

under the rank of colonel, who had been a member of the National Guard for ten years, and had served seven as a commanding officer, appointed and constituted, on July 10, 1877, Captain Swartwout a major by brevet, in the National Guard of the state of New York.

In the spring of 1894, when the removal of the remains of the dead veterans of the Civil War, buried in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Plat, in Oakwood Cemetery, to a more eligible location on the western heights of the extensive necropolis was contemplated, Major Swartwout, desiring to render the site of the graves of the deceased patriots more prominent by erecting there a lofty flag-staff from which the national colors should daily wave over them, took the preliminary steps to accomplish his commendable intention. In furtherance of it, he addressed the following communication to the chairman of the Joint Memorial Committee of the Troy posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, about to celebrate Decoration Day, with memorial services, at Oakwood Cemetery :

" Troy, N. Y., May 16, 1894.

" Comrade ALBERT TOMPKINS,

" Chairman of the Joint Memorial Committee :

" I saw an announcement that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Plat in Oakwood Cemetery would be changed and a new one dedicated, and conceiving that it would be opportune for me to tender a befitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veterans reposing there after faithfully serving their country in a trying time of need, I interviewed Mr. Adam R. Smith, president of the Oakwood Cemetery Association, who approved my intention, and cheerfully granted his consent to the erection of a flag-staff upon the new burial site. I also informed several of the members of the Joint Memorial Committee, and they were highly pleased to learn that I contemplated the bestowal of so suitable a token. I deem it essential that the flag which we so proudly cherish should be displayed there throughout the entire year, and ensuing years; a pleasant-weather flag during the summer and a storm-flag in winter. I judge that the daily view of the national emblem waving over the graves of the deceased veterans, who have ceased to answer post roll-calls, will serve to keep alive recollections of their courage while battling for the just cause of the greatest nation of the world, and preserve unforbidden the patriotism of our dead comrades reposing in Oakwood Cemetery.

" Yours very respectfully,

" WILLIAM M. SWARTWOUT."

As proposed by him, he caused to be planted on the eastern border of the wide plat a lofty symmetrical staff, seventy-five feet in height, surmounted with a gilded metallic eagle. The formal presentation of it, together with a large flag of standard bunting, formed a part of the memorial exercises of the four Grand