

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	
In the Work of Their Hands Is Their Prayer <i>Desire, History, and the Drama of the American Frontiers</i>	I
1 “Necessary Nothings” and “Minor Deprivations” <i>Cultivating the Frontier Marketplace in Caroline Kirkland’s A New Home, Who’ll Follow?</i>	18
2 Marvelous Possessions <i>Reaffirming the Sacred, Redeeming the Profane in Yellowstone National Park</i>	57
3 Bonanzas and Borascas, Accounts and “No Accounts” <i>Dan De Quille, Mark Twain, and the Fortunate Landscape of Nevada’s Comstock Lode</i>	104
4 “Our Life Exempt from Public Haunt” <i>National Manhood, the Fraternity of Anglers, and the Blessings of American Leisure</i>	156
5 “At Our Meanest Tasks” <i>Redemption and the Domestic Economy in Willa Cather’s Death Comes for the Archbishop</i>	213
Afterword	
“Having Done with Calendared Time” <i>The Corpus of Mission and the Enigmatic Ends of History</i>	251
Notes	257
Bibliography	281
Index	291