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Lettre de J.A.I. Perry à Madame Zola du 25 février 1898

Auteur(s) : Perry, J.A.I.

Les folios

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2 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

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Description Lettre de sympathie à Émile Zola suite au verdict du procès.

Information générales

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J. A. I. PERRY,
SOLICITOR.

TELEPHONE No. 1889.

New South Wales

16 ELIZABETH STREET,

NEAR HUNTER STREET,

Sydney, February 25 1898

Dear Madam,

I was
exceedingly grieved to
read by today's cable
that your husband had
been sentenced to 12
months imprisonment
and in addition fined
3000 francs. As one who
has read and re-read
his works (I have now
La Pébâcle before me)
I feel that his

incarceration is a
national Calamity and
you have my deep
Sympathy. I send you
article from our leading
paper on the subject

Believe me

Yours sincerely

J. A. I. Perry

Mrs G. G. G. G.
Paris

No one will be surprised at the result of the trial of M. Zola, and considering, perhaps, the forces ranged against the distinguished author, his sentence may be considered a light one. It seems that officialdom and the rabble went hand in hand during this celebrated trial; or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the former skilfully worked on the ever-impressionable feelings of the Paris mob. "Down with the Jews" was a splendid cry to cover up the *laches* of the bureaucracy, and when added to this weapon in the hands of the prosecution there was the knowledge that ordinary lenience to the accused might inflame the Army beyond control, it is not surprising that every effort was successfully used to keep out the mere mention of damning evidence. And perhaps for these efforts French statesmen in the highest places are not to be blamed. They know their countrymen much better than any foreigner can, and they know that in times gone by the fear of treachery in its own ranks has driven a French army to desperate courses. It may be that many of the most humane and patriotic of Frenchmen did not care to inquire into the guilt or innocence of Dreyfus if that inquiry meant—as it appears that it must have—a searching examination of the inside of military and official administration. France stands in hourly dread of a death-grapple with an enemy, and even a momentary cry of "We are betrayed!" from her soldiery might be the signal for attack. In the circumstances the trial of Zola was one of suppression, and the result is that the guilt of Dreyfus is still undecided, and Zola retires for a year and pays £120 fine. Whether the matter will end here remains to be seen. Already the extraordinary affair seems to remind us of the truth about murder—it will "out." Dreyfus was drummed out of Paris, amidst the execrations of the soldiers and the people, but protesting his innocence and shouting, "Vive la France!" His dishonoured name has been dragged from his living tomb to excite, during many days, Paris to paroxysms of fury, and to send the most distinguished French man of letters to prison. But Paris is not France, and it may be that the conscience of the nation will yet insist that more shall be heard of Dreyfus.