

Lettre de M. Guerpillon à Émile Zola datée du 28 septembre 1898

Auteur(s) : Guerpillon

Transcription

Texte de la lettreMonsieur Zola,

Cher Monsieur,

Les Français sensés d'Amérique se réjouissent beaucoup de voir venir ce succès que vous méritiez si bien. Nous voudrions pouvoir vous en exprimer notre reconnaissance, à vous surtout qui avez tant souffert, et puis à vos deux autres piliers de la vérité, trois noms qui sont gravés dans nos cœurs. Vous avez sauvé la France d'un danger bien pire que l'invasion Allemande. Grâce à vous, M. Zola, grâce à M. Brisson, grâce à M. Scheurer-Kestner , nous n'aurons bientôt plus à rougir de notre cher pays !

Agréez mes salutations bien affectueuses,

Signature : M. Guerpillon et d'autres,

Mountain Station,

Orange,

N. J.

Mrs Door.

Le 28 sept 1898.

Les folios

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

3 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[Dreyfus](#), [soutien](#)

Relations

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Présentation

GenreCorrespondance

Date d'envoi1898-09-28

AdresseMountain Station, Orange, N. J.

Description & Analyse

DescriptionSoutien dans l'affaire Dreyfus, soulagement de pouvoir être fier de son pays.

Notesoui, coupure de journal « The Vindication of France »

Information générales

LangueFrançais

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Éléments codicologiques Lettre originale, sans enveloppe, une feuille dont le recto et le verso sont utilisés.

Informations éditoriales

Éditeur de la ficheCentre 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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Lieu de dépôtCollection famille Émile-Zola

Contributeur(s)Cantiran, Élise

Notice créée par [Richard Walter](#) Notice créée le 06/11/2018 Dernière modification le 21/08/2020

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Monsieur Zola,

Cher Monsieur,

Les Français sensés
d'Amérique se réjouissent beaucoup
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Après nos salutations bien affectueuses,

M. Guenepillon et d'autres,

Mountain Station.

Orange.

N. J.

Sp. Mrs. Dorr.

Le 28 Sept. 1898.

THE VINDICATION OF FRANCE.

"We are a people yet." So says the truer voice of France. So yesterday declared the Government of France. That is the meaning of the Ministry's decision to revise the Dreyfus case. Not all of it, of course. It may mean much to the sorely stricken prisoner of Devil's Island, and much, though of far different kind, to various men in France; and it certainly means much to Emile Zola, justifying what seemed to some his quixotry in transforming the muck-rake into the knightly lance. But the whole includes all parts, and so the chiefest meaning of it is the vindication of French honor and France justice, the defence of the free French Republic against the insidious attacks of despotism, the salvation of France itself as a people and a nation. Those are objects of so vast significance to all the world that all the world may well rejoice in their attainment.

In his letter entitled "I Accuse!"—the literary work upon which his greatest fame should rest—M. Zola demanded that light be turned upon the obscure and wilfully hidden details of the Dreyfus case. That was the gist, the climax of his appeal. For making that demand

he was reviled, threatened with murder, judicially condemned. But to-day the demand is granted. A commission appointed by the Minister of Justice advises it. The Government of France commands it. And the very mob of Paris that yesterday raised the raucous howl, "Conspuez Zola!" to-day applauds it and shouts for Brisson and for revision. It is a marvellous spectacle, or would be if in France marvels were not commonplace. As for the waning opposition, it is a sight for gods and men. The unspeakable Esterhazy, confessing, recanting his confession, and repudiating his recantation with kinetoscopic speed; Rochefort, avowing that Esterhazy is hired by Dreyfus to commit perjury; Drumont, demanding a second St. Bartholomew's against the Jews—such are they who would clap an extinguisher upon the light of justice.

The case now goes to the highest court in France, to be reviewed in daylight. There will be no secret testimony before that tribunal, and there will be no bullying of the judges by bravos from the camps. The inquisitorial methods of the Dreyfus trial and the brute brawlings and mockery of justice of the Zola trial will have no place before that tribunal. The truth will be revealed, and justice will be done. Of that we may be assured. And of this, too, we may feel confident, that there will be no foreign war, no universal cataclysm, as a result of the revelations, such as the enemies of revision have freely prophesied. There will be shown no compromising letters from Kings and Emperors, unless the output of the Esterhazy Forgery Syndicate. But when a few stout knocks upset the figure of the Giant Blunderbore, we shall find it to be a hollow, painted effigy, worked with strings and made to squeak and grimace by a few petty, malignant dwarfs. There is no danger in smashing the wretched thing. The danger was in fearing it and in bowing down before it until the brow of the French Republic, which should be crowned with radiant stars, was pressed into the mire.

Whatever come of it, it was a good day's work for France, the work of yesterday. It vindicates her title to a place among civilized nations. It proves that she is a civil republic and not a military despotism. For that good work a few brave men are chiefly to be thanked; such men as Scheurer-Kestner, and Zola, and Brisson. Upon if the whole French nation is to be congratulated.