

Lettre de William Mercer à Émile Zola du 24 janvier 1898

Auteur(s) : Mercer, William

Les folios

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

1 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[affaire Dreyfus](#), [Journalisme](#)

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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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Présentation

GenreCorrespondance

Date d'envoi[1898-01-24](#)

Adresse5, Blenheim Parade, Cheltenham

Description & Analyse

DescriptionEnvoie à Zola un article qu'il a écrit dans la presse anglaise : "The

Marchand expedition".

Information générales

Langue [Français](#)

Cote ANG MERCER 1898_01_24

Éléments codicologiques Un bifeuillet original et une coupure de presse.

Source Fonds Colin Burns (Centre Zola)

Informations éditoriales

Éditeur de la fiche 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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Notice créée par [Jean-Sébastien Macke](#) Notice créée le 01/08/2020 Dernière modification le 21/08/2020

5, Blenheim Parade, Cheltenham, January 25th, 1898.

THE MARCHAND EXPEDITION.

SIR,—I have read with interest your translation (18th) of letters from a French Missioner with the above force in the upper regions of the Nile.

Again rumours are rife concerning a massacre from Belgian sources; the truth, however, lingers in obscurity.

The French papers can only see malice in any reference to this mysterious expedition, and feign a knowledge of its whereabouts, when probably only crass ignorance of its fate exists.

Read the political leader of the Paris paper, *Le Journal*, and its remarks concerning the natural curiosity of foreign countries to learn what its countrymen are doing "dans cette galere."

Also the "affaire Dreyfus" figures largely in contemporary prints, and it is really only a literal translation of such articles can convey an exact impression of the vagaries and "exaltation" peculiar to the French mind.

In the *Journal* under title, "Contre la France," is written "Some foreign newspapers have, *apropos* of the Dreyfus affair, the honour of the French nation and army more at heart than ourselves; and even the destiny (shall I say destination?) of the Marchand Mission appears to pre-occupy them more than it does us. Formerly foreigners accused our Press of mixing itself too much in the affairs of neighbouring nations; now it is they who occupy themselves too much with ours. They rejoice to magnify anything which can minimise France, everything which can increase the embarrassments of our colonial enterprises. We will not to-day emphasise the attitude of particular journals in the Dreyfus affair, but ask why do they insist so incessantly to know all we can state concerning the Marchand Mission? Why do they continue to speak of its massacre in order to compel us to inform them ~~what~~ it can be, and what is its object?"

Oh! tell me where is Fancy bred?

Truly we all want to learn where is the Search-Andrée balloon voyaging; and surely more humanity teaches us to seek what has become of a party of French explorers, volatilised into empty space, perhaps nihilised or neutralised, near the waters of the god Nile!

Emile Zola may succeed better than all of us, and it may be his glorious rôle to enlighten the world on the facts of the Dreyfus scandal. Reparation is sought, and cannot be hidden behind closed doors. Can any course of conduct be more rash and inglorious than to allow howling mobs to cry in the streets of French cities, "A bas Dreyfus! Conspuiez Zola! Mort aux Juifs!"

WILLIAM MERCER.

5, Blenheim Parade, Cheltenham, Jan. 24, 1898.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON

5 Blenheim parade
England Cheltenham
24 Jan 1898
Mr. Lombard.
J'ai écrit la lettre
ci-jointe sur l'affaire
Dreyfus & l'expédition Marchand
En attendant le résultat
de v^{re} noble intervention
dans la cause d'une
Victime innocent, et
espérant un mot à votre
loisir je suis toujours
v^{re} dévoué William Mercer.