

Contents

Introduction 1

*Chapter One: Female Influence Is Powerful: Respectability, Responsibility,
and Setting the Terms of the Woman Question Debate* 23

*Chapter Two: Right Is of No Sex: Reframing the Debate through the
Rights of Women* 59

*Chapter Three: Not a Woman's Rights Convention: Remaking Public
Culture in the Era of *Dred Scott v. Sanford** 87

*Chapter Four: Something Very Novel and Strange: Civil War, Emancipation,
and the Remaking of African American Public Culture* 119

*Chapter Five: Make Us a Power: Churchwomen's Politics and the Campaign
for Women's Rights* 151

*Chapter Six: Too Much Useless Male Timber: The Nadir, the Woman's Era,
and the Question of Women's Ordination* 173

Conclusion 205

Notes 209

Selected Bibliography 271

Acknowledgments 301

Index 305

Illustrations

- Frances E. W. Harper 3
- “I aspire too much,” Edward W. Clay political cartoon 19
- “Morgan’s Deduction,” Edward W. Clay political cartoon 20
- “Am I not a Woman and a Sister?” antislavery token 21
- “The Wife,” by Washington Irving 29
- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1829 43
- Frederick Douglass’s the *North Star*, masthead 65
- “Woman’s Rights Convention,” political cartoons 127
- “The Fifteenth Amendment. Celebrated May 19th 1870” 144
- Details of “The Fifteenth Amendment. Celebrated May 19th 1870” 145
- “Electioneering in the South,” illustration 146
- Mrs. R. Jerome (Hester) Jeffrey 207