

internal government was in many respects republican. They had thus become habituated, and, as it were, trained to republicanism, whilst the mother-country protected them from its evils and excesses.

The absence of central administration—the necessity of employing the town and country magistrates to execute the supreme decisions of the majority—the townships, counties, and municipal bodies, which act as breakwaters against the tide of popular excitement—the influence of lawyers on American society,—all these causes are pointed out by De Tocqueville, as being antidotes to the evils that would otherwise result from the tyranny of the majority; but, if it were not for the absence of the central administration, “liberty,” he remarks, “would soon be banished from the new world.” “Si le pouvoir qui dirige les sociétés Américaines jôignait au droit de tout commander la faculté et l’habitude de tout exécuter par lui-même; si, après avoir établi les principes généraux du gouvernement, il pénétrait dans les détails de l’application, et qu’après avoir réglé les grands intérêts du