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December 18th, 1897.

Dear Sir:-

The World, acting upon information received from its London correspondent, is leading a movement to re-open the celebrated case of Captain Dreyfus, now a prisoner on Devil's Island, to which he was deported some three years ago under the sentence of a French court-martial. It believes that justice requires that this man should have the benefit of a new and fairer trial.

Public opinion in Europe is rapidly forming in support of this re-hearing of the case. American opinion is now influential in Europe in such matters. There is, indeed, a world's public opinion in these days which has great weight upon the public opinion of individual nations.

The World seeks your aid in support of this movement for justice. As a military man, with full knowledge of the usual practice of courts-martial, your opinion on the regularity and fairness of the trial of Captain Dreyfus, would have weight in the public mind.

Enclosed you will find a brief, covering all the facts in the case that have been made publicly known.

We are asking many representative officers, who have served in the army or the navy of the United States, to read this brief, and send to us, for publication, their answers, with reasons, to the following question:

Was Captain Dreyfus fairly tried and justly convicted by the court-martial held at Paris on Dec. 19, 1894?

Your early answer to this question, for publication together with those of other distinguished American military and naval officers to whom we have sent a similar request, will be esteemed as a great favor.

Of course we shall expect to pay liberal compensation for the service we ask of you.

Yours very truly,

Major General O. O. Howard,
Burlington,

James W. Clarke

For the Sunday World.

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James W. Belmont

For the Sunday World.

Chief General C. O. Howard,
Washington,

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THE DREYFUS CASE.



The Dreyfus case is exciting all Europe. The belief is gaining ground in Paris and elsewhere generally that Capt. Dreyfus—charged with treason to France, in whose army he was an officer, found guilty by a court-martial three years ago, and deported by its order to Devil's Island, where he is kept in solitary confinement and closely guarded—is the victim of conspiracy. The court-martial was a secret tribunal. The precise charge against Dreyfus has never been made known. All that is known of the proceedings is what has leaked out from behind the closed doors of the court-martial. The following is, therefore, the best summary that can be given of them.

I.—THE ACCUSATION.

Albert Dreyfus was a captain attached to France's Fourteenth Regiment of Artillery and was detailed to duty at the Ministry of War in Paris. The trial was secret and the precise charge against him was not allowed to leak out.

When the court-martial convened in Paris, Dec. 19, 1894, Advocate Demange, pleading for Dreyfus in the argument over whether the trial should be public or not, said:

"The accusation is based on a single document."

Immediately the Colonel presiding over the court interrupted sternly with:

"Soldiers, clear the hall and place sentinels at the door!"

Many guesses have been made as to the charges, but nothing positive is known outside of the select few concerned in the trial, and their mouths are sealed.

In a general way, however, it is known that Dreyfus was charged with selling to an agent of Germany a certain document conveying information regarding the French army.

II.—THE EVIDENCE.

The "single document" Advocate Demange referred to as being the basis of the accusation was a letter. This letter, the prosecution alleged, was recovered in some way from the German agent to whom it had been sold, and it was claimed that the letter was in Dreyfus's handwriting.

M. Bernard Lazare, counsellor for the defense of Dreyfus, has made public the following statement of facts, and they have not been denied by the Government. The unsigned letter said to have been written by Dreyfus read as follows:

"Without news, indicating that you wish to see me, I send you meanwhile, monsieur, several interesting pieces of information.

"1. A note on the hydraulic brake of the 120th, and the manner in which it is used.

"2. A note on the covering troops (several modifications will be made by the new plan.)

"3. A note on the modifications of the artillery formation.

"4. A note relative to Madagascar.

"5. The project of the firing manual of the field artillery (14th of March, 1894.)

"This last document is extremely difficult to procure, and I can only have it at my disposal for a few days. The Ministry of War has sent a fixed number to the corps, and these corps are responsible for them, each officer having one must return it after the manoeuvres. If, therefore, you wish to take from it what interests you and keep it at my disposition afterward, I will obtain it. Unless you wish that I should copy it in extenso and send you the copy.

"I am going to start for the manoeuvres."

"How did this document fall in the hands of the Government?" continues M. Lazare. "According to more or less truthful stories it was found in the waste paper basket of the German Embassy with other paper that the servant was accustomed to sell to peddlers, who were no other than agents of the Information Bureau of the Minister of War. This note was written on a single sheet of a special filigree paper, of which no specimen was found in the house of Capt. Dreyfus. The paper was of a kind that is used for tracing. The sheet was torn in four irregular pieces, which were carefully pasted together by means of bands placed behind.

"That the value of this document might be serious, it was necessary," says M. Lazare, "not only that the experts should recognize that it was written by Dreyfus, but also to show that he had in hand the documents enumerated or that he possessed the necessary knowledge to furnish a memorandum on each of them. Now the Commissary of the Government, Commandant Brisset, has admitted that in the course of the trial no proofs could be furnished on this point."

It is admitted that, on this note alone, bearing no signature, and which the majority of the experts in handwriting (including the eminent expert, David N. Carvalho, of New York) pronounced to be an imitation only of Dreyfus's writing, Dreyfus would not probably have been convicted, but for the testimony of Gen. Mercier.

Gen. Mercier communicated to the Judges a docu-

ment which, according to him, established the guilt of Capt. Dreyfus. The existence of this document, unknown to the accused, unknown to his counsel, Gen. Mercier himself has revealed to everybody. He did this in the newspaper the Eclair on Sept. 15, 1896. According to the Eclair, it was a letter in cipher written by a German military attache in Paris to an Italian military attache and containing this phrase: "Decidedly this animal Dreyfus is becoming too exacting." These details are, says M. Lazare, inaccurate. Gen. Mercier communicated to the newspaper information that was partly false. The letter submitted to the Council of War was not in cipher; it was written in French and contained not the name Dreyfus, but the initial D.

"Is it likely," asks M. Lazare, "that this German military attache, having succeeded in winning from his Government a captain of the general staff, a precious agent, whom he would safeguard, would hasten to speak of him in a letter when he would naturally fear to make the slightest allusion to such an assistant?"

III.—THE DEFENSE.

Capt. Dreyfus not only denied that he wrote the letter, but he maintained that he did not even understand what it referred to.

The letter was submitted to five experts in chiromancy. Two pronounced it Dreyfus's handwriting, while three testified that it was only an imitation of his writing, giving as their reasons for arriving at this conclusion that certain words—the word "artillery" was one—were written in an identical way, whereas, the experts said, nobody ever writes anything without making slight changes in forming letters.

But Dreyfus was condemned, nevertheless. The preponderance of expert testimony was in his favor, but he was convicted and promptly sentenced to be deported and to be confined in a prison for life.

IV.—THE ATTRIBUTED MOTIVE.

Cupidity was the motive, it was presumed. Yet Dreyfus's wife had a fortune in her own right and Dreyfus himself was in easy circumstances aside from his salary.

Some of his prosecutors, or persecutors perhaps, tried to make it appear that under professed loyalty to France lurked a real devotion to Germany. They pointed to his name and to the fact that he was born in Alsace.

It is true that he is a native of Alsace, but when that territory was wrested from France by Germany his love of France prompted him to leave his childhood's home forever and take up his residence among the French.

V.—HUMILIATION.

Dreyfus was dragged upon the Champs de Mars Jan. 5, 1895. By order of Gen. Saussier, military Governor of Paris, no foreign correspondent was permitted to witness the final scene before banishment for life.

Troops were drawn up in a hollow square, and the condemned captain was hustled into their midst. He was in uniform, and wore all the insignia of his rank.

An adjutant—an officer inferior in rank—stepped up to him, snatched his cap off and tore from it the marks of rank.

"Vive la France!" shouted Dreyfus.

His sword was jerked from him and broken.

"Vive la France!" cried Dreyfus.

His patriotic conduct under the most trying of all circumstances to a man of sensitive honor aroused profound emotion even among those who were degrading him.

Then Dreyfus, bareheaded and cheering for France, his uniform in tatters and stripped of its gold lace and buttons, was led handcuffed along the front of the troops and, amid their execration, was drummed out of the army.

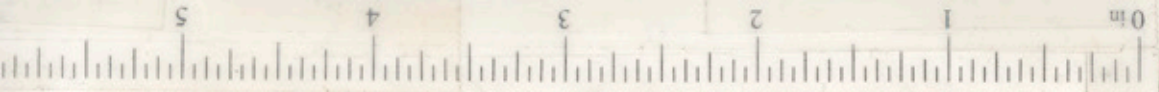
A month later Dreyfus was transported to Devil's Island, off French Guiana.

REOPENING THE CASE.

The case has been recently reopened by the announcement (made through The World's London correspondent) that an officer of the German general staff, whose knowledge of the secret service in France was intimate, had declared that no such information as Dreyfus was convicted of selling to the German Government, ever reached it.

M. Scheuerer-Kestner, Vice-President of the French Senate and a man of the highest probity, has publicly declared that he has absolute proofs of the innocence of Dreyfus, and is ready to produce them at the proper time.

M. Zola, the celebrated author, has also publicly proclaimed his belief that Dreyfus has been unjustly condemned.



THE DREYFUS CASE

The Dreyfus Case is a famous case in French history. It was a case of a Jewish officer, Alfred Dreyfus, who was accused of being a spy for Germany. He was convicted in 1894 and sentenced to life imprisonment. The case was a major scandal in France and led to the creation of the League for Human Rights.

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Chas. R. Otis,
88 Buena Vista Avenue,
Monkera, N. Y.

You Recd Dec 18th 1897

4127

Genl O Howard

Dear Genl. I enclose herewith
25 leaflets containing the articles, "Don't withhold
it" & "Sin carries sorrow with it," which you handed
me and also: "Alone with my conscience." They seem
to me to constitute a very good combination well
calculated to set an unconverted one to thinking.

I have had a large number of them printed with
the view to enclose them one by one in my letters
in the hope that they may do some good. I shall
be glad to send you more if you will use them.
Miss Otis has rec'd & very kind note from your daugh-
ter which she will answer in due time with
a invitation to you all to make our house your
home whenever you can. The High School were much
pleased & quite enthusiastic when I rec'd them your letter
the next morning. They have had it framed & it will hereafter
constitute one of the prettiest feature of their study hall.
With kind regards & best wishes to
you & yours I am very truly
Chas R Otis

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John B. Allen
88 Queen's Hotel
Albany, N. Y.

Received Dec 18 1897
V 127

Dear Genl. J. V. Chamberlain
I have had a large number of them printed with
the view to circulate them one in my letter
- the hope that they may do some good. I shall
be glad to send you more if you will use them.
The other has had a very fine result from your
letter which has well answered in the time with
invitation to you all to make our home your
home wherever you can. The high school were found
themselves quite enthusiastic when I read they were
the first to receive the book and I am sure it will benefit
the whole of the population of this city.

Burlington Dec 20th 1897

Gen O O Howard

Dear Sir

This is what I wish to impart
to you It was to the size of
this piece of property joining south of
Mr H R Wing if you thought it suitable
in size view Festival Events
to place a first class Military Hotel
upon it the Place to be name Thompson
Place this is my thought if you get 12
Men to subscribe one hundred dollars each
making twelve hundred dollars.
then one hundred dollar a year during my life

One word of my self

Born at Quasabe Forks Jan 18th 1832

My Father Alexander Thompson

Came to Burlington Feb 1834

Entered the Emplon as Mixer at the
Glass Ivory works April 1834

Occupied a tenement in the Barrack April
1834 lived there till it caught fire and
burnt I think in March

My Father bought this place whilst living in
in the Barrack

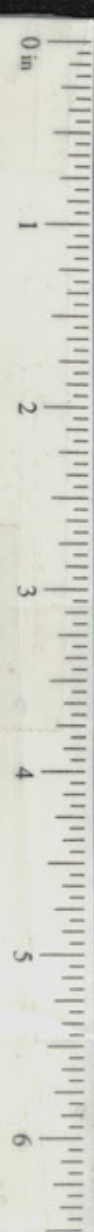
This property against line fence was only
~~by~~ a driveway from the Barrack wood
shed door

It is why I feel that a Military

Hotel would be most appropriate
for the place suitable to Entertain

Most highly distinguished guest

Yours truly Mrs Elizabeth T Kirby



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88 Buena Vista Ave. ¹

Conkors N.Y. Mond^y Dec 20th 1917

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Genl. O. O. Howard.

Burlington Vt.

My dear General.

Some years ago while in England I picked up a stray book of miscellaneous selections and in it was the following poem. It purported to be a translation from the German, and the authorship was ascribed to Heinrich Heine.

I was so struck with its great beauty that I wanted it in the original and looked through various libraries in Europe for it but without avail. Some years later the poem was published in Steadman's Library of American Literature under the name of Richard Ralph as the author. I then remembered that many years before, I had seen a fugitive notice of the life and death of "Richard Ralph the poet and journalist of Pittsburg Pa", which had been his earlier home, but later in California where he died. That his wife was a vicious woman and led him a purgatorial life in Pittsburg until she got possession of all his manuscripts

My dear General.
 Some years ago while in England
 I picked up a stray book of miscellaneous selections
 and in it was the following poem. It happened
 to be a translation from the German, and the
 authorship was ascribed to Thomas Moore.
 I was so struck with its great beauty that I sent
 it in the original and looked through
 various libraries in Europe for it but without
 avail. Some years later the poem was published
 in the Library of American Literature
 under the name of Richard Hoff as the
 author. I then remembered that many
 years before I had seen a fugitive notice
 of the life and death of Richard Hoff, the
 first and journalist of Philadelphia, who had
 been his earlier name, but later in California
 where he died. That his wife was a serious
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 Philadelphia until she got possession of all his manuscripts

Burlington Vt.
 Wm. D. O. Howard.

88 Avenue Hotel New York
 (London 178 March 18 1874)

and burned them, when he turned over² to
her every thing he had ^{and} left her ¹³² for California,
then finding work as a journalist. She got
on his track, ran him down and drove him
to a suicide's grave. The contrast of the
life of the poet with the sentiment of the
poem is not less striking than its great beauty.

I have never seen it in print except in
the two instances cited, and write it out
from memory. Hoping you may find it
a source of as great pleasure as I have
I am with all the best wishes of this glad
Christmas Season.

Respectfully yours,
J. R. Nichols.

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to a suicide's grave. The content of the
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poem is not life striking than its great beauty.
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from memory. Hoping you may find it
a source of as great pleasure as I have
I am with all the best wishes of this glad
Christmas season.

Respectfully yours,
J. P. Richard.

OFFICE OF
Elliot B. Watson, M. D.,
WILLIAMSTOWN, VT.

Williamstown, Vt., Dec. 2/1897.

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✓
Hon. C. Howard.

Dear Sir,

We are endeavoring to provide a course of entertainment for the coming season. We are laboring under the disadvantages of being late in the season and being a small town.

We have felt that if we could make a success of our work the coming season, which is the first time it has been undertaken, we might be able to raise more money another year.

We would be pleased, if you

could lecture for me, the
evening of Jan. 12.

We cannot pay over twenty
five dollars (\$25)

Please write us your earliest
convenience. We shall be
very much pleased to secure
your services, as you have
been highly spoken of to us
as a lecturer.

Yours respectfully,

E. B. Watson

Per A. P. W.