EDITORIAL NOTE

Biographical details

For individuals mentioned in more than one document, an asterisk * at first appearance denotes an entry in the biographical appendix. Biographical details are supplied for other individuals as and when they appear.

Undated letters

The vast majority of documents left undated by their authors have been placed in chronological order by context, inference, or other information. In the Malmesbury papers, however, a few letters remain without an obvious chronological location. In those instances, we have been guided by folio order.

Addresses of correspondents

Where the author of the letter gave an address, or it is identifiable from the letterhead, the address is given. Otherwise, no address is listed.

Glossary

Some terms were regularly used by correspondents, but require explanation:

F.O.: Foreign Office
H.M.: His/Her Majesty
HMG: Her Majesty's Government
Lord B/Ld B [from 1876]: Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli)[1]
L.N./L. Nap: Louis Napoleon, i.e. Emperor Napoleon III
Pam: Lord Palmerston

[1]Although Disraeli was created the Earl of Beaconsfield in 1876, in editorial notes he is referred to as Disraeli throughout.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116312000073 Published online by Cambridge University Press

R.C.: Roman Catholic
Schou: Count Shuvalov, the Russian ambassador
Servia: Serbia
tel: telegram

Where the 'powers' or 'great powers' are referred to collectively in notes, those powers are Austria (later Austria-Hungary), France, Prussia (later Germany), and Russia.

Spelling/punctuation

The spelling from the original documents has been retained; so, too, has the punctuation, except where it has occasionally been necessary to assume a mark for the sake of clarity. Malmesbury, in particular, used an all-purpose dash of his pen, thus – to represent commas, full stops, colons, and semi-colons. These dashes have been retained, and the reader may decide which was intended. The correspondents were erratic in their use of punctuation, spelling, and diacritics (for example, Brunnöw might appear with or without an umlaut even in the same letter, as in letter **9**). In all cases, the form has been retained as in the original letters.

Ellipses and paragraph breaks

All editorial omissions are indicated by ellipses in square brackets, thus: [. . .]. All paragraph breaks follow those in the original letters.

Contractions

Contracted words have been expanded, except for common words whose meaning is clear. In case of any doubt, these are as follows:

cd/c^{d}: could
Govt/gov^{t}: government
Ld/L^{d}: Lord
shd/sh^{d}: should
wd/w^{d}: would
wh:/w^{h}: which
yr/y^{r}: your

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