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excerpt from historic dress in america 1800 1870 vol 2 many books have been written on the houses the furniture and the decorations of the century we have so lately seen pass into history but of the costumes chosen and worn by our im mediate ancestors very little has been recorded in print yet as mr calthrop the english authority on the history of dress has aptly said to see our ancestors dressed is to have a shrewd guess as to what they were as to what they did the present volume is designed to bring us within the charmed circle of ih timacy and to reveal to us the tastes and fancies the pursuits and pastimes of our nineteenth century grandparents it goes to press with many thanks to the friends who have lent me their ancestral treasures the scheme of illustration has been to ar range the garments on living models and to copy the hair and accessories from contemporary portraits or old fashion plates as the first years of the twentieth century have witnessed a re vival of the scant and clinging skirts the turbans and scarf draperies of a hundred years ago we are reminded of the old

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between 1800 and 1870 meteorology emerged as both a legitimate science and a government service in america challenging the widely held assumption that meteorologists were mere data gatherers and that u s scientists were inferior to their european counterparts james rodger fleming shows how the 1840s debate over the nature and causes of storms led to a meteorological crusade that would transform both theory and practice centrally located administrators organized hundreds of widely dispersed volunteer and military observers into systematic projects that covered the entire nation theorists then used these systems to observe weather patterns over large areas making possible for the first time the compilation of accurate weather charts and maps when in 1870 congress created a federal storm warning service under the u s army signal office the era of amateur scientists volunteer observers and adhoc organizations came to an end but the gains had been significant including advances in natural history and medical geography and in understanding the general circulation of the earth s atmosphere

this is a study of some of the central questions in literary publishing in mid nineteenth century north america and britain addressed through examination of the unusually rich archives of a unique publishing firm boston based ticknor and fields one of the pre eminent literary publishers of its time enjoyed close links with britain and also developed new production distribution and marketing skills as the settlement of north america pushed ever further west michael winship has studied the firm s business records and publications in detail he reveals what ticknor and fields published its costs of production the ways it marketed and distributed its books and the profits it made winship goes on to explore the implications of the firm s work for the book trade in general and to show how an investigation of ticknor and fields enriches our understanding of the literary and cultural history of britain and north america

making the america of art demonstrates that beginning in the 1850s women writers challenged the terms of the scottish common sense philosophy which had made artistic endeavors acceptable in the new republic by subordinating aesthetic motivation to moral and educational goals harriet beecher stowe and augusta jane evans drew on ruskin to argue for the creation of a religiously based national aesthetic in the postbellum years louisa may alcott rebecca harding davis elizabeth stuart phelps and constance fenimore woolson continued the process in a series of writings that revolved around three central areas of concern the place of the popular in the realm of high art the role of the genius and the legacy of the civil war sofer significantly revises the history of 19th century american women s authorship by detailing the gradual process that produced women writers wholly identified with literary high culture at the century s end book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

the third volume of north american exploration covering 1784 to 1914 charts a dramatic shift in the purpose priorities and results of the exploration of north america as the nineteenth century opened exploration was still fostered by the growth of empire but by the 1830s commercial interests came to drive most exploratory ventures particularly through the fur trade by midcentury however as imperial rivalries lessened and the fur trade declined exploration was driven by the growing scientific spirit of the age although the science was often conducted in the service of a search for railroad routes or natural resources linked to military concerns a clear transition took place as the spirit of the enlightenment gave way to economic imperatives and to the science of the post darwinian age and exploration passed beyond discovery and geographical definition this volume explores the resultant beginnings of an understanding of the continent and its native peoples

in a literary environment dominated by men the first american to earn a living as a writer and to establish a reputation on both sides of the atlantic was miraculously a woman hannah adams dared to enter and in some ways was forced to enter a sphere of literature that had in eighteenth century america been solely a male province driven by poverty and necessity and aided by an extraordinarily adept mind and keen sense of business adams authored works on new england history sectarian history and jewish history using and citing the most recent scholarly works being published in great britain and america as a female

writer she would always remain something of an outsider but her accomplishments did not by any means go unrecognized embraced by the boston intelligentsia and highly regarded throughout new england adams came to epitomize the possibility in a democratic society that anyone could rise to a circle of intellectual elites in a passionate usefulness the first book length biography of this remarkable figure gary schmidt focuses primarily on the intimate connection between adams s reading and her own literary work hers is the story of incipient scholarship in the new nation the story of a dependence that evolved into intellectual independence schmidt sets adams s works in the context of her early poverty and desperate family situation her decade long feud with one of new england s most powerful calvinist ministers her alliance with the budding unitarian movement in boston and her work establishing the first evangelical mission to palestine a task she accomplished virtually single handedly today adams still holds a place not only as a female writer who made her way economically in the book business before any other woman or male writer could do so but also as a key figure in the transitional generation between the american revolution and the renaissance upon whose groundwork much of the country s later literature would build

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