

## Lettre de E. M. R. Dundas à Émile Zola du 19 février 1898

Auteur(s) : **Dundas, E. M. R.**

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[affaire Dreyfus](#)

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Centre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).

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# Informations éditoriales

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6 Pricy Road. 9b

West-Hampstead.

London. N.W.

19 Feb 1898.

Dear Mons. Zola,

Accept my honest  
heart-felt goodnises in this trying  
hour, and believe me when I say  
that I hope & trust you will  
emerge triumphant & laurel-crowned  
from the arena of your mag-  
nificent & stupendous combat.  
One against many, but that

one how stony in his grand  
courage, how immovable in his  
Bayard like devotion in the  
cause of his own honest conviction.

When the clouds of  
Adversity have rolled away, &  
then the strife of Controversial war  
has ceased its roar, then shall  
you, smile Zola, emerge radiant  
& victorious from the field of  
your bloodless battle, and the  
glorious sun of truth shall shine  
like a divine halo around your  
heroic & devoted head, & then  
that France proclaim that in

the "splendid isolation" of your  
brave faith, you have won for  
yourself an everlasting name.

Keep this letter,

Mrs. Zola, & when all is past  
& the victory won, look upon it  
& remember that in your hour  
of combat, one Englishman,  
at least, remembered you  
& extended towards you the  
hand of his faithful friendship!

Adieu, Mrs.

Zola, and may the Great  
God strengthen you in the

nic of your friend ||| Ldlier.

E. M. R. Tundas.

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I enclose a cutting from  
"Vectis" printed & edited by  
Dr. Tabbs, of Shanklin,  
Isle of Wight, a friend of  
mine. & my interest you.

What Voltaire did a century  
Voltaire and a half ago for the mis-  
and Zola. judged Jean Calas, another  
great Frenchman, Emile Zola, is doing  
to-day for Captain Alfred Dreyfus; in the  
cause of justice, he has braved the rage of  
opposed oppression, the brutal rabble's fury,  
and the venomous darts of threatened  
interests. His letter to the President of the  
Republic, printed in seven columns of  
*L'Aurore*, under the title "J'accuse!" is a  
fearless, trenchant, and tremendous indictment  
of Colonel Du Paty de Clam—the  
Penny-Novelette intriguer, who constructed  
the case against Dreyfus; and of Generals  
Billot, de Boisdeffre, and Youse, whom he  
charges with positive knowledge of Dreyfus'  
innocence, and with deliberate concealment  
of the truth because of religious prejudice  
and professional fears.

This conscientious cry has provoked from  
the rotten Parisian press and the hysterical  
mob a characteristic howl of insult, calumny,  
and violent threat. *Le Jour* comes out with  
headlines running across the whole six  
columns of its front page, announcing—  
"Zola struck by mental aberration! Medical  
Consultation." The same paper declares,  
with regard to Joseph Reinach, one of the  
Dreyfus champions, that his ancestor made  
his fortune by buying from German officers,  
on their return from the war, stocks and  
shares which they had stolen from French  
houses.

Another journal denounces Zola in big  
headlines as "Zola the Shameful! Flower  
of Pus!" and a writer denounces him as "A  
German spy, a traitor, a coward, a monster."  
The article ends with the cry: "Zola to the  
Gallows."

A special sheet issued with "The Reply  
of All Frenchmen to Emile Zola," tells the  
author of "Germinal" and "Nana" *qu'il*

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## VECTIS

*n'a pas de meilleur parti à tirer de ses petits papiers  
à la louange de Dreyfus que de les donner à sa  
Mouquette pour lui servir de feuille de vigne.*

And now Zola is being tried for his treason;  
perhaps will be imprisoned!

The Panama and Southern Railway thieves  
occupy the high places in the Legislature.  
The illustrious literary man who dares tell  
the truth about the general rottenness is  
sent to disgrace and imprisonment.

"Disgrace?" Nay, on second thoughts,  
that word scarcely goes with "imprison-  
ment" in modern Paris. The disgraced  
persons are those who go free — especially  
those who wear decorations of the Govern-  
ment in their buttonholes.