THE BEGINNING OF THE POLISH INSURRECTION FROM NOVEMBER 1830,
IN THE VISION OF A BRITISH DIPLOMAT
(Summary)

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The outburst of the insurrection in Poland, on November 19th 1830, held the attention of the British diplomacy which tried to find out its causes and estimate its consequences on the European political system of that time, in general, and for the British interests, in particular. It was expected that Russia would use this opportunity to cancel the last concessions granted to the Poles by Alexander I, and to consolidate its position in the European political system. That is why the events in Poland were closely followed, even from their beginning, by the British Ambassador to St. Petersburg, William A’Court, Baron Heytesbury.

As a consequence, the author presented some of the information which this informed observer of the Polish political scene, dominated by the insurrection started in November 1830, offered in his reports. The value of these reports resides in the fact that their author explained the causes of the events and tried to draw the attention his superiors in the Foreign Office on their implications on the European political system and on the British policy in the Eastern Question. Thus, they can represent an important source of documentation for a deeper understanding of the history of the insurrection in Poland but also of the international relations in Europe, as they were at the beginning of the fourth decade of the 19th century. This is the reason which determined us to bring them in the scientific circuit.

The documents were found by the author in the British Library, from London, Department of Western Manuscripts, Ms. Add. 41.560.