TOCQUEVILLE ON AMERICA AFTER 1840

Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* has been recognized as an indispensable starting point for understanding American politics. From the publication of the second volume in 1840 until his death in 1859, Tocqueville continued to monitor political developments in America and committed many of his thoughts to paper in letters to his friends in America. He also made frequent references to America in many articles and speeches. Did Tocqueville change his views on America outlined in the two volumes of *Democracy in America* published in 1835 and 1840? If so, which of his views changed and why? The texts translated in *Tocqueville on America after 1840: Letters and Other Writings* answer these questions and offer English-speaking readers the possibility of familiarizing themselves with this unduly neglected part of Tocqueville’s work. The book points out a clear shift in emphasis especially after 1852 and documents Tocqueville’s growing disenchantment with America, triggered by such issues as political corruption, slavery, expansionism, and the encroachment of the economic sphere upon the political.

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TOCQUEVILLE on AMERICA after 1840

Letters and Other Writings

Edited and translated, with an interpretative essay and notes, by

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Interpretative Essay: The Third Democracy: Tocqueville’s Views of America after 1840 ........................................ 1

PART I: LETTERS

Introduction ........................................ 41

A. Letters: 1840–1847 ................................. 52

1. Jared Sparks to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 5, 1840 52
2. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jared Sparks, October 13, 1840 53
3. John C. Spencer to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 21, 1840 53
4. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jared Sparks, December 16, 1840 54
5. S. C. Goodrich to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 16, 1841 55
6. A. W. Paull to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 30, 1841 55
7. Isaiah Townsend to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 2, 1841 57
8. Alexis de Tocqueville to John C. Spencer, November 10, 1841 58
9. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 30, 1842 60
10. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, August 14, 1842 61
11. Alexis de Tocqueville to Nathaniel Niles, June 15, 1843 62
12. Robert Walsh to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 9, 1843 63
13. Robert Walsh to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 13, 1843 64
14. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, April 22, 1844 65
15. Alexis de Tocqueville to Robert Walsh, July 27, 1844 65
16. Alexis de Tocqueville to H. Wheaton, 1844–1845 66
17. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, September 18, 1844 67
18. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 7, 1844 68
19. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, November 13, 1844 70
20. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 26, 1844 72
21. Alexis and Marie de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, December 2, 1844 75
Contents

22. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, December 14, 1844 77
23. Marie de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, January 8, 1845 78
24. Alexis and Marie de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, May 18, 1845 80
25. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, July 1, 1845 81
26. Robert Walsh to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 6, 1846 82
27. Alexis de Tocqueville to B. P. Poore, April 6, 1846 82
28. Isaiah Townsend to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 13, 1846 83
29. Alexis and Marie de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, July 22, 1846 84
30. Alexis de Tocqueville to Robert Walsh, August 20, 1846 86
31. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 25, 1846 87
32. Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Sumner, August 6, 1847 90
33. Charles Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 15, 1847 91

B. Letters: 1848–1852 ........................................... 93
34. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 27, 1848 93
35. John C. Spencer to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 10, 1848 95
36. W. A. Duer to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 1, 1848 96
37. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Sumner, October 14, 1848 98
38. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Sumner, January 16, 1849 98
39. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, March 6, 1849 99
40. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, March 7, 1849 99
41. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Sumner, March 9, 1849 100
42. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Sumner, March 12, 1849 100
43. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 12, 1849 100
44. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 7, 1849 105
45. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Bancroft, June 15, 1849 103
46. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, June 27, 1849 104
47. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 8, 1849 104
48. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 31, 1849 105
49. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, August 4, 1849 105
50. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, (August) 1849 106
51. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, August 8, 1849 106
52. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, Monday morning (August), 1849 107
53. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 10, 1849 107
54. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 14, 1849 108
55. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, October 3, 1849 108
56. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, October 5, 1849 109
57. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville, October 6, 1849 109
58. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, October 10, 1849 110
59. W. W. Mann to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 23, 1849 (followed by a note of Mann to A. de Tocqueville, November 27, 1849) 111
60. George Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, Sunday, 4 (December 1849) 112
61. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, December 12, 1849 112
62. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Bancroft, December 12, 1849 115
63. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, January 8, 1850 113
Contents

64. Alexis de Tocqueville to George Bancroft, February 15, 1850 114
65. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, February 15, 1850 115
66. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 29, 1850 116
67. John C. Spencer to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 3, 1850 118
68. George Bancroft to Alexis de Tocqueville, October 14, 1850 118
69. George Bancroft to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 13, 1851 119
70. W. W. Mann to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 28, 1851 119
71. Alexis de Tocqueville to W. W. Mann, July 2, 1851 120
72. W. W. Mann to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 12, 1851 120
73. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, August 5, 1851 121
74. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush, August 6, 1851 122
75. Maurice Wakeman to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 29, 1851 123
76. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 15, 1852 125
77. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, April 16, 1852 127
78. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 11, 1852 129
79. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 20, 1852 130
80. Edward Vernon Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 9, 1852 151
81. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, August 4, 1852 132
82. George Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, August 10, 1852 134
83. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, December 4, 1852 156
84. George Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 8, 1852 137
85. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jared Sparks, December 11, 1852 139
86. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jared Sparks, December 11, 1852 140

C. Letters: 1853–1856 .............................................................. 142
87. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, January 31, 1853 142
88. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, [May 2?], 1853 143
89. Jared Sparks to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 13, 1853 144
90. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 29, 1853 145
91. Francis Kidder to Alexis de Tocqueville, October, 1853 146
92. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, November 7, 1853 147
93. Alex Vance to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 10, 1853 148
94. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 1, 1853 149
95. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, January 4, 1854 152
96. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, January 15, 1854 153
97. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 12, 1854 154
98. Henry D. Gilpin to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 30, 1854 157
99. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, July 17, 1854 157
100. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 20, 1854 159
101. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, August 14, 1854 160
102. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 4, 1854 161
103. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, September 4, 1855 162
104. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, September 11, 1855 163
105. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, September 19, 1855 164
106. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 15, 1856 166
107. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 5, 1856 167
Contents

108. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 23, 1856 168
109. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 29, 1856 168
110. Alexis de Tocqueville to The Liberty Bell, April 1856 169
111. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, May 18, 1856 169
112. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 21, 1856 171
113. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, May 23, 1856 172
114. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 28, 1856 172
115. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, June 6, 1856 173
116. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, June 16, 1856 174
117. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, (end of) June 1856 176
118. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, (end of) June 1856 176
119. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, July 1856 177
120. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, July 17, 1856 179
121. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 29, 1856 180
122. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, August 29, 1856 181
123. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, September 1, 1856 183
124. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 19, 1856 185
125. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, September 24, 1856 186
126. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, October 14, 1856 187
127. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, December 12, 1856 189

D. Letters: 1857–1859 ............................................. 192
128. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, January 4, 1857 192
129. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, January 10, 1857 195
130. Edward Vernon Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, January 13, 1857 196
131. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 5, 1857 199
132. N. W. Beckwith to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 20, 1857 201
133. Edward Vernon Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 22, 1857 214
134. George Summer to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 4, 1857 219
135. Edward Lee Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 27, 1857 219
136. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, April 2, 1857 222
137. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, April 13, 1857 225
138. Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Sumner, May 1, 1857 228
139. Edward Vernon Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 2, 1857 228
140. Francis Lieber to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 30, 1857 231
141. Alexis de Tocqueville to William H. Prescott, June 6, 1857 233
142. George Ticknor to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 10, 1857 233
143. Alexis de Tocqueville to Massachusetts Historical Society, [June] 1857 234
144. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, June 13, 1857 254
145. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Everett, June 17, 1857 256
146. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, July 7, 1857 257
147. Susan Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 11, 1857 259
148. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jared Sparks, July 15, 1857 240
149. Edward Vernon Childe to Alexis de Tocqueville, July 16, 1857 241
150. Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Sumner, July 1857 245
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>151. Charles Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, August 4, 1857</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152. Maria Weston Chapman to Alexis de Tocqueville, August 7, 1857</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, September 2, 1857</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, September 12, 1857</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155. N. W. Beckwith to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 20, 1857</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156. Charles J. Ingersoll to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 22, 1857</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157. William H. Prescott to Alexis de Tocqueville, September 29, 1857</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, October 8, 1857</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159. Alexis de Tocqueville to Francis Lieber, October 9, 1857</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, October 13, 1857</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161. Alexis de Tocqueville to Susan Sedgwick, October 30, 1857</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162. Charles Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 3, 1857</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163. Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Sumner, November 14, 1857</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164. Henry P. Tappan to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 14, 1857</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 6, 1857</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166. Edward Everett to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 8, 1857</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167. N. W. Beckwith to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 18, [1857?]</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, December 24, 1857</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, January 23, 1858</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170. Alexis de Tocqueville to N. W. Beckwith, February 6, 1858</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171. Theodore Sedgwick to Alexis de Tocqueville, February 15, 1858</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172. Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Sumner, March 28, 1858</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, April 10, 1858</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, April 30, 1858</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175. Charles Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, May 7, 1858</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176. Alexis de Tocqueville to Theodore Sedgwick, May 28, 1858</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, July 6, 1858</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, July 19, 1858</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179. Alexis de Tocqueville to N. W. Beckwith, September 7, 1858</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180. Alexis de Tocqueville to John Young Mason, September 21, 1858</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, October 11, 1858</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, October 15, 1858</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, October 19, 1858</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>184. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, December 4, 1858</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, December 11, 1858</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, December 22, 1858</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, December 26, 1858</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188. Jared Sparks to Alexis de Tocqueville, December 28, 1858</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>189. Richard Walsh to Alexis de Tocqueville, January 11, 1859</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, February 4, 1859</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Lee Childe, February 8, 1859</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192. Alexis de Tocqueville to Edward Vernon Childe, February 19, 1859</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Undated and Partially Dated Letters** ........................................... 308

| 193. George Sumner to Alexis de Tocqueville, Friday, June 20 [1849?] | 308|
| 194. N. W. Beckwith to Alexis de Tocqueville, undated [1857?]       | 309 |
E. Letters between Tocqueville and His French and Other Correspondents ........................................... 318

Introduction 318

195. Alexis de Tocqueville to Louis de Kergorlay, October 18, 1847 321

196. Alexis de Tocqueville to Jean-Jacques Ampère, October 6, 1851 324

197. Jean-Jacques Ampère to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 7, 1851 324

198. Jean-Jacques Ampère to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 12, 1851 325

199. Jean-Jacques Ampère to Alexis de Tocqueville, January 23, 1852 326

200. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, August 25, 1853 327

201. Alexis de Tocqueville to Gustave de Beaumont, November 3, 1853 328

202. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 9, 1853 329

203. Alexis de Tocqueville to Madame de Circourt, November 26, 1853 330

204. Alexis de Tocqueville to Gustave de Beaumont, August 6, 1854 330

205. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 26, 1854 332

206. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 1, 1855 332

207. Arthur de Gobineau to Alexis de Tocqueville, March 20, 1856 333

208. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 7, 1856 334

209. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, June 15, 1856 334

210. Alexis de Tocqueville to Madame de Circourt, July 5, 1856 335

211. Alexis de Tocqueville to Arthur de Gobineau, July 30, 1856 335

212. Alexis de Tocqueville to Nassau Senior, September 4, 1856 336

213. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, November 4, 1856 336

214. Alexis de Tocqueville to Arthur de Gobineau, January 24, 1857 337

215. Adolphe de Circourt to Alexis de Tocqueville, October 14, 1857 337

216. Alexis de Tocqueville to Gustave de Beaumont, November 16, 1857 338

217. Alexis de Tocqueville to Gustave de Beaumont, December 6, 1857 339

PART II: SPEECHES, ARTICLES, AND DIPLOMATIC PAPERS

A. America in the 1840s ........................................... 343

General Introduction 343

Outline of a speech on the Oregon Affair (1846) 350

“Report on Democracy in Switzerland” (1848) 354

B. America and the Revolution of 1848 ........................... 370

Introduction 370

Speech at the popular banquet of Cherbourg (March 1848) 372

Preface to the twelfth edition of Democracy in America (1848) 374

C. Tocqueville’s Contributions to the Debates on the Constitution of the Second Republic ............................ 377

Introduction 377

Drafting of the new Constitution (sessions of May 25 and May 27, 1848) 381
Speech made before the Constituent Assembly during the discussion of the new Constitution on the right to work (September 12, 1848) 394
Extracts from a speech on the election of the President (October 5, 1848) 404
Report presented by M. de Tocqueville in the name of the Commission charged with examining the proposals for the revision of the constitution (session of July 8, 1851) 406

D. The Poussin Affair ........................................ 409
Introduction 409
I. Richard Rush to Alexis de Tocqueville (July 7, 1849) 412
II. Richard Rush to John M. Clayton (July 11, 1849) 417
III. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (July 16, 1849) 418
IV. Alexis de Tocqueville to Richard Rush (August 9, 1849) 419
V. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (August 16, 1849) 420
VI. John M. Clayton to Alexis de Tocqueville (September 8, 1849) 422
VII. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (September 22, 1849) 424
VIII. Extracts from two letters written by Alexis de Tocqueville to Gustave de Beaumont (October 5 and 12, 1849) 428
IX. John M. Clayton to Alexis de Tocqueville (November 10, 1849) 429
X. John M. Clayton to William C. Rives (September 14, 1849) 451
XI. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (October 9, 1849) 442
XII. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (October 17, 1849) 444
XIII. Guillaume-Tell Poussin to Alexis de Tocqueville (October 23, 1849) 446
XIV. Charles de Montholon to Alexis de Tocqueville (November 4, 1849) 447
XV. Charles de Montholon to Alexis de Tocqueville (November 11, 1849) 451

E. Final Thoughts on the American Constitution ............. 455
Introduction 456
Report on a work by Mr. Th. Sedgwick entitled A Treatise on the Rules which Govern the Interpretation and the Application of Statutory and Constitutional Law (1858) 456

Appendix 1: Tocqueville’s American Correspondents .......... 461
Appendix 2: Chronology ........................................ 469
Appendix 3: Sources for the Texts and Selected Bibliography . . . . . . 476
Notes 489
Index 553
Editors’ Note and Acknowledgments

This book has been a long time in the making. While working on it, most often on two continents, we have had the good fortune to accumulate many debts to a great number of persons and institutions, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge them here.

The inspiration for this project came from two essays by Françoise Mélonio and Hugh Brogan, who convinced us of the importance of studying the evolution of Tocqueville’s views on America after 1840. We initially set out to write a paper on this topic which we presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, August 31–September 3, 2003. A substantially revised version of our essay was published as “The Third Democracy: Tocqueville’s View of America after 1840” in American Political Science Review, 98: 3 (2004): 391–404. Subsequently, Ed Parsons of Cambridge University Press encouraged us to develop our article into a larger project and patiently worked with us over the past years to improve the contents of this volume.

The book project that evolved out of our original article underwent significant transformations over time and greatly benefited from the advice we received from many distinguished Tocqueville scholars in the United States and Europe. We began working on our project with the idea of including only translations of Tocqueville’s letters to his American correspondents after 1840 (originally published in OC, VII) along with translations of other documents written after 1840 in which he made substantial references to America. Since the texts included in OC, VII represent only half of the story, we attempted to retrieve the letters that Tocqueville received from his American friends after 1840. This evolved into a full-fledged subsection of our volume whose completion required substantial archival research in various libraries.
Editors’ Note and Acknowledgments

in the United States and Europe. Some of these letters are available only as copies, the originals having been lost. Matthew Holbreich and David Belanich played an important role in transcribing most of the Bonnel copies from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University and we would like to thank them again for their research assistance.

The editing of the letters received by Tocqueville from America posed significant challenges. Apart from minor exceptions, we decided to leave intact the grammar, punctuation, and the spelling of the original letters (written in English). Where appropriate, for the sake of clarity, we silently corrected a few obvious errors and standardized the use of quotations. Occasionally, we added square brackets indicating the editors’ best guess for the missing words or illegible passages in the original texts.

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Editors’ Note and Acknowledgments

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A.C. & J. J.