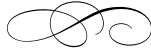


Contents



Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction 1

CHAPTER ONE

Victorian Childhoods and Two Victorian Children 21

à e Education of Nellie Dowell 23

à e Apprenticeship of Muriel Lester 57

Conclusions: à e Challenges of Unlearning 75

CHAPTER TWO

Capitalism, from Below and Down Under: The Global Traffic in
Matches and Match Girls 77

à e Work of the Match Girl in Victorian Culture 79

How Match Factory Women Became Match Girls 85

Match Girls' Militant:

Why the Bell's Match Factory Strike of 1893/94 Failed 95

Metropolitan Match Girls Abroad:

Immoral Circulations of Matches and Match Girls 104

Conclusions 130

CHAPTER THREE

"Being a Christian" in Edwardian Britain 135

"God Is Love" 137

Foundational Fables, Ethical Awakening 154

God's Empire 171

From Paupers to Citizens 177

Conclusions 181

CHAPTER FOUR

Body Biographies in War and Peace 184

Taking Nellie's Temperature 186

Narrating Nellie 190

"You don't look near so well really" 201

Muriel Lester's Spiritual & erapeutics 212

Bodies at War 219

Grammars of Difference, Erotics of Illness in Nellie's Letters to Muriel 226

"Why it is I don't know" 237

Conclusions: Dialects for the Heart 252

CHAPTER FIVE

Love and Christian Revolution 256

Henry Lester's Gift 261

Feminisms at War 274

Reconciliation and Christian Revolution 288

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you" 301

Telling the Truth, Becoming an Heiress 315

Conclusions 328

Afterlives 330

Manuscript Sources 353

Notes 357

Index 435