

President Andrew Jackson has never been considered an authority on religious subjects, whatever may be said of him on political issues. And yet there is a paragraph in a biographical sketch of "Old Hickory," prepared by Elizabeth Hooper "for publication in an Eastern magazine," which seems to indicate that the old man grasped intuitively, or by experience and observation, if not from the reading of the scriptures, the New Testament doctrine of individual activity and personal responsibility as against the popular ideas of institutional religion. The significant passage refers to the little brick church in which "General Jackson attended divine services" during the last years of his life in retirement at his Hermitage plantation, near Nashville, Tenn. It is in these words:

Committee after committee had been appointed to transact some business pertaining to the church, without results, when one day General Jackson rose from his seat in the little church and said: "I am seventy- seven years of age, and have lived long enough to know that the repairs on this church should not go any longer into the hands of a committee. I believe if the building of the ark had been intrusted to a committee it would never have been built."

Few men in the history of the whole world have thrown more individuality into everything they have undertaken than President Jackson. His success in life and his entire reputation as a man can easily be traced to his unconquerable self-reliance, indomitable energy, and individual activity. The foundation principle of the old man's politics was that the power which moves the world is in *men*, and not in *machinery*. On this basis he fought all tendencies toward centralization in political methods and stood for the liberty of the individual against the tyranny of the institution in every political contest of his life. Political questions are not in the **ADVOCATE'S** line, but in matters of religion "Old Hickory's" bold stand for individual consecration against institutional committees is "a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort."