Contents

Introduction 1

Part I: Northerners

Emerson at Age Two Hundred 11
Hawthorne’s Smile 20
Longfellow Lives Again 29
The Mystery of Emily Dickinson 35
The Convert (Emma Lazarus) 54
Dark Darker Darkest (Robert Frost) 67
Flawed Perfection (Edna St. Vincent Millay) 80
Deserters (John Dos Passos) 93
Covering Her Century (Martha Gellhorn) 105
The Critter Poet (Gary Snyder) 116
Lowell’s Curse 126

Part II: Southerners

The Ding-Dong of Doom (William Faulkner) 135
The War between the Tates (Allen Tate) 147
The Family Man (James Agee) 162
Love in the Ruins (Walker Percy) 173
A Sense of Place (Eudora Welty) 181
Poet in the Sun Belt (Randall Jarrell) 196
Part III: The Union Reconsidered

American Jeremiad 211
Patriotic Gore 224
Friends by Chance 235

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 247