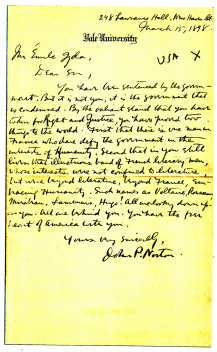

Yale University

March 15, 1898.

Mr Émile Zola,

USA X

Dear Sir,

You have been sentenced by the government. But it is not you, it is the government that is condemned. By the cabinet stand that you have taken, through it and against you, you have proved to the world, first that there is one man in France who does defy the government in the interests of humanity; second that in you still live that adventurous band of French literary men, whose interests were not confined to literature but were beyond literature, beyond France, embracing humanity; such names as Voltaire, Rousseau, Montaigne, Hugo. All authority down upon you. Bell me behind you. You have the free sympathy of America with you.

Yours very sincerely,

John P. Norton.

ÉditeurCentre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).
Mentions légales

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