

Contents

Illustrations and Tables	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xv
Introduction: The “Open Question” of Marriage	i
1. Dissolving Matrimonial Bonds: Divorce in the New Republic	10
2. Weaving the Bonds: Husbands’ and Wives’ Expectations of Marriage	44
3. “If We Forsook Prudence”: Sexuality in Troubled Marriages	76
4. “Cruel and Barbarous Treatment”: The Forms and Meaning of Spouse Abuse	103
5. Runaways: “Wilful and Malicious Desertion”	139
6. For a Maintenance: The Economics of Marital Discord	156
Conclusion: Unraveling the Bonds	179
Notes	185
Select Bibliography	213
Index	221

