

Contents

List of illustrations vii

1. What do you think of predestination now? 1
2. A bull or a bear? 15
3. The idol of the age 27
4. Hay day 41
5. The prose of gold 49
6. Waiting for the day 61
7. The great Scriblerus 67
8. The Germans are coming! 74
9. Bubbles in the air 83
10. The invisible hand 95
11. Consuming passions 110
12. The What D'Ye Call It? 122
13. The dead ear 133
14. Mother Geneva 144
15. The pack of cards 156
16. What shall I do? 162
17. Do or die 169
18. The violists 174
19. A call for liberty 178
20. Here we are again! 188
21. The broad bottom 199

- 22. The magical machines 213
- 23. Having a tea party 228
- 24. The schoolboy 247
- 25. The steam machines 257
- 26. On a darkling plain 281
- 27. Fire and moonlight 295
- 28. The red bonnet 298
- 29. The mad kings 321
- 30. The beast and the whore 329
- 31. A Romantic tale 342
- 32. Pleasures of peace 347

Further reading 373

Index 385