

## Lettre de David Christie Murray à Émile Zola du 31 décembre 1897

**Auteur(s) :** Christie Murray, David

### Les folios

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

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[affaire Dreyfus](#)

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## Présentation

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Date d'envoi [1897-12-31](#)

Adresse Glan y Dow, Pensarn, near Abergale

## Information générales

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## Informations éditoriales

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X 98  
GLAN Y DOW,  
PENSARN,  
NEAR ABERGELE.

December 31<sup>st</sup> 1897

Dear Sir.

It is very probable that my name may not be known to you, although in England I have my own modest stature and am now beginning to be something of a veteran as a man of letters. But I am moved to address you by the profound interest I have long taken in the case of Captain Drayton. A few weeks ago, an article appeared in the Strand Magazine in which fac similes of the incriminating letter attributed to that unfortunate officer were printed side by side with the fac similes of letters undoubtedly written by him. For twenty years at least I have made a study of what I may venture to describe as the moral physiognomy of handwriting, and I am most positively persuaded that these so-called letters are not, and cannot have been, written by the same hand. I ventured to write to Mr. Holt-Scholefield the author of the article in question, and I learned from him that twelve experts in handwriting to whom the examples had been submitted for examination were of the same opinion. These twelve experts are men of varying notability and were separately consulted. Their verdict is unanimous.

The case of the unhappy Captain Drayton is not one which concerns France alone. The civilised world is the tribunal before which he is called, and France herself is side by side with him at the bar of Justice.

In a month from now I return to London, where it is my intent to exhibit the attention of literary England in this cause. I propose to exhibit, by means of the oxy-hydrogen light, letter by letter, word by word, and line by line, the real and the attributed writings side by side, in a highly-magnified form. I propose to call the attention of the press of London to the question, and to invoke all men of authority on questions of handwriting to offer a candid opinion.

My apology for addressing you is easily expressed. As a petty officer in Her most gracious army of letters in which you are a commander I desire to fight under your flag in this cause.

CLAUDE DUM  
PENSARIN  
NEAR ABERGEGE,

My purpose, after this long preamble, is to ask if, and how, more examples of the known and undisputed handwriting of Captain Drayton may be procured.

I read and speak your own language with sufficient ease, but I have not dared to trouble you in a tongue of which you are so great a master. I tell you this, because I do not wish you to be at any trouble to respond in English if you should do me the very great honor of answering me at all.

I have taken the liberty to instruct my publishers to send you a copy of mine relating to current fiction in England.

I am, dear Sir, with profound respect

Yours very truly

John Cleland

31/12/92