

only to remove incumbents for delinquency or incapacity, but with the view of reforming the administration of the government and introducing officers of greater efficiency or sounder principles into its various departments."<sup>1</sup>

At the time General Jackson was inaugurated president, Jonathan Thompson was collector of customs at the port of New York, although his commission had expired on January 13, 1829. He had been appointed collector on December 13, 1820, by President Monroe. On April 25, 1829, President Jackson removed him and appointed Samuel Swartwout his successor. The new collector began discharging the duties of the office at the custom-house, on the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, on the first of May, that year.

On January 13, 1830, President Jackson sent to the senate the nomination of Samuel Swartwout to be collector of the customs for the port of New York in place of Jonathan Thompson, removed. No action on it was taken by that body until March 29, when it was confirmed by a vote of twenty-five yeas to twenty-one nays, by which he was re-appointed for four years. The vote of the senate was not, it is said, exclusively that of administration senators. The fact that the confirmation of the nomination was opposed by the Tammany Society because the nominee could not be made subservient to its demands, no doubt, enlarged the negative number of votes.

The bondsmen of the collector were Cadwallader D. Colden, Henry Eckford, Silas E. Burrows, Mangle M. Quackenbos, Benjamin Birdsall, and Charles L. Livingston.

Before the expiration of his term, Samuel Swartwout was again appointed by President Jackson for another term of four years, which ended on March 29, 1838.

Under this appointment his bondsmen were Charles L. Livingston, Mangle M. Quackenbos, and Benjamin Birdsall.

On taking charge of the custom-house, on May 1, 1829, he found on duty there Nathaniel Schultz, who, since 1799, had been serving as auditor of the accounts of the different collectors of customs of the port of New York. At that time also Joshua Phillips was employed there as a clerk, and had been for fourteen years. Both of these gentlemen were retained in service by the new collector, who advanced Joshua Phillips to the position of assistant cashier. At the beginning of his first term, Collector Swartwout appointed David S. Lyon his deputy, Henry Ogden cashier, and Melancthon Smith Swartwout (General John Swartwout's son) clerk.

It is related that "Isaac Sebring, a leading federalist of the old school," was in reduced circumstances at the time Samuel Swartwout became collector. George B. Rapelye, a well-known merchant of the city of New York, thinking

<sup>1</sup> The American annual register for the year 1829-30; second edition. Boston, 1832, pp. 16, 18, 19.