

previously John Seaman, grocer, had conducted business. Robert Swartwout, a younger brother of John, became in 1801 a member of the firm, the name of which was then changed to Swartwout, Dumont, & Company. From 1802 to 1809, the firm's store was designated as 62 Water Street. At the end of that time, it seems the copartnership was dissolved. In 1811, John and Robert Swartwout, merchants, No. 66 Water Street, engaged in business as copartners and remained a firm until the year 1818.

The famous political organization, known as the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order, was formed in the city of New York, on May 12, 1789, by a prosperous upholsterer, William Mooney. The title Tammany, or Saint Tammany, was derived from the name Tammenund, designating an Indian chief of the Delaware nation, with whom originated the motto: "Unite in peace for happiness, and in war for defence." On the first anniversary of the organization, May 12, 1790, the New York Daily Gazette contained the following paragraph:

"The society of Saint Tammany, being a national society, consists of born Americans who fill all offices, and adopted Americans, who are eligible to the honorary posts of warrior and hunter. It is founded on the true principles of patriotism, and has for its motives charity and brotherly love. Its officers consist of one grand sachem, twelve sachems, one treasurer, one secretary, one doorkeeper; it is divided into thirteen tribes, which severally represent a state; each tribe is governed by a sachem, the honorary posts in which are one warrior and one hunter."

"It was probably," as observed by a political historian, "originally instituted with a view of organizing an association antagonistic to the Cincinnati Society. That society was said to be monarchical or rather aristocratical in its tendency, and when first formed, and before its constitution was amended, on the suggestion of General Washington and other original members, it certainly did tend to the establishment of an hereditary order, something like an order of nobility. The Tammany Society originally seems to have had in view the preservation of our democratic institutions, as far as possible, from contamination by the adoption of any of the aristocratic principles which were connected with the governments of the old world."<sup>1</sup>

John Swartwout evidently became a member of the organization shortly after its institution and soon became prominently identified with its interests. "On the evening of the last Monday in April, 1791, at the annual election of officers of the Tammany Society, held at their great wigwam, in Broad Street, the following brothers were duly elected, viz. : sachems—John Pintard, Cortland van Buren, John Campbell, Gabriel Furman, Thomas Greenleaf, Josiah Ogden

<sup>1</sup> The history of political parties of the state of New York. By Jabez D. Hammond. 1842, vol. i., p. 340.