## Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgements	xv
1 An Impolite Society	1
2 Bucks, Beaux and 'Pinks of the Ton'	24
3 'The Seventh Heaven of the Fashionable World'	48
4 Relative Values: The Cost of Living	66
5 London: The Most Prosperous City in Europe	89
6 From the Seaside Resorts to the Northern Meeting	113
7 'A Mistress Had a Better Deal Than a Wife'	134
8 Clubs and Taverns: Gambling and Gluttony	157
9 The Age of Indulgence	176
10 The Pursuit of Pleasure	201
11 Charades and Epigrams: The Country House	225
12 Fashion, Manners and Mores: The New Liberalism	245
13 On the Eve of Reform	266
Selected Bibliography	290
Notes	296
Index	311