

to its author the Monthyon prize, which is given annually for the work of the highest moral utility that has been produced during the year ; and in this case, to mark a special distinction, the prize was increased from 6,000 francs, its usual amount, to 8,000. A year later, De Tocqueville was chosen a member of the Academy of the Moral and Political Sciences ; and in 1841, he became one of the forty members of the French Academy, the highest literary honor that a Frenchman can attain. This last distinction was well deserved, for considered only as a specimen of refined and idiomatic French prose, evincing a careful study of the inimitable style of Pascal, but betraying also an imitation of the curt and sententious manner of Montesquieu, the book is fairly entitled to take rank as a classic in the literature of France. In respect to doctrine, it was welcomed both by the friends and opponents of democracy ; by the former, because it points out so clearly the rapid development and future universal dominion of democratic principles ; by the latter, because it shows with equal clearness the dangers incident to this progress, and the ease with which such dominion degenerates into a tyranny even more hateful than the despotism of one man. Perhaps the greatest merit of the author consists in the resolute impartiality with which he looks at the subject on all its sides, and shows that the welfare of a nation under democratic rule can be maintained only on condition of such a union of general intelligence and religious faith with submissiveness to constitutional restraint, as is rarely exemplified in the history of mankind.

In the same year in which his book became so generally popular, he married Miss Mary Motley, an English lady without fortune, but who united those qualities of character and intellect which rendered her, during an unbroken union of twenty-five years, his best companion, counsellor, and friend. He often remarked that his marriage, though cen-