

him was well expressed by his opponent, a retired manufacturer, who cried out lastly, "Beware! He is going to bring back his aristocratic pigeons into their old dove-cot." Two years afterwards, when his temper and principles had come to be better understood in the neighborhood, he was elected by a triumphant majority to the Chamber, and he continued to represent his district throughout his parliamentary career.

That career lasted only twelve years, up to December, 1851, when Louis Napoleon's *coup d'état* destroyed the constitutional liberties of France, and De Tocqueville, unwilling to take an oath of fidelity to one whom he regarded as a usurper, retired altogether to private life. Up to February, 1848, he was a member of the opposition, and contended strongly, though without personal animosity, against Guizot's ministry; after the Revolution, he joined the party of the moderate republicans, who, with Cavaignac for a leader, strove gallantly, though with only faint hopes of success, against the mad schemes of the radicals on the one hand, and the intriguing ambition of the future Emperor on the other. But it must be owned that his mind was of too fine a texture, his principles too pure and unwavering, and his disposition for abstract thought and analytical investigation too strongly marked, to allow him to succeed in the strife of parties or the tournaments of parliamentary debate. He commanded the confidence of his friends and the respect of his opponents; but he was not put forward into the front rank in battle, nor elevated to the chief seat in council. The best portions of his parliamentary labors were his reports on the abolition of colonial slavery, on prison reform, and on the administration of Algeria, a country which he had twice visited, and whose affairs he thoroughly understood. When the new Republic was settling into a calm, he became a member of the Committee appointed to frame a new Constitution for France,