

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. STUDIES
IN ROMANCE PHILOLOGY AND
LITERATURE. FRENCH CRITICISM
OF AMERICAN LITERATURE
BEFORE 1850**

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BY

HAROLD ELMER MANTZ

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
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TO THE
AMERICAN

TO
MY GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER
WARREN AND VIRGINIA WHITE ELMER

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NOTE

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of Romance Languages and Literatures in Columbia
University.*

HENRY ALFRED TODD

NEW YORK

Jan. 31, 1917

FOREWORD

IN the following study an attempt is made to discover French opinion on the subject of American literature, from about the beginning of the nineteenth century to about the year 1850. While it is thus primarily a contribution to the history of French criticism, it deals with one of the least important of its aspects, both because of the scarcity of American literary works of excellence, and because but few French critics of ability wrote about those that did exist. Thus, in the first part of the investigation, it will be necessary to depend in large part on scanty notices of translations, or of American books come into the hands of the editors of French periodicals. Gradually, more extended reviews will be made, and the merely bibliographical details will lose the importance they at first had as the only indications of the knowledge of American literature possessed by the French. It is not the purpose of this study to furnish an indication of all notices bearing on books by American authors; thus indications of mere booksellers' announcements, when no criticism is offered in connection, are generally omitted in the last two decades. On