

## EDITORIAL NOTE

We have chosen to present the letters with modernized orthography and punctuation, and we have extended most abbreviations in the interest of intelligibility. In no case have we interfered with the word order as written. We have provided only a minimum of notes, aimed primarily at identifying individuals mentioned in the letters. We assume that specialists will provide their own gloss on the text, while more casual readers may wish to consult the analysis and the far fuller notes of our companion volume, which offers an exhaustive but we hope not exhausting commentary on the subjects and the actions discussed in these letters. To make this volume complete in itself we have included a full list of manuscript sources, and indexes of names and subjects.

With a few exceptions, we have omitted the formalities of salutation at the start and at the end of the letters. Styles of dates and places of writing have been standardized. The absence of an address for a recipient of a letter means that it does not exist in the original. All editorial insertions in the text are indicated by square brackets; these include dates supplied by us on the basis of internal or other evidence. Excision of irrelevant material in the body of a letter is indicated by points . . . , and in a postscript by the editorial [PS omitted].

The *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* and the *Dictionary of National Biography* are referred to as *DSB* and *DNB*. The published Reports of the Annual Meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are referred to as Reports. Thus the *Report of the eighth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; held at Newcastle in August 1838* (London, 1839) is abbreviated as *1838 Report*. I. Todhunter, *William Whewell: An account of his writings with selections from his literary and scientific correspondence* (London, 1876), who printed some letters now lost, is referred to as Todhunter, *Whewell*.

Most individuals are identified on their first occurrence by a footnote giving full names together with dates of birth and death, brief biographical information, and/or citation of a standard source. Individuals described in the Biographical Appendix are referred to by surname only in the subsequent editorial matter.