

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	i
1 The Victorian Idyll	12
2 George Sand and Mary Mitford: Politics and Poetry	59
3 Elizabeth Gaskell: History and Fiction	77
4 George Eliot: <i>Adam Bede</i> – the Bounds of the Idyll	120
5 Thomas Hardy: Character and Environment	167
6 Conclusion: A Reflective Mirror	209
<i>Notes</i>	226
<i>Index</i>	240