

Lettre de Shridher Vishnu Paranjpey à Émile Zola du 14 avril 1898

Auteur(s) : Paranjpey, Shridher Vishnu

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

4 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[affaire Dreyfus, Inde](#)

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Présentation

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Date d'envoi[1898-04-14](#)

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DescriptionAffaire Dreyfus, Rome et Paris.

Information générales

Langue [Anglais](#)

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Source Centre d'étude sur Zola et le naturalisme (fonds Burns)

Informations éditoriales

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Contributeur(s) Macke, Jean-Sébastien (édition scientifique)

Notice créée par [Jean-Sébastien Macke](#) Notice créée le 14/12/2017 Dernière

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Address: - Dr. Dajiba's chawl Nagpur
India near Zenda Nagpur (India). (India)

Dear and most respected sir, 14th April 98

I know not French and so I write in English. I was greatly interested in your trial and am deeply pained to see you sentenced to one year's imprisonment for pleading on behalf of the innocent Dreyfus. The sympathies of thousands, of nay millions of outsiders like myself who have eagerly watched your trial will go with you in prison. The fame and popularity that you enjoyed as a novelist has increased more than tenfold by the heroic part that you took in the trial as a champion of suffering humanity. People older in India do not know much about you as a novelist. To

Speak the truth, they most of them are prejudiced about your novels by the efforts of pseudo puritans and the Christian missionaries. After G.W.M. Reynolds there is no man ^{that has been} that has more abused than yourself. My reading of some of Reynolds' novels cleared my mind of the prejudice that I had inherited and now I admire the patriot Englishman who tried his best to show the miseries of the suffering mass of humanity and ~~that~~ succeeded in rousing sympathies for them. I ~~do not~~ know have not formed much ~~advac~~ acquaintance with your novels. However ~~that~~ little that I know of them has led me to think that ~~the~~ all your novels must have been written with

the high purpose of attracting sympathy for the oppressed portion of humanity and that your life has been an ardent search after truth and justice and is trying to do the greatest service for liberty, equality and fraternity! the memorable watchwords of the French nation. Your attitude in the Dreyfus case and the sympathetic criticisms on your novels 'Rome' and 'Paris' have ~~fallen~~ ~~fallen~~ very greatly strengthened my opinion. I once more beg to offer you my heartiest sympathies for ~~with~~ for undergoing imprisonment in fighting for innocence & justice.

2 I am a Hindu by birth and belong to the priestly class of Brahmins. I am trying in my

humble way to promote the public
good by advocating the uprooting
of child marriages, enforced widowhood,
caste system with its endless prejudices
against the lower classes, confine-
ment of women in Seraglio & ignorance
& such other pernicious customs
that have found a home in the Hindu
Society. Some time after this I shall
may give you some account of our
social customs and the efforts that
are being made for its advancement
if you feel did interested to know them.
In days to come I hope to form a better
acquaintance with your goodself & your
works. Examples of men like you are
sources of inspiration to us young people.

With my respects to you & madam Zola.
My heart goes with you both in your
present trouble and sorrow.

Very sincerely yours
Shridher Vishnu Paranjpey

My address: -

Shridher Vishnu Paranjpey
Esq.

Dr Dayiba's chawl,
near Zendal
Nagpur
(India).