

“The observations heretofore made on the sale of No. 876, apply equally to 877 and 878, and I consider their value of sufficient magnitude to demand my personal inspection of No. 876, and after doing so, to locate the others, and then bring the whole fairly and honorably into market.”¹

Few causes in this equity-renowned land of ours have ever been so remarkable in character as the case of Samuel Swartwout, in which the national government unjustly wronged an honorable man in rights of property and reputation. Probably no acts of wrong-doing on the part of the federal government have ever been specialized by so protracted a neglect and so unparalleled an indifference to earnest and repeated appeals as those made in his behalf to obtain from it a settlement of the claims which might be legally established against him, or his assigns, executors, administrators, and heirs, as those in this memorable case.

In what, it may be asked, has this cruel injustice of the national government manifested itself?

First. In accepting as true the contradictory and contradicted assertions of Henry Ogden and Joshua Phillips, who had evidently engaged in a conspiracy to conceal their own criminality in the matters under investigation.

Second. In taking possession of property of immense value for which it never rendered an account either to the public or to Samuel Swartwout, his assigns, executors, and heirs.

Third. In beguiling the man, whom it had so sorely impoverished by warrants of distress and so mentally harassed by fear of imprisonment, to make a deed of trust, whereby other property was similarly sacrificed by its illegal action, and of which no account was thereafter rendered to the confiding man, his assigns, executors, and heirs.

Fourth. In hastily branding the name of the highly-reputable, patriotic, and influential man with a defamatory stigma, which, until his death, he sought to remove by endeavoring to get the national government to heed the sworn testimony and the verifiable explanations, which, with the interpretations of eloquent representatives, he anxiously hoped would induce it to take compassion on him and be the means of exculpating him from the false charges, which, by its instrumentality, made his name ignominious.

Fifth. In entailing on his descendants and kindred the burdensome duty

¹ In concluding this noteworthy communication, the writer adds: “As a preliminary to this proceeding, I have profited by a visit of a friend to that section of Texas, who left here about two weeks since, and who has undertaken to acquire, and furnish me with all necessary information.

“If, in the foregoing, I have omitted anything necessary to a clear understanding of the whole case, be good enough to address me, at No. 11 Wall Street, and should you require my presence at Washington, I will promptly obey your summons.

“Believe me, dear sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,
“W. YOUNG, trustee.”