

## PREFACE

The preparation of Mr. de Schelking's manuscript for publication has been an interesting, if somewhat arduous task. When I was able to secure the manuscript from the hands of the censor, in Ottawa, I discovered that what Mr. de Schelking had meant and what the translation said were two different things, owing not to the fault of the translator but to the extreme difficulty of following the trend of another man's mind. In consequence, it was necessary to rewrite the whole manuscript and then to go most carefully through it with the author, all of which took considerable time. But the more familiar I became with the manuscript, the more fascinating the matter appeared to me. In fact, when the final copies were dispatched to the publishers, I quite regretted that, for the time being at least, my connection with the work was over.

I think any one who reads the book will agree with me that it is one of the most fascinating human documents which has been published in recent years. Through it all there runs the personality of the author who throughout his diplomatic and journalistic careers, seems to have had a premonition that the weaknesses of the men who by birth or caprice