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## RECORDS AND REVIEWS

The Trade Supplement of *The Times* for October 11 contains an article on Anglo-French relations by Admiral Sir Charles Dundas of Dundas, Secretary of the Association of Great Britain and France. Commenting on this article, *The Times* says :

‘ Are we going to allow our cherished friendship to be gradually destroyed by the erosion of needless friction ? We say, and our readers as one man will agree, that it must not be. Let us eliminate these miserable causes of misunderstanding by frank and open discussion and achieve the consummation of our friendship by mutual confidence. We have affection in our hearts, why should we allow our traditional reserve to conceal it from France who reciprocates our warmest feelings ? ’

Difficulties, we suppose, are bound to crop up, matters that require settlement, questions that need explanation. But ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt, and that any doubt can exist now or hereafter as to England’s love for France and France’s love for England—that we do not, and will not, believe.

The following is an extract from an admirable article contributed by our distinguished ‘ collaborateur ’ Sébastien-Charles Leconte to the current issue of *Belles-Lettres* :—

‘ Génie ou Talent ?

‘ Le très bon et très grand Anatole France, au temps où il était critique, écrivait :

“ Rien ne ressemble moins aux vers de Lamartine que les vers de Leconte de Lisle. Dans ceux-ci on admire un art incomparable. Des autres on a dit justement qu’on ne sait pas comment c’est fait.

“ Leconte de Lisle veut tout devoir au talent.

“ Lamartine ne demandait rien qu’au génie.”

‘ Est-ce là l’explication de ce que nous cherchions à comprendre tout à l’heure, de ce pour quoi mon aimable correspondant me morigénait doucement, quand il m’inculpait d’une dangereuse indulgence à l’égard du sabotage de la langue et de la grève générale du style !

‘ Nos contemporains ne demandent rien qu’au génie.

‘ Nos contemporains ne veulent rien devoir au talent.

‘ Et c’est pourquoi ils font des vers, ou croient en faire, à la va-vite, à la va-bon-train, à la va comme je te pousse, à la hue à dia.

‘ Ils se sentent des Lamartine.

‘ Pourquoi ne se souviennent-ils pas de Hugo ?

‘ Le Père avait du génie, mais il ne s’est pas cru pour cela dispensé d’avoir du talent ... ’

Some of our more youthful vers-librists—whose genius we do not for the