

**History, Abolition, and the
Ever-Present Now in Antebellum
American Writing**

Jeffrey Insko

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

{ CONTENTS }

Introduction: The Living Present 1

PART I Deformations of History

1. Diedrich Knickerbocker, Regular Bred Historian 29
2. Unhistorical Fictions: Sedgwick and Neal 56

PART II Reformations of the Present

3. Emerson's Strong Present Tense 93
4. Frederick Douglass's Historical Turn 127
5. *Israel Potter*; or, Hither and Thither History 154
- Coda: #StayWoke 182

Endnotes 195

Index 251