

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT AND WHAT IT MAY LEAD TO

SEVERAL times in the history of the last eight hundred years there have been cordial understandings, drawings together of France and England, from which far-sighted individuals might have been excused for prophesying a union of interests so complete as to be almost the grafting of one tree on another. Then these short-lived alliances have been rudely broken by some conflict of ambitions—generally due to territorial greed—and a war has intervened, which for a time has created a wholly factitious hostility between Englishman and Frenchman. I am careful to say “Englishman”; because whenever the Scottish and Irish have been able to conduct their own relations or express their own sentiments they have been strongly drawn towards friendship with France, perhaps because they remembered more vividly than did the Francified-Englishman how much—almost everything, in fact—Great Britain and Ireland owed to France in the matter of civilisation. It is only of quite recent years that the spread of education amongst the mass of the people has been enabling the English to appreciate to what an extent our history has been mixed up with that of France and how much we have learnt, irksome though the lesson may have been sometimes, from those that came from French shores and brought with