

motive and object in preparing it, should be distinctly kept in view. He has not written for America, but for France. "It was not, then, merely to satisfy a legitimate curiosity, (he says,) that I have examined America: my wish has been to find instruction by which we might ourselves profit." "I sought the image of democracy itself with its inclinations, its character, its prejudices, and its passions, in order to learn what *we* have to hope or fear from its progress." He thinks that the principle of democracy has sprung into new life throughout Europe, and particularly in France, and that it is advancing with a firm and steady march to the control of all civilized governments. In his own country, he had seen a recent attempt to repress its energies within due bounds, and to prevent the consequences of its excesses. And it seems to be a main object with him, to ascertain whether these bounds can be relied upon, whether the dykes and embankments of human contrivance can keep within any appointed channel, this mighty and majestic stream. Giving the fullest confidence to his declaration, that his book "is written to favor no particular views, and with no design of serving or attacking any party," it is yet evident that his mind has been very open to receive impressions unfavorable to the admission into France of the unbounded and unlimited democracy which reigns in these United States. A knowledge of this inclination of his mind, will necessarily induce some caution in his readers while perusing those parts of the work which treat of the effects of our democracy upon the stability of our government and its administration. While the views of the author respecting the application of the democratic principle in the extent that it exerts with us, to the institutions of France, or to any of the European nations, are of the utmost importance to the people and statesmen of those countries, they are scarcely less entitled to the attention of Americans. He has exhibited, with admirable skill, the causes and circumstances which prepared our forefathers, gradually, for the enjoyment of free institutions, and which enabled them to sustain, without abusing, the utmost liberty that was ever enjoyed by any people. In tracing these causes, in examining how far they continue to influence our conduct, manners, and opinions, and in searching for the means of preventing their decay or destruction,

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