those gentlemen derive their appointment, and which contains their instructions. It is not found therein, that the Legislature hath delegated to them any authority to propose or complete the compact under consideration. Hence the suggestion made by those gentlemen is not considered, by the Committee, as obligatory upon the State, and is not intended to be so represented to the meeting. But while those Members of the Committee, who are Stockholders, thus understand the offer of the State's Representatives, they likewise concur in their opinion of the reasonableness, prudence and justice of such an act, and thence infer the probability of its passage. And while that event is uncertain, they think it would be both unnecessary and injurious to many interests, if the Stockholders were to take any other course, before knowing the pleasure of the Legislature, upon that now under consideration. Your Committee are desirous, that their views should not be misunderstood by the Stockholders: They do not contemplate a renewal or extension of the present Charter, for any purposes of Banking, properly speaking. The acceptance of such a renewed Charter, the Committee could not recommend, for reasons already given. The only valuable powers which ought to be continued to the Corporation, are those which are necessary to keep up its existence to answer the demands of its creditors, and to enable it to make good the demands upon its debtors. All abuses of those powers may be guarded against by two provisions in the act; the first, that the extension should be for a limited term; the second, that the Corporation shall be restrained from issuing or re-issuing any of its own notes after the expiration of the present Charter.

In investigating the course of the business of this Institution heretofore, and the causes of the discredit and depreciation of its paper and the heavy losses already incurred, your Committee have been strongly impressed with the belief, that most of those evils have arisen from the multitude of the Branches and of the Directors, according to the Charter. From the former circumstance, the expenses are much enlarged, and to cover them, the Directors

are under strong temptations to extend their business imprudently. From the latter circumstance grow the evils. The great number of Directors, namely ninety-eight, presents a unity of counsel and concert of action, and the adoption and persevering execution of any system, however prudent. Besides these, there is another consequence still more serious—one through which, in the opinion of every Member of your Committee, great losses have accrued to the Stockholders. The Committee allude to loans made by the Directors for each other. It cannot be expected that competent men of business, will gratuitously serve in the responsible, difficult, and disagreeable office of a Director, without having some Bank accommodation. If each one of the Directors be entitled to and receive even a small accommodation, the number of those bodies will make an aggregate of debt of a very large and inconvenient amount. As such accommodations are regarded as permanent, on which only interest without an instalment is paid, the Directors debt constitutes a large investment, which is wholly uncontrollable by the Bank in even the greatest emergency, and deprives the Bank of the power of more extensively accommodating other citizens. Besides this, Directors are often men in moderate circumstances, often men in trade, liable to the misfortunes and ruin incident to speculations. Upon the failure of other debtors, the loss of the whole debt seldom happens, because the regular curtailments demanded from them, tends first, to lessen their debt, and secondly, to prevent them from imprudently contracting debts beyond their ability to pay, since their inability must be early detected: Whereas, the debt of a Director may be kept up by an artful man, as long as his means enable him to meet the interest, although the whole principal be lost. Your Committee find, that the debt of the Directors at this time, amounts to the sum of \$325,914 42, and that is less than it has been for many years; that it generally has been \$500,000 or more, and often much more; that the present diminution hath arisen partly from payments, partly from the death of former Directors, and still more from recent changes in the Directories by the removal of former incumbents. But there is a constant tendency towards increasing that debt, though when existing, it be the most difficult of management; and unless some remedy be given by law, there is no reason to expect the present improvement in it to last. A fact has come to the knowledge of your Committee during the present investigation, which impressively proves the danger to be apprehended from this description of debt. It is, that the larger part of the losses heretofore sustained by the Bank, consists of debts of persons, who were Directors at the time of their failure, or had been Directors at the time of contracting the debt.

These dangers and evils are deemed by your Committee to be very great, and the more especially as they often betray the Directors into a breach of good faith towards their employers, by tempting and inducing them to use their official places solely for their personal advantage: and they likewise tend to bring opprobrium upon the Institution at large, which is in justice due to the defaulting individual only. From the facts here disclosed, and this course of reasoning, the gentlemen who represent the State are of opinion, that, to prevent a recurrence of the evils heretofore experienced from the large number of the Directors, the Legislature ought to make it a condition of any privilege of any kind to the Corporation, that the Boards of the Principal Bank, and all the Branches, should be reduced—the former to, say ten, including the Public Treasurer, and the latter to five.

In this opinion the Committee from the Stockholders entirely concur; and, in fairness to the mass of the Stockholders, they feel themselves compelled to state, that many of the General Meetings have, from time to time, exerted themselves to restrain loans to the Directors, and to require curtailments from them. In fact, the inconveniences and losses now experienced were not unexpected by the Stockholders, though they exerted themselves to the utmost of their power to obviate and avoid them. Experience shews, that nothing short of a change by law of the number of the Directors, will effectually remedy the evil. The whole of your Committee, therefore, feeling alike the necessity of the measure, suppose that the Legislature will, for the protection of the public interests, and to suppress undue, unfair, and injurious practices of favoritism among the Directors to themselves, pass, in their wisdom, a law for that purpose.

Your Committee, in conclusion, are impressed with the belief, that, with Legislative support and aid, in the points herein mentioned, and such others as the prudence of the next Meeting of Stockholders, and the intelligence of the Legislature, may provide, the affairs of the Bank may be managed (though without the hope of much profit, yet) without the danger of much further loss: and that, if the views here taken should accord with those of the General Assembly, the Bank could be finally closed, as speedily and safely, to the debtors and creditors, as by any other immediate means which your Committee could devise—and that, too, without the danger of seriously and suddenly affecting the nature and amount of the circulating medium, or the value of property. Your Committee, therefore, take the liberty of submitting to the meeting, whether it be not proper to defer further proceedings on this point, until their next Meeting, and await the pleasure of the Legislature upon the points here discussed, which no doubt will be brought to their notice by the Report of their Representatives in this Meeting. And it is further submitted, that, in the mean while, it be recommended to the President and Directors to proceed in the usual, regular and moderate collections of old Accommodation loans, according to their sound discretion, and the ability of the customers to make payments; and to refrain from making further discounts or new loans, except upon paper to be discharged at short periods, upon which punctual payments will be expected and exacted.

All which is submitted,

THOMAS RUFFIN, Ch'mn.

On motion,

This Report was unanimously concurred with; and 200 copies thereof ordered to be printed.

WILLIAM POLK,

Chairman of the General Meeting of Stockholders.

J. GALE, Secretary.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Under this head, the Lynchburg Virginian of Monday last, gives us the subjoined information:

"We have had a cold and late Spring, yet few seasons have presented more flattering prospects to agriculturalists than the present. The wheat, rye and oat crops look, generally, very well. Great preparations are making for a large crop of tobacco, and we understand that plants, though small, are very abundant."

The Richmond Compiler of Wednesday, furnishes the following:

"We understand, the wheat in the upper part of Virginia is generally very indifferent. In one large estate, in Frederick county, a respectable farmer says that he is willing to compound for his seed wheat and his own bread. On the rich grounds on the lowlands, the wheat is luxuriant and promising. It has recovered astonishingly from the long cold spell, which threatened at one time to blast all the hopes of the farmers. In the lowlands, the present crop will probably be above an average one.—In the upper country, it will be short of it.

"We understand, by gentlemen above and below, that the wheat crop on the river was very good—and a very good harvest is expected. Some of the early wheat above has got the blight, or the black head in it."

The father of Mr. Peel, of the British Cabinet, one of the richest men in England under the degree of a Peer, is, it is said, exceedingly displeased at his son's change of opinion on the Catholic question. He has hitherto been exceedingly proud of the political elevation of his son and of his political course, and had settled upon him ten thousand pounds a year. Now he talks of disinheriting him.—N. Y. Post.

THE ROANOKE TRADE.

There are now employed, in transporting produce to Weldon from the upper country, twenty batteaux. These are found insufficient for the trade; and an additional number is constructing at various points on the river. It is believed that from fifty to one hundred will find active employment during the next winter and spring; and that for several subsequent years, as the trade increases, the number will require to be increased.

It is already known that a company has been formed at Norfolk, for the purpose of transporting produce to that place and with commendable zeal have purchased a steam boat and built eight schooners, which are now constantly engaged in the business. The experience already afforded on this subject, however, shews very clearly, that the steam boat draws too much water to be well adapted to the trade of the Roanoke river; and that in consequence thereof she has not been able to reach the falls of the river or the neighborhood since the first trip. It would seem, therefore, to be the interest of all concerned, that another boat, better suited to the trade, should be substituted; and we venture to make the suggestion, that the proper consideration may be given to the subject, by the company at Norfolk.

It is supposed that there are at Milton, (Caswell county,) ready for transportation, from 600 to 1000 hogheads of tobacco; and perhaps, as much more at Danville.—In addition, large quantities are daily arriving from Mecklenburg, Va. and other counties.

We may further suggest, as an incentive to renewed exertions on the part of the company, that the great quantity of Cotton which under a season ordinarily favorable, will be raised at Halifax, Warren, Franklin, Nash Northampton and Granville, and a large part of the fertile country which borders on the Yadkin river, will, doubtless, seek a market at Norfolk.

Taking the whole matter into review, and assuming the fair proposition that capital will seek its legitimate employment at that point which the trade tends, we see no reason why Norfolk, with her fair harbor and contiguity to the ocean, should not become the depot, and afford an outlet, for as rich a tract of country, saving perhaps the Mississippi with its tributary streams, as can be found in our whole country.—We cannot but believe that the Virginia and North Carolina Transportation Company will effect, by due energy and enterprise what, will so materially enhance the interests of the parties respectively concerned.

Since the foregoing was in type, we have much pleasure in stating, that the Steam Boat, Petersburg, Capt. McRae, has arrived. She reached here on Tuesday evening last. In the manner of her previous despatch, after an hours rest, she proceeded to Weldon, and returned here yesterday morning.

We have much gratification in saying, and that from unquestionable authority, that it is intended to construct a Steam Boat which shall have a draught of water not exceeding two foot and a half. But we would respectfully suggest, and in accordance with the opinions of judicious and interested friends lately consulted, that the Petersburg would be peculiarly suited, at all times, to ply between Elizabeth City and Plymouth; and that, especially during two or three summer months, the boat proposed to be constructed, on the plan above alluded to, would be well adapted to our river.

In the meantime we may give assurances to our friends in the upper country, that the same facilities which now exist will still be afforded the transportation of their produce. Our limits constrain us to defer further remarks.—Halifax Minerva.

At a numerous and respectable assemblage of the Citizens of Beaufort County, convened at the Court House in Washington, (agreeably to public notice,) on Tuesday evening, 19th May, 1839, for the purpose of deliberating on the demoralizing effects of treating at public elections, and with a view to suggest a remedy of preventive for the same, John Gray Blount, Esq. was called to the chair and W. R. Swift, Esq. appointed Secretary.

The objects of the meeting were explained by a very eloquent and impressive address from John Singeltary, Esq.—at the conclusion of which, on motion of Mr. Singeltary, a Committee of three was appointed for the purpose of drafting and submitting to the meeting resolutions for their consideration.—The Committee consisted of Gen. William A. Blount, Rev. James Weatherby, and John Singeltary, Esquire, who after retiring a few minutes, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the practice of treating at elections, to influence the suffrages of voters, is contrary to the spirit of our institutions, and derogatory to the respectability and standing of the people and dangerous to their liberties; and whereas, such practices have the effect to corrupt the morals and degrade the people in their own estimation as well as the estimation of others, and have likewise the effect of keeping from the polls many worthy and exemplary citizens—and whereas such practices have the further injury and lamentable effect of keeping from before the people some of our best and most useful citizens—

Resolved, That we hereby agree that we will not vote for any man or any office, within the gift of the people, who shall either directly or indirectly resort to such means to loist himself into power.

Resolved, That some three individuals in each Captain's district, be requested to cooperate with us in carrying the object of these resolutions into effect.

Resolved, That a Committee of twelve be appointed for selecting said individuals; which Committee consist of Messrs. James Daniels, Jesse Robason, Humphrey Woods, Thomas Vines, Samuel Clark, Thomas J. Latham, Henry Barron, James B. Marsh, Thos. Latham Richard Grist, George Boyd, and William Smaw.

General Blount then addressed the meeting in a manner calculated to forcibly impress on the minds of the assembly, the really pernicious effects resulting from this destructive distribution of spirituous liquors at public elections;—acknowledging he had on former occasions, when a candidate for public honors, indulged in the practice himself, which has been the subject of subsequent and painful regret, and that he had retired from public life principally from the considered necessity of persevering in a practice so at variance with that moral department which every good citizen should countenance and encourage—and a practice so repugnant to his mind and feelings.—He concluded by suggesting that every person present furnish an evidence of the sincerity of their motives by recording their names in a pledge to support upon all occasions where necessary, the expressions of disapprobation at elections as here furnished and their determination of opposing and withholding their votes from all or any candidates who shall resort to the measures here proscribed for securing their elections.

This last suggestion of Gen. Blount was seconded by Mr. Weatherby, and upwards of one hundred names were subscribed to a resolution to that effect.

On motion of Dr. Freeman, Resolved, that the proceedings of this evening be published in the Freeman's Echo—and on further motion of Dr. Freeman, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to the chairman and secretary for their services rendered on this occasion, which it was hoped would result in the most beneficial effects to the community.

The meeting then adjourned.

W. R. SWIFT, Secretary.

J. G. BLOUNT, Chairman.

New-England Character.—A writer in the New-York Morning Herald, in giving sketches of the character of the people of New-England produces the following conversation as a genuine representation:

"But, neighbour Bond," said Jones, "it makes me mad to see thee ruffled-shirt, gentry there in Boston, with their white wristbands over their hands, walking by the market, so stately-like, as if they were afraid my breath would spoil their new broadcloth—Don't it raise your old Adam, neighbour Bond?"—"Not a bit man—not a bit. I listen look over my shoulder at them and laugh, as I say to myself: 'When a man has nothing to do, it must be a great comfort to him to think he is of much consequence.' 'Well, neighbour Bond, you are a happy man. For my part, I don't like to be lorded over.—Lorded over! Heaven help thee, man! We lord it over them! I should like to know what means they can carry, if the honest yeomanry of the country have a mind to vote against them! The non-sturdy working men, who take a new paper home and read it with candid minds in the bosom of industrious families—these are the men to save the nation, when the nation is in danger."

I am proud of my station, sir; and I'll try to use my power well. There are good folks among the rich as well as the poor. It makes me neither better nor worse to be a gentleman, provided he has a title for it. If the gentry, as you call 'em, vote for what is fair, I'll vote with them; and if they want to vote for anything that will oppress the people, I guess they will find they are of as much consequence as the think they are. Let the upstarts among 'em enjoy their fine clothes, the little Sammy does his rattle; and if they have a mind to take the trouble, let them tell forty lies a week to hide that their grand father made leather breeches for a living. What do I care? Can't I know that I am the happiest of the two? An't I as free? And hav't I as much weight in the Government as they have? You talk like a book. Bond, but after all, I don't like to see their carriages and footmen riding by my old hay cart."

* The question submitted to this meeting by the meeting of Stockholders in December last, was, "Whether the Board shall proceed to wind up its Affairs as expeditiously as a due regard to its own interest and the situation of its debtors will permit." The Report of the Committee made at the opening of the present meeting, is in the hands of the Stockholders who were present, and for general information, it will appear in the Raleigh Register.