

EDITORIAL NOTE

The text has been transcribed from the original manuscript in the Devonshire collection at Chatsworth, Derbyshire. As it survives the manuscript does not have the appearance of a diary, consisting as it does of loose, folded sheets, mostly uniform in size, without covers. The outer page, however, carries the author's note, 'Memoranda on State of Affairs', and following the first 15 pages, which comprise scattered notes on political events, 1754-9, and thumb-nail sketches of Devonshire's contemporaries in the public world, the manuscript assumes its diary form with the entry for September 1759, the point at which the text printed below begins. At some stage the 'Memoranda', although many pages contain the first person singular, had become mixed up with the 4th Duke of Devonshire's political correspondence. We and other scholars on visits to Chatsworth have therefore found sections of the manuscript which have been pieced together after a dispersal the nature of which is not now discoverable. There is reason to believe that Sir Lewis Namier and Romney Sedgwick knew of the existence of some sort of personal account but not of the present diary to anything like its full extent.

In general our policy has been to make the text as readable as possible with a minimum of alteration. Devonshire's original spelling has been retained, particularly of proper names; the correct or modern version has been given in a footnote. He was not consistent, even over the name of Lord Chancellor the Earl of Hardwicke, one of his closest friends, to whom he indiscriminately referred with or without the terminal 'e'. Abbreviations, however, usual in eighteenth-century documents, have been expanded; where Devonshire wrote 'D. of N.' we have printed 'Duke of Newcastle'. Capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing has followed modern practice rather than the author's. Throughout Devonshire employed the ampersand which we have replaced by the conjunction.

A far greater problem has been set by Devonshire's frequent use of the masculine pronoun, in circumstances when the subject of the preceding sentence or clause cannot possibly be intended. Here we have explained the reference by adding in square brackets the name of the person he had in mind. All other insertions in square brackets are the editors'. Small slips made by the author have been silently corrected.

For the most part Devonshire used a facing page system, which allowed him to make additions on the left-hand page without disturbing the main text on the right. All such additions have been placed in

the text between asterisks, thus: ** . . **. Where he records events out of sequence we have restored the chronology; where he is wrong about a day of the week, the correct date is given and the fact noted. Underlining in the manuscript has been represented by italics in the text.