

he tells different stories to different persons, enjoining confidence from all, but committing himself in nothing to any one. I have suspected for some time, however, he really does dream of appearing in London with something, according to his ideas, in the nature of a *suite*.

"Some weeks ago he consulted De Pestre, to learn from him how much money would be wanted to enable him to go and return. He said he supposed that ten thousand dollars might answer. De Pestre told him that would depend on the nature of his business, and the time it would require to transact it.

"But he has more lately been engaged in endeavoring to attach to him some young men who may accompany him. I yet only know positively two. Sam Swartwout was enraptured with the prospect, and still may feast his imagination upon it; though I could not resist the propensity I felt to convey to *this fine young man*, without his suspecting from whence it came, a curb, which may restrain *his generous ardor and innocent credulity*. His relation, Major Smith, has endeavored to apply it. Bob Robinson was the other. \* \* \* \* But Burr is as careless of his facts as of his religion, where neither is exposed to scrutiny; and any liberty with them may advance his purpose for the moment. I had seasonably prepared this young man, who will to-morrow make his escape to Pittsburg, from the fascinations of this serpent."<sup>1</sup>

Samuel Swartwout was not as easily influenced to separate himself so abruptly from Colonel Burr. His sympathies were too deeply stirred to be restrained from affording the ruined man any kindly service. In his natural compassion for the unfortunate statesman, he accompanied him through Washington and Baltimore to Philadelphia, where Colonel Burr had occasion to sojourn. There he left him with many sincere wishes for the betterment of his health and the realization of his contemplated projects.

In February and March, 1808, Colonel Burr made a temporary residence in Baltimore. Thence he went to the city of New York, where he remained *incognito* a few days. Then he passed some time in New Jersey. In the latter part of May he returned to the city of New York, and enjoyed the hospitality of a friend. Having, it is said, obtained from another a sum of money sufficient to defray his passage to England, he, on the ninth of June, embarked on a British packet, sailing by the way of Halifax for that country, on which vessel he was registered and known as G. H. Edwards.

"He went to Europe with the design of laying before the cabinet of England, or the emperor of France his plans for the independence of Mexico, and of procuring, at least, the *authorization* of one of them for carrying out his schemes of personal aggrandizement and elevation in that country. But Joseph

<sup>1</sup> Blennerhassett papers. By William H. Safford, pp. 441-443.