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978-1-107-00513-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel

Edited by Deirdre David

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE VICTORIAN NOVEL

SECOND EDITION

In the Victorian period, the British novel reached a wide readership and played a major role in the shaping of national and individual identity. As we come to understand the ways the novel contributed to public opinion on religion, gender, sexuality, and race, we continue to be entertained and enlightened by the works of Dickens, George Eliot, Thackeray, Trollope, and many others. This second edition of the *Companion to the Victorian Novel* has been updated fully, taking account of new research and critical methodologies. There are four new chapters and the others have been thoroughly revised, as has the guide to further reading. Designed to appeal to students, teachers, and readers, these essays reflect the latest approaches to reading and understanding Victorian fiction.

DEIRDRE DAVID is Professor Emerita of English, Temple University. She is the author of *Fictions of Resolution in Three Victorian Novels* (1981), *Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy* (1987), *Rule Britannia: Women, Empire, and Victorian Writing* (1995), and *Fanny Kemble: A Performed Life* (2007). With Eileen Gillooly, she co-edited *Contemporary Dickens* (2009). *Olivia Manning: A Woman at War* is forthcoming in 2012.

A complete list of books in the series is at the end of this book

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KATE FLINT is Provost Professor of English and Art History at the University of Southern California. She is author of *The Woman Reader 1837–1914* (1993), *The Victorians and the Visual Imagination* (2000), and *The Transatlantic Indian 1776–1930* (2009), and editor of the Victorian volume of the new *Cambridge History of English Literature* (2012). Currently, she is writing a cultural history of flash photography.

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CLARE PETTITT is Professor of Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture at King's College London. Her books include *Patent Inventions: Intellectual Property and the Victorian Novel* (2004) and "Dr. Livingstone, I Presume?": *Missionaries, Journalists, Explorers and Empire* (2007). She is currently writing a book entitled

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Distant Contemporaries: The Creation of a Shared Present in the Nineteenth Century.

LYN PYKETT is an Emeritus Professor at Aberystwyth University. Her books include full-length studies of Emily Brontë, Charles Dickens, and Wilkie Collins, *The Improper Feminine: The Women's Sensation Novel and the New Woman Writing* (1992) and *Engendering Fictions: The English Novel in the Early Twentieth Century* (1995). A revised and expanded edition of her book on the sensation novel in the *Writers and Their Work* series will appear shortly.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1801 Union of England and Ireland
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar; Lord Nelson dies
- 1807 Atlantic slave trade outlawed
- 1812 War with America
Charles Dickens born
- 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo by British and Prussian troops; Congress of Vienna redraws map of Europe
Corn Law passed, establishing protective tariff on imported grain
- 1818 Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* published
Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* published
- 1819 Peterloo Riot
Stamp Act taxes periodicals
Princess (later Queen) Victoria and Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) born
Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* published
- 1820 Death of King George III; George IV accedes to the throne
- 1830 Death of George IV; William IV accedes to the throne
- 1832 Passage of the First Reform Bill, doubling the electorate
Charles Lyell's *Elements of Geology* published
Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire
Poor Law Amendment Act forces able-bodied poor into workhouses in order to receive assistance

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- Houses of Parliament severely damaged by fire
- 1836 Factory Act limits children under thirteen to no more than forty-eight hours per week in textile mills
Charles Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers* begins serialization (volume publication 1837)
- 1837 Death of William IV; Victoria accedes to the throne, formally beginning the era that bears her name
Benjamin Disraeli elected to Parliament
Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* begins serialization in *Bentley's Miscellany* (volume publication 1838)
Great Western Railway opens
Custody of Infants Act gives woman separated from husband right to see and seek custody of children under seven; first legal recognition of women as independent entities under the law
First Chartist petition presented to Parliament
Thomas Carlyle's *Chartism* published
- 1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
Penny Post established
Thomas Hardy born
London Library established
Punch begins publication
Mudie's Circulating Library opens
Pentonville model prison opens
London police establish detective department
Chadwick's *Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population* published
- 1843 First telegraph line in service
Factory Act limits women and children under eighteen to a twelve-hour work day
Charles Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit* begins serialization (volume publication 1844)
Irish potato crop fails; beginning of the Great Famine
Benjamin Disraeli's *Sibyl; or the Two Nations* published

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- Friedrich Engels's *The Condition of the Working Class in England* published
- Charles Dickens's *Dombey and Son* begins serialization (volume publication 1848)
- Ten-hour Act limits women and children under eighteen to ten-hour work day in textile mills (maximum of fifty-eight hours per week)
- Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* published
- Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* published
- William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* begins serial publication (volume publication 1848)
- 1848 Revolutionary upheaval in France, Vienna, Berlin, Parma, Rome
- Cholera epidemic
- Queen's College, Oxford, founded to train and examine governesses, opening higher education to women
- Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* first printed in London
- Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* published
- Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* published
- 1849 Corn Laws abolished
- Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* begins publication in *The Morning Chronicle* (two volumes published 1852; four volumes 1862)
- Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* begins serial publication (volume publication 1850)
- 1850 Public Libraries Act
- 1851 The Crystal Palace Exhibition
- William Thompson (later Lord Kelvin) publishes first and second laws of thermodynamics
- Cambridge University adds degree in natural sciences
- 1852 New Houses of Parliament open
- Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published and becomes a bestseller in England and America
- Charles Dickens's *Bleak House* serial publication begins (volume publication 1853)

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- 1853 Cholera epidemic
Charlotte Brontë's *Villette* published
- 1854 Crimean War begins; Earl of Cardigan leads the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava that inspires the Tennyson poem of the same year
Construction of London Underground (the first subway) begins
Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* begins serialization (volume publication 1855)
Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* begins serialization in *Household Words* (volume publication also 1854)
- 1855 Stamp Tax abolished, making newspapers more widely affordable
Charles Dickens's *Little Dorrit* begins serial publication (volume publication 1857)
- 1857 Indian Mutiny
Matrimonial Causes Act makes divorce available without a special act of Parliament
Lionel de Rothschild seated in Parliament despite failure to take Christian oath; opens door for Jewish civil rights in England
Property qualification for election to the House of Commons abolished
Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* published
Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White* begins serialization in *All the Year Round* (volume publication 1860)
George Eliot's *Adam Bede* published
- 1860 George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss* published
John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* published
Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* begins serialization in *All the Year Round* (volume publication 1861)
- 1861 Prince Albert dies of typhoid
Louis Pasteur publishes germ theory of disease
Duty on paper abolished, making published material widely affordable
Ellen Price (Mrs. Henry) Wood's *East Lynne* published

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- 1862 Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret* published
Death of William Makepeace Thackeray
- 1864 First Contagious Diseases Act passed, mandating registration, compulsory medical examination, and detainment of prostitutes in garrison towns
Charles Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend* begins serial publication (volume publication 1865)
Reform League founded to promote extension of the vote for working-class men
Women's suffrage petition presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill
Last major cholera epidemic
Atlantic telegraph cable completed
George Eliot's *Felix Holt* published
Passage of the Second Reform Bill, further reducing property qualification for the vote; Mill's amendment to substitute "person" for "man" defeated
Disraeli, then Gladstone, serve as Prime Minister, beginning a long-standing rivalry: Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative) becomes Prime Minister in February, but loses the office to William Gladstone (Liberal) in December. Gladstone holds post through 1874, but is then succeeded by Disraeli, who holds it until 1880. Gladstone regains power until 1885, when Liberal Party splits over Irish Home Rule; he serves a final term from 1892 to 1894
Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* serialized in *All the Year Round* and then published in volume form
Suez Canal opens
Debtors Act abolishes imprisonment for debt
Matthew Arnold's *Culture and Anarchy* published
John Stuart Mill's *On the Subjection of Women* published
- 1870 Education Act makes elementary education available to all children in England and Wales
First Married Women's Property Act: women gain right to their own wages earned after marriage

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- Home Government Association founded in Ireland
Death of Charles Dickens
- 1871 Trade unions legalized
Charles Darwin's *Descent of Man* published
George Eliot's *Middlemarch* begins serial publication
(volume publication 1872)
Anthony Trollope's *The Eustace Diamonds* begins serial
publication in *Fortnightly Review* (volume publication 1872)
- 1872 Voting by secret ballot instituted
- 1874 Anthony Trollope's *The Way We Live Now* begins serial
publication (volume publication 1875)
- 1876 George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda* published
- 1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
Transvaal (Boer) Republic annexed to British Empire
Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh tried for publishing
inexpensive book on birth control. They are acquitted of
obscenity charge, but Besant loses custody of her seven-year-
old daughter
- 1878 Zulu War; Second Afghan War
Matrimonial Causes Act allows judicial separation for
cruelty and assault
University of London opens all degrees and prizes to women
Electric lights installed on some streets in London
Charles Stewart Parnell founds Irish National Land League
General public granted unrestricted access to British Museum
Elementary education made compulsory from age seven to
age ten
Employer's Liability Act makes employers liable for injuries
to workers obeying the orders of superintendents
First South African War
Death of George Eliot
- 1881 Irish Land Acts provide some land reforms in Ireland
Flogging abolished in the army and navy

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- Death of Benjamin Disraeli
- 1882 Married Women's Property Act: women have the right to all their property earned or acquired before or after marriage
Death of Charles Darwin
Third Reform Bill extends franchise to all male householders
Steam turbine for generation of electricity invented
Criminal Law Amendment Act raises the age of consent for girls to sixteen and makes sexual acts between males illegal
Wilhelm Gottlieb Daimler invents the internal combustion engine
Khartoum falls after insurrection in Sudan; General Gordon killed
H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* published
- 1886 Irish Home Rule bill defeated in the House of Commons
Contagious Diseases Acts repealed
Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* published
Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
Match workers' strike
"Jack the Ripper" murders five women in London
- 1889 London Dock Strike, the first major success by male unskilled workers
Cecil Rhodes given Royal Charter for British South Africa
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act prohibits employment of children under ten
- 1891 United States Congress passes the Platt-Simonds Bill (also known as the Chace Act) ending years of literary "piracy" by affording British authors copyright protection in America
Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* published
Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* published
First automatic telephone switchboard
Irish Home Rule Bill passed by Commons but defeated in the House of Lords
Miners' strike successfully resists 25 percent paycut
George Gissing's *The Odd Women* published

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- 1895 Oscar Wilde's trial results in his conviction and imprisonment
Max Nordau's *Degeneration* published
Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* published
- 1896 Cinema begins at Empire Theatre, London
Both Oxford and Cambridge reject proposals to grant degrees to women
- 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
First volume of Havelock Ellis's *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* published
Bram Stoker's *Dracula* published
Death of William Gladstone
Boer War
School attendance mandatory to age twelve
Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* begins serialization in *Blackwood's* (volume publication 1902)
- 1900 British Labour Party founded
Sigmund Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* published
- 1901 Victoria dies; Edward VII accedes to the throne
Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* published

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