

De Tocqueville

Influence on forming public opinion - see chapters on "Chances of Duration of the Union" This is the chapter Cobden speaks of reading & which he calls "our light of European antiquity" on the subject.

De T. says: The legislation of 1789 "was not appointed to constitute the government of a single people, but to regulate the association of several people."

The Americans have more to hope & to fear from the states than from the Union; and, in conformity with the natural tendency of the human mind they are more likely to attack themselves than the former than to the latter.

"The Union is a vast body which presents no definite object to patriotic feeling."

"The Federal gov. is so weak that it requires the free consent of the governed to enable it to subsist."

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If the sovereignty of the Union were to engage in a struggle with that of the States at the present day the defeat may be confidently expected.

The Union was formed by the voluntary agreement of the States; and, in uniting together they have not forfeited their nationality. Nor have they been reduced to the condition of one & the same people.

Lamentably mistaken if the Federal Government of the U.S. be not constantly losing strength, retiring gradually from public affairs & narrowing its circle of action more & more.