

Lettre de G. N. Gattie à Émile Zola du 5 septembre 1898

Auteur(s) : Gattie, G. N.

Les folios

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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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124. Drakefell Road,
Hatcham. S.E. London
5th Sept. 1898.

Monsieur Maurice Emile Zola,

Dear Sir,

At the risk of being thought intrusive, allow me to congratulate you, on your prospective victory in the Cause of Justice.

I have however another motive in venturing to address you.

Would you be surprised to hear that the case of Capt. Dreyfus is not unique, and that I am myself suffering from the abuse of power, and the Contempt of Justice, of my accusers. *Mutatis mutandis* — for French officers, read Bank of England Directors, and for Dreyfus, myself.

In both cases the accusers have taken a false step, and in both cases they have not the courage to admit their error, and prefer perpetrating an iniquity. While in both cases they have administered the greatest punishment in their power.

But in my case the iniquity is more flagrant, because I have been proved innocent of the Criminal Charge, in a Criminal Court.

In these circumstances I have ventured to send you the inclosed.

Should the case interest you, I would ask you to first read my letter to the Director dated 2nd June 1892, and if you are

Yours truly

still interested, to read my pamphlet.

There are necessarily many links, wanting in the chain of Events, in the interval between the date of the pamphlet and my letter, but there I can supply should you have a desire to inquire further.

Perhaps as another circumstance by way of excuse for this intrusion, I may venture to quote an approach to a common nationality.

My mother, née Audibert, was a French subject at the time of the great revolution, her father shown an Avocat & member of the National Assembly, having escaped from France to this Country, leaving every thing behind him for his book, & died here while compiling a Dictionary in French English & Italian — and — strange to say, my paternal ancestors a few generations back came from Tuscany.

I have always felt proud of my Connection with France, & specially as the home of Chivalry. — Where are the Bayards now?

Finding that redress was not within the scope of the law, owing to certain conditions of service in the Bank, to say nothing of the mounting of popular prejudice in its favour, I made several attempts to get the Press to take up my case

case, including Mr. Labouchere of 'Isthm', but they all seemed to fear the power that he, my object being to bring my case under the notice of the whole body of Bank Stock Proprietors, who elect the Directors as their representatives, and my belief being that if the Proprietors knew the facts they would repudiate at once the in-
equitable act of their nominee. — They have the power by the articles of association.

I am the more surprised at the apathy of the Grep, because I belong to a literary family, and am myself an amateur litterateur. My name is well known in the political world, to all the prominent men of both parties, including Lord Salisbury, and from 1867 I have been at intervals a correspondent of the Gladstones.

Now the possibility has occurred to me as you are so prominent a champion of Justice, which is not simply a national right, but also Cosmopolitan, that you might be disposed to influence some of your literary friends in this Country in my favour, and inculcate them with your Cause.

Is such a course within your reach?

Expressing a hope that you will kindly consider the cause as conveying a sufficient apology for this letter

Yours faithfully
John Addis
J. Addis