

**Tocqueville to Corcelle, 17 September 1853**

**OC, XV, 2, p. 81**

"Political societies are not made by their laws, but are prepared in advance by the sentiments, beliefs, ideas, the habits of the hearts and minds of the men who are part of them, and by what nature and education have made those men. If this truth does not emerge from all parts of my book, if it does not in this sense constantly bring readers back to themselves, if it does not point out to them at every moment, without ever blatantly displaying the pretension of teaching them, the sentiments, ideas, mores that alone can lead to prosperity and public liberty, the vices and errors that on the contrary inevitably push prosperity and public liberty away, I will not have attained the principal and, so to speak, the only goal that I had in view."

**Of the Influence of Mores on Maintaining the Democratic Republic in the United States**

"I said above that I considered the mores as one of the great general causes to which maintaining the democratic republic in the United States can be attributed."