## Contents

	Preface	page 1x
	A note on annotation, citation and translation	xi
	List of abbreviations	xii
	Map 1 The Carolingian world in the first half of the	
	ninth century	xvi
	Map 2 Louis's succession arrangement of 817	
	(the so-called Ordinatio imperii)	xviii
	Table 1 Pippin and Charlemagne	xix
	Table 2 The descendants of Louis the Pious I	xx
	Table 3 The descendants of Louis the Pious II	xxi
	Introduction: The penitential state	1
1	Louis the Pious (778–840)	14
	A boy who became a king	14
	Adolescentia	16
	The conquest of Aachen	19
	Dynasty	24
	Procreation	31
	Hludowicus Augustus	34
	Scapegoats and rebels	38
	Intermezzo	44
	833 and all that	46
	Restoration	50
	'The last years'	52
2	Ninth-century narratives	59
	The court and its narratives	59
	The message from inside: annals	63
	Imperial imagery: Einhard	67
	A bishop's view: Thegan	72
	The corridors of power: the Astronomer	79
	Poetic praise: Ermold the Black	89
	With hindsight: Nithard on Louis the Pious	96
	Looking back in anger: Radbert on Wala	102

## viii Contents

3	Administra competia increpatio	112
)	Admonitio, correptio, increpatio Criticising rulers	112
	The watchman for the house of Israel	114
	The vocabulary of admonition and sin	118
	Exaltation by admonition: Attigny, 822	122
	Royal admonition	131
	Admonition from beyond the grave	135
	From admonitio to increpatio	142
4	The wages of sin (828–829)	148
	Scapegoats: Matfrid and Hugh	148
	Clades: the offended deity	153
	The winter assembly of 828–829	157
	Letters from the palace	170
	A penitential council: Paris, 829	176
5	Purity and danger (830–831)	185
	The reputation of the palace	185
	The one and only queen	188
	Sexual slander	195
	Purity and danger	200
	Rebellion and restoration	205
6	Scandal and satisfaction (832-834)	214
	An unexpected visitor	214
	Debates on the Field of Lies	224
	Public sin and public penance	228
	The bishops argue their case	234
	The case against the bishops	241
	Penance and public humiliation	245
	Turning the tables	249
	Epilogue: The penitential state after Louis the Pious	260
	Appendix	271
	Bibliography: primary sources	280
	Bibliography: secondary sources	283
	Index of biblical references	305
	General index	306