

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Note on Citations</i>	xiii
Introduction: Locating Victorian Literature	1
Byron is Dead	1
Cultural Contexts	2
The Literary Field	11
An Age of Prose	14
The Situation of Poetry	19
Victorian Theater	21
The Novel After Scott	22
I “The Times are Unexampled”: Literature in the Age of Machinery, 1830–1850	27
Constructing the Man of Letters	27
The Burdens of Poetry	33
Theater in the 1830s	48
Fiction in the Early 1830s	50
Dickens and the Forms of Fiction	55
Poetry after the Annuals	66
Literature of Travel	70
History and Heroism	73
Social Crisis and the Novel	81

The Domestic Ideal	84
From Silver-Fork to Farce	86
Poetry in the Early 1840s	89
The Literature of Labor	95
Medievalism	98
“The Two Nations”	101
“What’s Money After All?”	111
Romance and Religion	116
The Novel of Development	123
Art, Politics, and Faith	127
<i>In Memoriam</i>	137
2 Crystal Palace and <i>Bleak House</i>: Expansion and Anomie, 1851–1873	143
The Novel and Society	145
Crimea and the Forms of Heroism	156
Empire	164
Spasmodics and Other Poets	168
The Power of Art	182
Realisms	187
Two Guineveres	194
Sensation	200
Dreams of Self-Fashioning	207
Narrating Nature: Darwin	215
Novels and their Audiences	218
Literature for Children	228
Poetry in the Early 1860s	232
Criticism and Belief	244
The Pleasures of the Difficult	250
The Hellenic Tradition	259
Domesticity, Politics, Empire, and the Novel	267
After Dickens	275
The Persistence of Epic	282
Poisonous Honey and Fleshly Poetry	286
3 The Rise of Mass Culture and the Specter of Decline, 1873–1901	293
Science, Materialism, and Value	296
Twilight of the Poetic Titans	305
The Decline of the Marriage Plot	314

The Aesthetic Movement	325
Aesthetic Poetry	329
Life-Writing	333
Morality and the Novel	342
Romance	351
Regionalism	356
The Arrival of Kipling	360
Fiction and the Forms of Belief	365
Sex, Science, and Danger	370
Fictions of the Artist	375
Decadence	377
Drama in the 1880s	381
The New Woman in Fiction	386
Decadent Form	394
The Poetry of London	400
Yeats	405
The Scandal of Wilde	408
Poetry After Wilde	411
Fictions of Decline	416
Conrad	423
<i>Epilogue</i>	429
<i>Works Cited</i>	435
<i>Index</i>	451