

DEMOCRACY

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Democracy by George Sidney Camp

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GEORGE SIDNEY CAMP

DEMOCRACY

D E M O C R A C Y.

" A new science of politics is indispensable to a new world "
DE TOUCHEVILLE.

BY GEORGE SIDNEY CAMP.

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PUBLISHERS' ADVERTISEMENT.

THE publishers of the Family Library offer the following work to the public as a treatise on "Democracy" in the broadest sense of the word—government by the People. Such a treatise may, they think, not improperly lay claim to novelty; no work, to their knowledge, having ever yet been published, the express design of which is to elucidate the democratic *theory*. That some such work ought to be in the hands of every American citizen it is needless to urge. To claim the right of political self-government, without being able to tell why—to declaim about liberty, without being able to define what that liberty is—are what, in this country, no one should be guilty of; and yet how few among us really understand the fundamental principles of institutions which all are ready to eulogize, in the rights and benefits of which all equally participate, and the practical operation of which all unite to direct.

A work on the theory of democratic government has long been a desideratum in our literature. How far the present volume will supply the deficiency must be left to the American public to decide.

The Democracy treated of in the following pages, it will be seen, is not the democracy of one party, but of all parties. Had anything like a partizan character appeared in it, the volume would never have found a place in the Family Library ; but it is believed that the author has studiously, as he has to our view successfully, avoided a tendency which, without serving the cause of any party, would have seriously impaired the general usefulness of his work. Still, the publishers do not take it upon themselves to assert that all his doctrines will alike command the assent of all. It is impossible to think without being independent ; or to be at all original without occasional peculiarity. They have thus thought themselves bound fairly to allow for liberty of opinion. So often, however, as the reader shall discover himself to be at variance with the author, he will find such differences to be

differences between individual and individual, and not comprised in any of those political disputes in which party has been arrayed against party. Nowhere has allusion been made to such disputes, as, it is believed, the subject itself steers above them.

The object which the author has proposed to himself is an elevated one—no less than to portray the true nature, and demonstrate the intrinsic and universal propriety, of republican government. It will accordingly be found that, in pursuit of it, the minor differences of domestic parties have been lost sight of, while his aim has been to vindicate that grand national party, composed of all republican America, against the aspersions of foreign commentators, and the enmity of European monarchists.

H. & B.

New-York, September, 1841.

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