Contents

Introduction			
I.	The Formative Years	5	
	1. The Schoolmaster	6	
	2. The School of the Prophets	9	
	3. A Compact, United, and Kindly Community	13	
	4. The Fear of Apocalypse	18	
	5. Liberal Christianity	23	
	6. The Anthology Society	26	
	7. Abandoning the Law	32	
	8. Pilgrimage in the New World	36	
II.	A Yankee Abroad	43	
	1. Our Old Home	44	
	2. The Personification of Earnestness	47	
٠	3. The Fountainhead	52	
	4. A Vast Bright Babylon	63	
	5. Italiam! Italiam!	69	
	6. The Riddle of Spain	73	
	7. Return to Orthodoxy	79	
ш.	The Cause of Sound Learning	85	
	1. The Professor in Boston	87	
	2. A Well-disciplined High School	90	
	3. Models	100	
	4. The Strategy of Reform	107	
	5. Sabotage	119	
	6. The End of the Kirkland Era	123	
IV.	The True Uses of Literature	129	
	1. Literary History as Allegory: The Case of France	132	
	2. A Broken Column	136	

3. Literary Nationalism	142
4. The Writer as Moralist	149
V. Gentleman of Letters	155
1. The Autocrat of Nine Park Street	157
2. The Grand Tour	164
3. The Brahmin Caste of New England	173
4. High Priest	183
5. Labor Ipse Voluptas	187
VI. Clouded Destiny	193
1. The American Character and the American Revolution	196
2. The Rule of Law	201
3. The Role of Public Schools and Libraries	204
4. Antaeus	212
5. The American Experiment	216
6. Slavery and Disunion	223
7. Prospect and Retrospect	237
Bibliography	243
A Note on Manuscript Sources	245
Ticknor's Writings	246
General Bibliography	252
Notes	265
Index	285

Illustrations

Following page 130

George Ticknor's watercolor of Dartmouth, 1803

Courtesy Trustees of Dartmouth College

Portrait of Ticknor by Thomas Sully, 1828 Courtesy Trustees of Dartmouth College

Portrait of Ticknor by G. P. A. Healy, 1848 Courtesy Trustees of Dartmouth College

Harvard in 1828, lithograph based on a drawing by A. J. Davis Courtesy Harvard University Archives

Harvard in 1821, painting by Alvan Fisher Courtesy Harvard University Archives

Ticknor's library

Park Street in 1858, with Ticknor's house in foreground

Daniel Webster, portrait by John Pope Courtesy Trustees of Dartmouth College

William Hickling Prescott

George Stillman Hillard

Ticknor's daughter, Anna Eliot Ticknor

George Ticknor in 1867

GEORGE TICKNOR and the Boston Brahmins