

Andrew Jackson to Samuel Swartwout, March 5, 1825, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SAMUEL SWARTWOUT.1

1 Copy.

Washington, March 5, 1825.

Dear Sir; Your favor of the 27th ult came to hand in due time, but for the want of opportunity it has not been in my power to thank you for it before this date.

Yesterday Mr Adams was inaugurated amidst a vast assemblage of citizens, Having been escorted to the Capitol with a pomp and ceremony of guns and drums not very consistent in my Humble opinion with the character of the occasion. Twenty four years ago when Mr Jefferson was inducted into office, no such machinery was called in to give solemnity to the scene. He rode his own horse, and hitched him himself to the inclosure.²

² The legendary story, taken from John Davis. *Travels* (London, 1803). Thornton, the British chargé, writing on Mar. 4, 1801, says, "He came from his own lodgings to the . . . Capitol on foot".

But it seems that times are changeing. I hope it is not so with the principles that are to characterise the administration of justice and constitutional law. These, in my fervent prayers for the prosperity and good of our country, will remain unaltered, based upon the sovereignty of the People, and adorned with no forms or ceremonies, save those which their happiness and freedom shall command.

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I have not yet received your New York paper, in which as I inferred from your letter, my remarks upon the term *military chieftain* are before this published. To this I have nothing to say. Mr Clay has used no delicacy toward me, and as I have never written any thing whether private or public which my heart and judgement did not sanction, I am not afraid of the publication of those remarks, or any other which I may have made.³

3 May 16, 1825, writing to Swartwout, Jackson commented on Clay's address to his constituents, and said that it was with difficulty that he could restrain himself from giving Clay a "good scourging". Clay, he added, had "fallen below anything but contempt" (*Proceedings of the Am. Antiq. Soc.*, 1921, p. 87).

Jackson's correspondence with Swartwout was full at this time. Some of his letters got into the newspapers of the day. A few are preserved in the Jackson Correspondence. Those that seem important in this collection have been given in these volumes. A larger number, very interesting in content, edited by Mr. Henry De Puy, of Easton, Md., are published in the *Proceedings of the Am. Antiq. Soc.* for 1921.

Mrs Jackson still continues unwell, but I hope her health will allow us to take up our march to the Hermitage Tuesday or Wednesday next. We shall go by Baltimore in order to avoid the bad road between this and Frederic.

We both join in kindest wishes to yourself and Lady Yrs.

Respectfully