



## CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii

List of Illustrations xiii

Introduction 1

CHAPTER 1.

You Will Arrive at Distinguished Usefulness:  
*The Grounds for Women's Entry into Public Life* 16

CHAPTER 2.

The Need of Their Genius:  
*The Rights and Obligations of Schooling* 34

CHAPTER 3.

Female Academies Are Everywhere Establishing:  
*Curriculum and Pedagogy* 66

CHAPTER 4.

Meeting in This Social Way to Search for Truth:  
*Literary Societies, Reading Circles, and Mutual Improvement Associations* 112

CHAPTER 5.

The Privilege of Reading:  
*Women, Books, and Self-Imagining* 154

CHAPTER 6.

Whether to Make Her Surname More or Adams:  
*Women Writing Women's History* 191

CHAPTER 7.

The Mind Is, in a Sense, Its Own Home:  
*Gendered Republicanism as Lived Experience* 245

Epilogue 275

Index 281