

cious wharves.¹ His notable efforts to secure the settlement of colonists on the land possessed by him and other investors in New York city and in other places in the United States, made his name and influence widely known for many years in Texas. Among the places in Texas possessing post-offices in 1840 was Swartwout, in Liberty County, on the east side of Trinity River, about one hundred miles north of Galveston.

Some months before the expiration of his second term of office, he became interested in the organization of a company of capitalists for mining coal and manufacturing iron in the western part of Maryland. Although the financial panic of 1837 still continued to keep the volume of current money small, and debarred the banks from resuming specie payments, he and his associates embarked in the enterprise with a strong confidence that the products of the projected mines would meet with a profitable sale as soon as they possessed the necessary facilities for putting them in the market. As a consequence the passage of an act by the legislature of Maryland was obtained, on March 12, 1838, "to incorporate the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company." As provided by it, "Louis Howell, Benjamin B. Howell, and Henry W. Howell, and all and every person," who should "be associated with them under the name of the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company," became an incorporated body for carrying on the manufacture of iron and of articles of which iron was a composite part, and for opening, working, transporting to market, and vending the produce of their lands, mines, and manufactories.

On March 29, 1838, Samuel Swartwout's second term of office as collector of customs expired. The return of moneys received and paid by him at the custom-house from the 26th to the 28th of March inclusive, contains a transfer of fifteen thousand dollars to Jesse Hoyt, who had been appointed his successor by President Martin Van Buren. It also presents a balance due the United States of two hundred and one thousand and ninety-six dollars and forty cents, concerning which, on sending the return to the secretary of the treasury, he wrote:

"Custom-house, New York, April 13, 1838.

"Sir:—Herewith you will receive the return of moneys received and paid at this office, for the last three days of my official term.

"By it you will observe there is a balance due the United States of \$201,-

¹The island became the site of the city of Galveston. In 1836, it is said, there was hardly one arrival in a month of shipping at its port. In 1837 there were only seven houses on the island. In May, 1839, there were thirty sail of vessels in the harbor at one time; three steamers plying regularly between it and New Orleans, and the same number between it and Houston. There were about three hundred houses on it and a population of more than two thousand souls. Two wharves were building, and the construction of a pier and mole had been begun. The public buildings, although diminutive, were a custom-house, court-house, gaol, commissariat, and naval store-house, a market, magazine, armory, arsenal and hospital, and two hotels. *Life: Texas, the rise, progress, and prospects of the republic of Texas.* By William Kennedy, London, 1841, vol. ii., p. 407.