

## Lettre de W. Sharlack à Émile Zola datée du 4 février 1898

**Auteur(s) : Sharlack, W.**

### Transcription

Texte de la lettre

Papier à lettres.

Déjà dactylographié à gauche :

1. N. D. Winne, General Auditor,
2. F. Dudley, Asst Gen'l Auditor
3. Tyrell, Ticket auditor
4. S Dousman, Freight Auditor

Déjà dactylographié à droite :

1. E. Dudley, Auditor of expenditure

JNQ. J. Moulding, Road Accountant

1. E. Beecham, Car Accountant
2. H. Burton, Fuel Accountant

Déjà dactylographié au milieu :

Chicago Milwaukee & St Paul Railway Co.

General Auditing Department

Freight Auditor's Office

À la main :

Chicago, Ill., Febr 4<sup>th</sup>, 1898

1. Emile Zola,

Paris, France

My dear Sir :

Enclosed please find editorials from the leading daily papers of this city, touching on your case pour an impartial stand point. By flancing over there you will notice that the American Press which fairly expresses the people sentiment is with your able fight against dishonesty and corruption in high governmental circles. We believe with you that Capt. Dreyfus has been innocently condemned. I greet you as a hero of the closing century.

Your courage against great odds is an honor not only to the profession you represent, but to all enlightened nations who unlike your bellicose students can see things in their true light.

I have the honor to be,

very sincerely Yours

1. Sharlack

1050 Old Colourg Bldg

Chicago, Ill.

## Les folios

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

9 Fichier(s)

## Relations

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## Citer cette page

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1898-02-04

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modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).

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## Présentation

GenreCorrespondance

Date d'envoi[1898-02-04](#)

Adresse1050 Old Colourg Bldg, Chicago, Ill.

## Description & Analyse

DescriptionSoutien dans l'affaire Dreyfus, envoi de coupures qui dénoncent  
l'attitude de la France.

Notesprésence de huit articles sur l'affaire Dreyfus, notamment issus du « Chicago  
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## Information générales

Langue[Anglais](#)

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- France
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Notice créée par [Richard Walter](#) Notice créée le 21/12/2018 Dernière modification le 21/08/2020

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W. N. D. WINNE, GENERAL AUDITOR.  
W. F. DUDLEY, ASS'T GEN'L AUDITOR.  
F. TYRRELL, TICKET AUDITOR.  
R. S. DOUSMAN, FREIGHT AUDITOR.

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY CO.  
GENERAL AUDITING DEPARTMENT.  
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C. E. DUDLEY, AUDITOR OF EXPENDITURE.  
JNO. J. MOULDING, ROAD ACCOUNTANT.  
W. E. BEECHAM, CAR ACCOUNTANT.  
C. H. BURTON, FUEL ACCOUNTANT.

CHICAGO, ILL., *July 4<sup>th</sup>* 1898.

*Mr. Emile Zola*

*Paris, France*

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*Your courage against great odds is an honor not only to the profession you represent, but to all enlightened*



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CHICAGO, ILL., .....18

nations, who, unlike your bellicose  
students can see things in their  
true light.

I have the honor to be,  
Very sincerely, Yours  
W. H. Mearns

1050 Old Colony Bldg  
Chicago Ill.

tail has now become  
etiquette among politicians, east and west.

#### Anti-Semitism in France.

It is difficult for people on this side of the Atlantic to understand the causes promoting the hysterical outburst of the French people in regard to the Dreyfus case. In America, as in England, a similar demonstration could be aroused only by the excitements of a national political campaign. A majority of the French populace is against Dreyfus and decries any effort to secure his release. A few members of the French Academy, with some other prominent citizens and M. Scheurer-Kestner of the senate, have aggravated this sentiment by a sudden and concerted effort to show that Dreyfus is innocent and thus secure his liberation.

5 The truth is that the hostility which has been awakened is directed not at Dreyfus so much as at the race to which he belongs. Heretofore Austria has been regarded as the hotbed of anti-Semitism, but Germany and France have shared in the sentiment, and this time the feeling has taken a concrete form. There is but little doubt that the summary verdict in the Dreyfus case was delivered in obedience to this pressure of popular prejudice. The feeling waned until the recent proposal to reopen the case, but now it has flamed out with a new fury. With the passion that is born of blind and foolish prejudice the majority of the French nation is attacking men who, with the purest and most disinterested motives, are trying to secure proofs of Dreyfus' innocence.

In these circumstances it is but natural that the sentiment of most of the world should favor the man who is now an exile on the lonely Isle du Diable. Anti-Semitism is a

relic of mediæval times and necessarily repugnant to enlightened peoples. But in France it happens to answer just now as the vent for a racial need for excitement. The whole curious demonstration must be set down merely as a symptom of national character. The probabilities are that the French people are not deeply concerned either with Dreyfus or with the question of race. They are in need of their regular nervous convulsion, and Dreyfus' case merely affords the occasion for it. Under slightly different circumstances they might have been as demonstrative in demanding his release. Meantime, it remains for the soberer and more thoughtful men of Paris to show what they can do in the way of saving the nation's reputation by securing a thoroughly adequate and satisfactory rehearing of the whole case.

Gov. Adams

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1898.

DECEMBER



republican platform.

#### DREYFUS IN CHAMBER AND STREET

The danger of the French government's policy in the Dreyfus case must have been brought home to the ministry by the riotous demonstrations and tumultuous scenes last night which threatened to lead to a general assault upon the persons and property of the coreligionists of the convicted captain. Between the students who, under the banner of the virulent anti-Semites like Drumont and Rochefort, are "vindicating" the army and the government, and the anarchists who are improving this rare occasion to attack the army and the republic in the name of "la revolution sociale," there is but little to choose. Neither of these valorous and fighting volunteer factions cares very earnestly for the great question of right and wrong, of national honor and justice involved in the Dreyfus case. But the government appears to welcome any allies from any quarter, and the same is true of the exasperated and calumniated champions of Dreyfus, whose demand for a rehearing of the case is invariably met by insult, threat and charge of corruption.

In the chamber yesterday the ministry won a victory that can scarcely be credited with any significance. Meline again indulged in the canting talk about the "honor of the army," and secured a vote of confidence, but as 252 deputies agreed with those who declared that "the ministry's semi-official statements were unsatisfactory, and that at least the alleged

confession of Dreyfus ought to be published, it is manifest that Meline's victory was of the Pyrrhus variety. The French government is precious, inconsequent and fickle. Disorders continue—and they are expected to continue under the auspices of the anti-Semitic agitators on the one hand and the Zolas and Clemenceaus on the other—the chamber may conclude to get rid of the troublesome Meline ministry in favor of a government not so irrevocably committed to the guilt of Dreyfus

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## THE CHICAGO EVENING POST

EIGHTH YEAR.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1898.

WOLCOTT'S SILVER SWAN SONG.

which will have the courage and fairness  
to reopen the painful case with the view  
of discovering the truth.

The weakness of the ministry is shown  
in the failure to call Zola to account be-  
fore a civil tribunal for his emphatic  
charges against the minister of war and  
other high army officials. The brave  
promise to send Zola to prison has been  
strangely neglected, and the conclusion  
will eventually be drawn that the govern-  
ment is afraid of a public trial. Zola has  
so far held his ground, and he has se-  
cured the support of a number of  
academicians, scientists and professors.  
He tells the students that they are heap-  
ing up remorse for themselves as well as  
humiliation and indignity, and there is  
every reason to believe that he is right.



#### COMING BOUFFE TRIAL OF ZOLA.

The French government is not to be caught in the trap ingeniously set by Zola. He challenges a public trial and rigid prosecution upon all the specific charges he has made so pointedly and emphatically against the minister of war and other generals. His hope is, of course, for an opportunity to present all his evidence and thus bring the facts touching the illegality and unfairness of the Esterhazy trial before the public. He is, however, to be disappointed, as the passages from his sensational letter to President Faure selected by the prosecution afford him only a shadowy semblance of the test he courted.

All his vehement and personal accusations against the generals are calmly ignored, and the charge is confined to relatively mild and vague statements about the alleged orders to the court-martial in obedience to which Esterhazy was acquitted. This anti-climax to the heroics of the government in the chamber really marks the utter collapse of the case against Zola, but public opinion in France is not in the mood to see matters

in their true light. Zola will be tried on absurdly vague charges, and, according to a semi-official paper, all officers of the army will be prohibited from testifying at his trial! That is, Zola will be unable to produce the witnesses whose testimony alone could support his accusations. What sort of republicanism, what kind of political freedom, what unheard-of system of jurisprudence France must enjoy, if the mere ukase of the minister of war suffices to deprive a defendant in a criminal suit of all his rights and means of vindication!

On the other hand, General Billat, we are told, will attend the trial "in full uniform" to make the "necessary defense of the army's honor." Whether this "defense" will consist in the mere exhibition of the gorgeous uniform is not stated, but the ministerial tactics and their canting phrases would prepare us to expect anything. Zola has appealed from the military courts to the civil, and it remains to be seen whether the latter can be controlled and perverted as easily as the former.

*H Paul  
Clement Ross  
H Paul  
M. Min.  
Feb 25.*



JUSTICE DOES NOT ALWAYS PREVAIL.



public.

#### Von Buelow and Dreyfus.

It will be interesting to watch the effect upon the French people of the official and solemn declaration of Herr von Buelow, the German minister of foreign affairs, that there have never been any negotiations of any kind between the German government and the condemned French officer, Dreyfus. It is conceivable that Kaiser Wilhelm might be in ignorance of any negotiations undertaken with army spies, but the minister of foreign affairs undoubtedly knows, if he has but taken the pains to find out. That being the case, his declaration to the budget committee of the reichstag can only be regarded in one way. He is either absolutely right and Dreyfus is innocent, or else he is deliberately falsifying, and in a way which would offend France foolishly and needlessly.

The fact is that the German minister's statement is another and powerful addition to the array of reasons for believing that Dreyfus was not implicated in any conspiracy to sell the military secrets of his nation to its traditional enemy. Considering that he is not likely to seek trouble with France at this particular juncture, and that if he did not state the exact facts in the matter he would be likely to be found out before long, it is hardly conceivable that Herr von Buelow has not told the truth. It remains now to be seen whether the French people will consider these facts and admit the decided probability of Dreyfus' innocence, or continue in their present course and allow the German minister's remarks to aggravate their disposition to persecute the prisoner.

In any event, it is apparent that the influences favorable to Dreyfus are growing steadily, although their progress is often delayed by temporary setbacks. Some of the strongest men in France have allied themselves with the exiled army officer's cause, and the work of these will be greatly assisted by the official declaration of German's cabinet minister.

While Illinois through its legislative committee is investigating the case, it is taking a



#### FRANCE AND ZOLA.

The spectacle which the world has witnessed during the Zola trial, of the ruling elements and a vast majority of the people of a great nation rallying to the support of French officialism in the perpetration and covering up of a monstrous wrong, is one calculated to stir in every American bosom a feeling of sadness as well as indignation. To our conceptions, there can be no greater wrong—no wrong more fraught with peril to a nation's liberties—than the trial of an individual by a secret military tribunal, in time of peace, and the sentencing of that individual to lifelong imprisonment, without any exhibition of the evidence on which he was convicted, and without the privilege of appeal. And another wrong of like character is done when a brave citizen, challenging that iniquitous verdict as destructive to all that is noble in the character of his nation, is himself arrested as a criminal, denied the right of questioning his own witnesses or of cross-examining those of his prosecutors, denied practically every opportunity for making good his charges, and finally convicted by a subservient judge and jury, and sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a heavy fine—all as his counsel truthfully asserted, "by order of the government." For, although the French president or the French ministry may not have given a direct order to that effect, the real government of France to-day reposes, not in the ministry or in the legislature, but in the officialism, military and civil, which shrouds with corruption, espionage and restraint the moribund frame of French republicanism.

Nor was subserviency to the order of the government the only wrong committed by this pliant and partial tribunal. It made itself equally servile to the howling mobs whose blind hatred of the Jews had been appropriately enlisted in the support of injustice toward a Jew. Day after day these mobs filled the court with passionate demonstrations of hostility to the defendant; and the court, without a protest, without any attempt to silence their exhibitions of popular fury, allowed them to influence and to coerce, with their constant and tumultuous claque, the verdict of the jury. If any court in England or America had permitted such partisan demonstrations within its precincts, or in the presence of the jury, the judge would have been promptly impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and removed from office. But no such shameful proceedings could occur in any American or British court—perhaps in no court in Europe except in France.

We are all familiar with the motto: "Our country, right or wrong." And if this was a question of a controversy with some foreign power much might be forgiven to the excesses of patriotic feeling by a people so excitable as the French. But it was no peril to the nation which evoked the popular fury which not only submerged the court with its tumult but threatened the assassination of Zola. Nor was it any peril to the nation which made him the victim of the vengeance of the government and of the military bureaucracy behind it. The cry which was raised was not for the country, but for the army. Vive l'armée though individual freedom perish and liberty die under the forms of popular government perverted to the uses of despotism. French generals appear in response to subpoenas as witnesses. The judge will

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Nor was it any danger to the army which excited the wrath of this frantic mob. It was sufficient for this mercurial multitude that Dreyfus was a Jew and that Zola was his defender. "Down with the Jews!" was the cry that was far more loudly blended with the atrocious yell of "Death to Zola" than even "Vive l'armee." The representatives of the army needed to hide the injustice which had been perpetrated by its secret tribunal under the blinding sandstorm of that anti-Semitic fury which for years past has been sweeping over continental Europe and is now the reigning caprice of Paris.

But the sentiment which convicted Zola finds its chief support in the serried ranks of the official classes, which the Panama and other scandals show are permeated, like the Parisian journals, with venality and corruption. It is said that one-fourth of the adult males of Paris are officials of one grade or another. The interests of civil and military officialism are bound up together. They sway the multitude. They control the elections. The vast horde of petty functionaries are as venal as their leaders. There is no vigorous, independent, critical public opinion outside of this consuming army of mercenaries to pour the burning light of its scrutiny into the unwholesome recesses of official life and to hold its functionaries to a strict responsibility. And so the moral sense of France is dead, or, at least, torpid. It is one of the strange contrarieties of French character that Emile Zola, who has done more, with his repulsive realism, to degrade the literature of France than any other man of his time, should be the one man in France to stand for what remains of the conscience of France—for those underlying principles of justice and right on which alone republican liberty can be safely anchored—for a wholesome public sentiment which no longer exists, or exists only as an academic tradition or an eccentricity of isolated individuals.