

CONTENTS

I. THE CONFIGURATION OF LAW AND LETTERS

- Prologue to Part I 3
1. In America the Law Is King 11
2. Mysterious Obligation: Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* 34
3. To Form a More Perfect Union 59

II. THE MAJOR WRITERS

- Prologue to Part II 87
4. The Post-Revolutionary Writers: Trumbull, Tyler, and Brackenridge 96
5. The Case of Charles Brockden Brown 129
6. Washington Irving Hunts Down the Nation 150
7. William Cullen Bryant: The Creative Context of the Poet 173

III. BREAKDOWN AND RESOLUTION

- Prologue to Part III 199
8. Daniel Webster: Counsel for the Defense 207
9. The Richard Henry Danas: Father and Son 241
10. End of the Configuration 273
- LINCOLN: AN EPILOGUE 305
- Notes 319
- Index 407