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L 1.—*Statement exhibiting the condition of the banks in Virginia, January 1, 1851.*

| Name. | Place. | Capital. | Loans and discounts. | Stocks. | Real estate. | Other investments. | Due by other banks. | Notes of other banks. | Specie funds. | Specie. | Circulation. | Deposits. | Due to other banks. | Other liabilities. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bank of Virginia* | *Richmond* | $2,651,250 | $4,560,379 | $260,368 | $171,006 | ..... | $415,494 | $194,239 | ..... | $523,895 | $1,312,418 | $1,666,350 | $164,480 | $7,180 |
| Farmers' Bank | do | 3,150,900 | 6,021,151 | 42,163 | 187,475 | $18,168 | 430,387 | 498,354 | ..... | 482,073 | 1,543,098 | 2,241,894 | 237,522 | ..... |
| Bank of the Valley | Winchester | 1,215,000 | 2,312,372 | 47,500 | 74,003 | 30,412 | 428,473 | 166,799 | ..... | 390,662 | 1,628,574 | 330,057 | 57,035 | 17,941 |
| Exchange Bank | Norfolk | 3,046,000 | 5,119,915 | ..... | 137,305 | 310,350 | 209,015 | 498,060 | ..... | 455,556 | 1,589,954 | 1,547,427 | 215,608 | ..... |
| Merchants & Mechanics' | Wheeling | 707,300 | 1,358,825 | 130,434 | 175,138 | ..... | 257,808 | 62,925 | ..... | 215,224 | 1,129,255 | 247,558 | 47,483 | 1,120 |
| Northwestern | do | 840,800 | 1,449,049 | 56,966 | 114,156 | ..... | 91,328 | 89,556 | ..... | 136,236 | 671,092 | 277,583 | 44,393 | ..... |
| Manufacturers & Farmers' | do | 174,200 | 69,156 | 37,861 | 6,451 | ..... | 43,107 | 31,195 | ..... | 9,152 | 16,560 | 4,938 | 1,090 | ..... |
| *Merchants'* | *Lynchburg* | 509,000 | 425,430 | 487,556 | 5,381 | ..... | 11,838 | 12,032 | ..... | 61,774 | 389,573 | 117,520 | 29,412 | 2,583 |
| Bank of Commerce | Fredericksburg | 213,900 | 142,021 | 160,950 | 2,000 | 1,185 | 2,890 | 8,757 | ..... | 22,039 | 108,870 | 8,047 | 1,207 | ..... |
| Bank of Scottsville | Scottsville | 77,000 | 59,817 | 101,216 | ..... | 1,823 | 2,012 | 3,589 | $4,056 | 16,219 | 94,505 | 6,991 | 1,125 | ..... |
| Fairmont Bank | Fairmont | 57,950 | 33,776 | 60,000 | 2,948 | ..... | 2,137 | 3,745 | ..... | 7,208 | 36,175 | 9,125 | 4,499 | ..... |
| Bank of Howardsville | Howardsville | 186,500 | 174,235 | 205,995 | ..... | ..... | 9,966 | 10,385 | ..... | 37,203 | 180,630 | 36,653 | 13,140 | ..... |
| Bank of Berkeley | Martinsburg | 100,000 | 64,457 | 105,000 | ..... | 257 | 10,594 | 1,283 | ..... | 23,331 | 56,215 | 32,592 | 5,006 | ..... |
| Bank of Rockingham | Harrisonburg | 211,000 | 138,296 | 293,062 | 3,266 | ..... | 29,954 | 11,560 | ..... | 37,782 | 220,530 | 27,151 | 1,219 | 30,000 |
| *Bank of Monticello* | *Charlottesville* | 344,400 | 275,133 | 304,416 | 8,265 | 9,509 | 73,578 | 2,723 | ..... | 58,372 | 283,135 | 44,690 | 17,639 | 21,964 |
| Central Bank | Staunton | 237,900 | 164,308 | 286,607 | 11,499 | 3,603 | 6,657 | 25,072 | ..... | 45,934 | 247,670 | 30,305 | 4,777 | 1,400 |
| Bank of Winchester | Winchester | 113,000 | 128,931 | 132,900 | ..... | ..... | 12,008 | 5,540 | ..... | 19,384 | 91,520 | 66,837 | 11,200 | ..... |
| Bank of the Old Dominion | Alexandria | 405,000 | 466,779 | 437,870 | 11,501 | ..... | 9,474 | 22,093 | ..... | 83,342 | 407,220 | 172,448 | 29,149 | ..... |
| Southwestern Bank | Wytheville | 105,200 | 78,084 | 105,200 | ..... | 3,971 | ..... | 4,717 | ..... | 21,093 | 52,290 | 46,703 | 8,335 | 4,531 |
| Farmers' Bank | Fincastle | 145,000 | 76,589 | 175,000 | ..... | 703 | 28,051 | 4,005 | ..... | 25,852 | 133,935 | 13,899 | ..... | ..... |
| Bank of Rockbridge | Lexington | 96,300 | 95,143 | 100,000 | ..... | 2,102 | 9,505 | 632 | ..... | 23,622 | 86,710 | 31,921 | 4,029 | ..... |
| Bank of Philippi | Philippi | 73,700 | 64,565 | 71,100 | ..... | 1,914 | 1,148 | 7,422 | 2,231 | 12,824 | 67,945 | 10,636 | 1,448 | 491 |
| Total of 22 banks and 40 | branches | 14,651,600 | 23,338,411 | 3,591,564 | 910,394 | 381,987 | 2,085,424 | 1,674,733 | 6,287 | 2,710,777 | 10,347,874 | 6,971,325 | 899,796 | 87,210 |

The nominal capital of the Merchants and Mechanics' Bank (Wheeling) is $784,200, and of the Northwestern Bank (Wheeling) $955,800; but the first owns $76,900 of its own stock, and the last $115,000 of its own, which sums being deducted the net capital only of each is given in the table

The bank of Virginia has branches at *Norfolk, Portsmouth, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Buchanan, Danville, Charlestown, and Union*—9.

The *Farmers' Bank* has branches at Norfolk, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Winchester, Danville, Farmville, Charlottesville, Wytheville, Alexandria, Lewisburg, and Blacksburg—12.

The Exchange Bank has branches at Petersburg, Clarksville, Alexandria, Abingdon, Salem, Weston, and Lynchburg—7.

*The Bank of the Valley has branches at Romney, Charlestown, Leesburg, Staunton, Christianburg,* and Moorfield—6.

The Northwestern Bank has branches at Wellsburg, Parkersburg, and Jeffersonville—3.

The Merchants and Mechanics' Bank at Wheeling has offices at Morgantown and Point Pleasant—2.

*The Bank of the Old Dominion has a branch at Pearisburg*—1.



L 2.

*Extract from Governor Wise's message to the legislature of the State of Virginia, December 7, 1857.*

If the question was an original one, whether Virginia should have banks of circulation, so long as she has no centre of trade, it might well be argued that her people could not bear the tax of an issue of bank notes at all. That an issue of bank notes is a heavy burden to a State without a centre of trade is demonstrated. A State so situated is obliged to keep out a circulation equal nearly the amount of her banking capital. An active commerce alone can have a "clearing house." New York, with 96 millions of capital, has but 34 millions circulation, and requires but 12 millions of specie, whilst Virginia, with 13 millions capital, has nearly 12½ millions of circulation, and requires double the proportion of New York to her capital, or 3 millions of specie. The exchange is obliged to be in favor of the centre. Consequently, when our issues go to the centres to purchase supplies, they then pay a discount, and then are returned upon us to draw specie. This double operation of a tax goes on against us quarterly, upon a large per cent. of our circulation. And this tax is paid by our people chiefly for the accommodation of the traders of the large towns, and for the benefit of the dealers in exchange. This makes the issue of bank paper immensely costly to a purely agricultural people. If they issued no paper of their own, the circulation of the centres would supply the medium for sending our products to market. It would be at par at its locality of issue, and it would not return upon us for specie, but would rather draw specie for us. But this is not now a debatable question. It is a foregone conclusion that we are to have banks in some form. The business of banking is too profitable not to interest capitalists in its establishment, and the habits of our people are fixed to have banks. Unfortunately we have two varieties of them. They are competing with each other, and their collisions and jealousies are not the best influences to ease the difficulties of the times. Without drawing any invidious comparison between them, I urge merely the fact that the existence of the two is not more favorable to the harmony of our money system. Whichever be best or worst, either alone would work better, in my opinion, than the two with an antagonism between them. Antagonism exists and will exist. Each of the present systems has its advocates and its opposers, and neither recommends itself to me. Neither is founded on a sufficient basis of specie, and neither is properly restricted. Neither is safe as at present organized, and I would compound a better of the two. As the only solid foundation of banking, I would revert more closely than ever to the specie basis. The new banks may be and probably are as safe as the old, as they both now exist; but both are but extensions of a purely credit system to the utmost verge of safety in ordinary times of money calm; but neither can stand the storm and crash of a crisis. As the principle of the old banks has been longest established, and its operations are best known, I would prefer to adopt and continue it, but with much stronger limitations than have ever heretofore been imposed. The new system undoubtedly requires more capital for the same amount of accommo-