

editions de luxe? It is because the French collector no longer interests himself for engravings, rather for luxurious editions, and thus the engraver can still find a buying public.

Decaris is not the man to shrink from such a gigantic task. He is a wonderful worker. He combines two qualities, which seem at first sight impossible of combination—a lightness of touch which permits him to work with extraordinary speed, and a high artistic sense of responsibility which chains him to his given task for weeks or even months at a time.

If he is struck by the beauty of the scene or the unusual quality of a landscape when on an excursion, he at once unpacks his sketching tools: a sheet of paper, a brush and enough Chinese ink to dye a shroud. In the course of an hour's work he has finished the drawing and the clarity of the composition is as astonishing as the tenderness and the fine shading of the tones of colour. Then Decaris pursues his way, and is soon engaged by the charms of some other fascinating scene.

When he illustrated "Combourg", he went to Brittany and returned with rich spoils in the shape of a large number of water-colours, a number of which were transferred to copper plates without further alternation. Other creations, again, have caused him infinite trouble. He sometimes makes 50 or 60 preparatory sketches for a single large plate when the subject in question is

