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History 133a

24 November 2015

## A British Diplomat Comments on The Austro-Prussian War

### 1. *The Diplomatic Reminiscences of Lord Augustus Loftus*

- a. This source is an excerpt from the 1892-1894 memoirs of Lord Augustus Loftus, who was the British Ambassador to Prussia in the mid 1860's. I was interested to hear what outsiders thought of Bismarck's bold diplomacy, but was also drawn to the source because it contained less German and would be more understandable to me. That being said, in keeping with political traditions of the time, Loftus regularly uses French diplomatic terminology. (GHDI)
- b. Life of Loftus
  - i. 4 October 1817 - 7 March 1904. Loftus's family was wealthy and politically connected. By the age of 20 he was working as an assistant to top politicians of the day. He continued to rise in the ranks and take on more responsibility. From 1853-1858 he acted as British ambassador in Berlin, before being named "envoy extraordinaire" to the Emperor of Austria. It was during this period that Loftus was ambassador to Prussia, famously visiting Berlin in 1866 in the aftermath of the Seven Weeks' War. Loftus then served as ambassador to St. Petersburg (Russia) from 1871-1879. In 1879, partially due his health and a need for dryer climate,

Loftus was appointed governor of New South Wales (a state within British Australia) but proved himself an incompetent administrator, if a skilled politician. (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*)

- c. The full transcript of his life as a diplomat, *The Diplomatic Reminiscences of Lord Augustus Loftus*, was published Cassel and Company Ltd. in 1892 in several volumes, each containing series of their own. I could not find any evidence that the complete set of his memoirs had been reprinted and bound as a whole. This piece is taken from the second series of the first volume, published in 1894, which covers the years 1862-1879. ([Google Books](#))
- d. The copy of the book which was scanned for Google Books was “Received” in 1911 by the Harvard Law Library—as a donation to Harvard from the private library of the Marques de Olivart ([Google Books](#)). It was actually part of a 14,000 volume bequest that made this Harvard’s the most complete law library in the world for many years (History of Special Collections).
- e. According to Google Scholar, Loftus’s memoir has been cited by 23 times, with two citations since 2013. Only eight of these references are within published works, however. The other results are only citations. Each date below signifies a text which cited Loftus’s work in that year. Most references appear in English, although the 1962 reference is from an Italian source.