

## Lettre de C. R. Clemens à Émile Zola du 13 juin 1899

Auteur(s) : **Clemens, C. R.**

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### Présentation

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Date d'envoi[1899-06-13](#)

Adresse35, rue Legendre Paris

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35 rue Legendre  
Paris  
June 13 99

A. Monsieur Emile Zola  
rue Bruneelle Paris.

Dear Sir,

I can advance no justification for my thus addressing to you an appeal for assistance, only the deplorable and miserable condition I find myself in. And even notwithstanding my circumstances it is with the utmost reluctance that I bring myself to do it.

I am a stranger in Paris, an Englishman, but for many years have been in the South of America, where I was cast at 12 years of age to make the last battle for existence scound.

Having many years of manual labour I managed to educate myself

sufficiently to follow the vocation  
of journalist.

I came to Paris some three months  
ago under certain representations  
which have been grossly violated  
and am now completely destitute.  
I have endeavoured by every means  
within my power to find some sort  
of employment but almost without  
avail. My great handicap is my  
inability to speak French, and until  
I become somewhat proficient in  
this respect I can hardly hope to  
make a competency to exist.

I am only too conscious of the fact  
that I have no claim upon you, or  
indeed upon any one, but I feel  
that were you satisfied of my  
bona fides you would extend a  
hand to a fellow creature who

was down, and unable at the moment to get his legs under him again.

It is in these circumstances that I appeal to you to render me some small assistance, and should you know of any temporary employment of whatsoever kind or description to further my indebtedness to you by letting me know of it.

I would my circumstances  
allowed of my joining the happy throng who welcomed back their moral hero, but their approbation finds in my heart a deep echo.

Apologeting for this inflicting on you the worries and tribulations of another individual while you are so heavily saddled by others

Believe me  
yours faithfully.

C. R. Clemens