

Contents

1

Encounter

1

2

Romantic Inheritance

20

3

A Philosophy of Christmas

A Christmas Carol and *The Chimes* (1843–1845)

32

4

The World of Mammonism

Dombey and Son (1846–1848)

45

5

“Universal Social Gangrene”

Bleak House (1852–1853)

59

6

The Critique of Utility

Hard Times (1854)

78

7

Revolution

A Tale of Two Cities (1859)

100

8

Politics

129

9

Style

164

10

The Grotesque

189

11

Conclusion

225

Notes

229

Index

245