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Lettre de S. Brownsmith à Émile Zola du 13 septembre 1899

Auteur(s) : Brownsmith, S.

Les folios

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

3 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[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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13 Sep 1899
Mr. E. Zolla

Dear Sir

I am not a Roman Catholic
but I know many & I will
tell you what was said
to me a few days ago by
a Roman Catholic priest
on the Dreyfus matter.

He said that to a large
extent the French Roman
Catholic priesthood are
of peasant parentage.

That they are as regards
general information &
general education the
most ignorant men
in Europe, that their
education has been a

2
Theological test book teaching
their acquirements ^{to enable them to pass} have been
just sufficient, a purposely
narrowed & limited training
= tend to fit them for the
work for which the Church
intends them. That their minds
are narrowed & cramped
& that the Education devoted
for them is intended to produce
this result. That these men
who accept the dictum of
their superiors, not daring
to think for themselves, have
undoubtedly, upon reflection,
forsook amongst the people
a anti-Dryden sentiment.

They believe Dryden to
be a Jesuit & that
guilty or not guilty
that fact alone justifies
his condemnation and

perish ~~men~~ and that is why so
large a majority in France approves
the verdict. My Roman Catholic
acquaintances are to a man shocked
& horrified that men who are of their
own religion can in deliberate conspiracy
lie, forge, interpolate, conspire
to what is dishonourable, detestable
& criminal & for what to save their
HONOUR, the Army's honour
Ah! Mr. Zola, you must alter the
Education of the young in ^{France} ~~the~~. How can men
know what honour is if they are taught
from infancy that they must always
say what is soft & sweet & pleasant with
a view to please even at the cost of
every word they utter being a falsehood
You, Sir, are the prophet of the French
to day. Prophesy then to France that
there is & can be no honour where there is
no truth, that corruption, & lying, and false
soft words, & kissing the cheeks of the pursers
you back like when her back is turned,
all this is the antithesis of honour. ~~But~~
J. Newton Smith