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

Auteur(s) : Paranjpey, Shridher Vishnu

Les folios

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Les mots clés

affaire Dreyfus, Inde

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

14th April 98

Dear and most respected Sir,

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 in India do not know much about you as a novelist. To

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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 more abused than yourself. My reading of some of Reynolds's 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 ~~have~~ ~~know~~ have not formed much ~~advance~~ 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 ~~fully~~ ~~them~~ 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, confinement 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 ~~as~~ 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.

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

Very sincerely yours
Shridhar Vishnu Paranjpey

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My address:—

Shridhar Vishnu Paranjpey
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Dr Dajiba's chawl,
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