

(31)

of whom witnessed the struggle, and in the accomplishment of their prayers, saw their independence gloriously confirmed and re-established, and *hailed* us worthy the sacred heritage commemorated by this day."

*From his reply to the New York Delegation, January 8th.*—"That our government was constituted for the happiness of the people, and that its offices are the instruments of their will, and created for their welfare, are maxims which I learned from the fathers of our revolution. I am now too old to depart from them. They spring from the same source *with the great principle of rotation in office, a principle which cannot be too solemnly impressed upon the attention of the American people.* It is the channel of sovereignty, through which the renovating influence is conveyed to every department of government, and the weak points in the system detected and fortified, so as to contribute to the defence of liberty.

It was the saying of a celebrated author, that "The malignant air of calumny soonest attacks the sound and elevated in mind, as storms of wind the tallest and most fruitful trees; whilst the low and weak, for bowing and moving to and fro, are by their weakness secure from the danger and violence of the tempest;" and perhaps there are few public men now living who have been traduced and slandered in the same degree and to the same extent as General Jackson. We have often wondered how a man of his ardent temperament could endure, unruffled,