

high places, due to our long continued Germanophile blindness; to our weak, traditional and unintelligent Francophobia. To our proverbial British blunders. We have had a traditional misconception of Frenchmen — in Europe and America.

We might as well admit it. Though few political writers do. But an open confession is good for the soul. And we created this Frankenstein ourselves. We refused the hand of France which was more than once extended. For the French, whether in Europe or America, are a people with whom it is always easy to agree.

But I promised you to speak, especially of contemporary France and her idiom and her character and her genius. The France where we spent the best years of our existence. To speak of their beneficent influence as a people, on Britain, on Europe, on our own country here, and on mankind.

Therefore, I may proceed, in conclusion, to speak of the French people, who are, according to ancient superstitions and popular fallacies, an "excitable" and a "volatile" race. So I suppose they are. They have taught their lessons to the World, no doubt, with much waving of