

Lettre de H. Vandyck à Émile Zola du 31 janvier 1898

Auteur(s) : Vandyck, H.

Les folios

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3 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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Date d'envoi[1898-01-31](#)

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Autrement

Le Président Fauri doit
savoir comme la plupart du
monde d'intelligence que Dreyfus
est un Français comme il faut
qu'il n'y a de raison du tout
pour trahir son pays. est
n'est il pas possible que
le Président exprime son
opinion sur l'affaire
accuser que je vous
salue avec mes vœux
et recevoir l'assurance
de mes respects sincères
H. Vandyc

130, Wadbrooke Grove,

H. Vandyc.

North Kensington,

London, W.

Jan 31 1898

Cher Monsieur 9D

Ci-joint je vous donne deux
extraits des journaux anglais
pour vous donner une idée de
ce qu'on pense ici de l'affaire
Dreyfus. Ayez donc la bonté
de les lire et vous trouverez
que la capitulation en
"Lloyd" est très curieuse.

"Je vous souhaite bonne
chance mais j'ai peur
que les menaces de l'armée
soient déclarées infillible.
Soutenir l'honneur de
l'armée à tout prix c'est
la seule chance pour les

educational establishments that were so numerous amongst them.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF THE DREYFUS CASE.

Daily Telegraph Jan 31/98

The "Home of Mystery"—surely an appropriate spot for a disquisition on such a theme—was selected as the scene of a lecture delivered last night by Mr. David Christie Murray on "The Dreyfus Case." The building in Piccadilly dedicated by Mr. Maskelyne to the exposition of cryptic illusions has seldom seated a larger audience than that gathered to hear the well-known writer's views on this warmly-debated topic. Not a few foreigners were among those present, but it was pretty evident, almost from the outset, that the audience was of one accord regarding the claims of the ex-captain to public sympathy, and that those who had assembled in the hope of witnessing something in the nature of a "battle of words" were doomed to disappointment. It soon became manifest, indeed, that the visitors were of one mind with the lecturer, and, as events proved, the applause that greeted the latter when he first stepped upon the platform furnished the keynote of the evening's enthusiasm. The question, he said in his prefatory remarks, was one that had long ago passed the limits of the French borders, and now concerned the whole world. Having broken a lance in favour of M. Zola, whom he described as a man of supreme honesty, prepared to face the murderous malice of the French mob, brave the gaol, and confront poverty and public execration in the cause of justice, the lecturer proceeded, in clear and incisive language, to sketch the history of the "affaire Dreyfus," punctuating his story with observations indicative of his firm belief in the innocence of the prisoner at the Devil's Island. Having declared that he was condemned before his trial by the spoken verdict of the Minister of War, and described as a tissue of monstrous falsehoods the allegations directed against the convict's past life, Mr. Murray dwelt with special emphasis upon the important question of handwriting, and upon the fact that twelve unbiassed experts of distinguished repute had given a decision emphatically in favour of the condemned man in respect of the now-famous "bordereau." By means of magnified transparencies of that incriminatory document placed by the side of those disclosing the genuine writing of Dreyfus, he sought to demonstrate the impossibility of the so-called traitor having written the notorious letter. A detailed analysis of the characteristics of the two handwritings as shown to the audience resulted in those present unanimously endorsing the lecturer's contention that the dissimilarities in question were such that Dreyfus could by no stretch of imagination be the guilty party. To this end the exhibition of a series of minute comparisons regarding the formation of individual letters and figures as instituted by M. Gustave Bridier, the well-known Swiss expert, largely contributed, and when, finally, the last words had fallen from the lips of the lecturer, he met with a reception at once cordial and sincere.

ceedingly good with a prospect of continued improvement. The result of the conflict, so far as can be seen, has been the infliction of great loss and damage to both parties to it without proportionate benefit to either of them. We therefore congratulate all concerned upon the ending of their differences, and trust that in the future their relations will be such that any renewal of the disastrous strife may be rendered impossible.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The affair Dreyfus seems to be committing France to a host of follies. Moved by the spectacle of Deputies fighting in the Chamber, the mob, eager enough for any excuse for a row, has started a campaign against the Jews. One may well ask, why all this bother? Captain Dreyfus, a French officer, and a member of a wealthy Jewish family, was suddenly charged with selling military secrets to Germany. He was seized, closely confined, tried, and condemned by a secret military tribunal, and sent to perpetual solitary imprisonment on a French penal island. From the first he protested his innocence, while the only evidence against him was a piece of paper found in his waste paper basket, containing copies of military documents, which paper he swore he did not write—and that two of the three experts in penmanship called at the trial also swore was not in Dreyfus's handwriting. Nothing more appears to have been forthcoming; yet this flimsy evidence, which any English magistrate would have laughed out of court, with a possible reprimand to the prosecutor for wasting his time, is considered by French military judges sufficient to justify them in sending a highly-educated man, an officer and a gentleman, to a punishment worse than death. With the agitation for a new trial, which shall be open and above-board, have come strange disclosures, charges, and counter-charges. The Government have taken up what can only be regarded as an "extraordinary position." They have protested too much, and outside France the impression grows that Dreyfus is a much-injured individual. To Englishmen it is the attitude of the French people generally that is so astonishing. The mob supports the army in its desire for secrecy and injustice, while the friends of Dreyfus, who merely ask that he shall not be condemned unheard and without a fair trial, are but a handful, though, it is true, that handful consists of the most intellectual and cultivated men in France. One very bad phase of the matter is that the opponents of a new trial have appealed to the worst instincts of the worst classes in France by making the cry against Dreyfus an anti-Jewish one generally. The cry of the mob, "Down with the Jews!" has been raised throughout the country. At Algiers a Jew has been killed;

the present carved pedestal being work of Grinling Gibbons. After the execution of Charles, Parliament ordered the statue to be sold for old brass and broken up. It was purchased by a brazier, named Rivers, but, instead of breaking it up, he buried it in his garden, and disposed of many times the weight of the statue in pieces of old brass, which the defeated cavaliers prized as sacred. At the Restoration, Rivers dug up the statue, which Parliament purchased at a high figure. In the year her Majesty came to the throne some curiosity hunter stole the sword. The present sword is therefore two hundred years younger than the statue. Yet the most notable current event in connection with the memory of the unfortunate king will be the solemn service to-morrow, a quarter of an hour after noon, at St. Margaret Pattens, Rood-lane. The music will consist of Gounod's Mass, "Sacré Cœur," Mendelssohn's "Be thou faithful unto death," and Foster's "Souls of the righteous." Altar lights, vestments, and incense are usual at this church, and will add to the attractiveness of the service, at which numerous members of the "Order of the White Rose," as present-day Jacobites call themselves, will be present.

Intending emigrants who have a little capital to invest are now advised to try Canada and Western Australia. A communication to *Lloyd's* from Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the High Commissioner for Canada, states that Canadians are much gratified at the increasing interest shown by the United Kingdom in their affairs, and they hope to see an influx of British settlers and capital to cultivate the large areas of fertile vacant land in the Dominion. The classes in demand are persons with capital for investment, farmers, farm labourers, and domestic servants. Free grants of land or Crown grants at low prices are offered to farmers, farm labourers can rely upon getting employment, and domestic servants are greatly needed. All information will be afforded at the office of the High Commissioner, 17, Victoria-street, London, S.W. With regard to Western Australia, new ground is being opened up by various railway lines. The immediate south-west is well watered, heavily timbered, and possesses a fine temperate climate. The desirable emigrants are farmers with capital, who are accustomed to mixed farming, and farm labourers with plenty of pluck and energy. Two pamphlets describing the colony have been issued, and are full of most interesting and valuable information. They may be obtained with any other information desired from the Agent-General for Western Australia, 15, Victoria-street, Westminster.

The closing fête previous to the rebuilding of the Horniman Free Museum and Pleasure gardens, at Forest-hill, yesterday, attracted large crowds of pleasure-seekers. In the gardens, gaily decorated with flags and Chinese lanterns, two brass bands were playing, and balloons were sent up. There was also a big bonfire, fireworks, and a phonograph exhibition. The curator was in attendance, and explained to parties the various objects of interest in the museum. The Elizabethan bed-room, with its old carved bedsteads and cabinets,