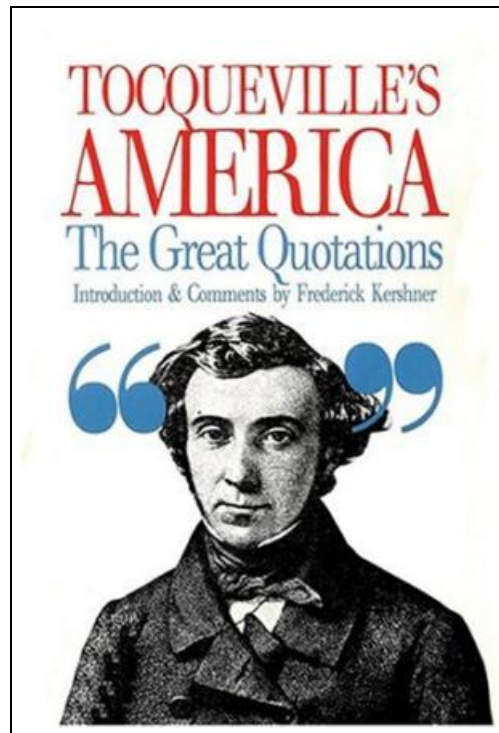


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Reviews

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(Juliet Kertzmann)*

TOCQUEVILLE'S AMERICA: THE GREAT QUOTATIONS

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Ohio University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Tocqueville's America: The Great Quotations, Alexis de Tocqueville, Frederick Kershner, ".boldness of enterprise is the foremost cause of (America's) progress, its strength, and its greatness." With that succinct statement a young French aristocrat, Alexis de Tocqueville, expressed his perceptive analysis of the United States, following a nine-month tour of the young republic beginning in May of 1831. His remarkable two-volume study, Democracy in America, presented an insight that has withstood the test of time to the extent of being described by many scholars as the finest treatise of its kind in the past century and a half. As one of a few companies spanning that period of time, Cooper Industries represents an intriguing mirror for Tocqueville's long-range observations. Boldness of enterprise has indeed been reflected by the efforts of individual entrepreneurs whose companies have come together as Cooper Industries, and many of their names continue to identify successful company products. Among those men were Charles and Elias Cooper, Robert W. Gardner, Huntington B. Crouse, Jesse L. Hinds, Carl E. Weller, Charles W. Kirsch, E.T. Lufkin, William T. Nicholson, and Jacob Wiss. "They (men living in democracies) are therefore all led to engage in commerce, not only for the sake of the profit it holds out to them, but for the love of the constant excitement occasioned by that pursuit," wrote Tocqueville. Were profit the only motive, most of the men who have guided Cooper Industries through the fluctuating business cycles of 150 years would have given up in the depths of economic disasters created by depressions and market shifts. Cooper's growth by no means has been a steady uphill climb; but no reviewer could criticize its history as lacking excitement. Tocqueville contrasted the American "notion of labor" with that of Europeans,...

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