

Contents

<i>General Editor's Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
<i>A Note on Presentation</i>	xiv
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiv
<i>Preface</i>	xv
PART ONE: THE TRADITION	1
THE IMPACT OF PAINE	3
1 The polarisation of opinion, 1792	6
2 The Committee of Secrecy, 1794	9
3 Another view of the conspiracy	10
4 The infidel metropolis	11
RICHARD CARLILE AND THE ZETETICS	16
5 A call to action, 1819	20
6 Carlile's appeal for volunteers	23
7 The response	25
8 The Edinburgh Zetetic Society	31
9 Presents from Sheffield	32
10 The power of the press	33
11 The 'Infidel Mission'	34
12 The tradition continued	36
OWENISM	38
13 The Association of All Classes	44
14 Reaction to persecution	47
15 The views of an infidel lecturer	49
16 Support from Carlile	52

17	The Anti-Persecution Union	54
18	The threat of redundancy	57
19	The need for a new infidel periodical	60
SECULARISM		63
20	Secular societies in 1852	71
21	The Leicester Secular Society	75
22	West Riding district organisation	78
23	Robert Cooper's militancy	81
24	The progress of freethought	84
25	The National Secular Society	86
PART TWO: THE MOVEMENT		91
FROM BELOW		93
26	The raw materials (1)	93
27	The raw materials (2)	95
28	The growth in class feeling	96
29	Rank and file – John Spencer	97
FROM ABOVE		99
30	Leadership – James Watson	99
31	Lectures – Joseph Barker's list	106
32	Preparations for a visiting lecturer	109
33	A lecturer on tour	111
LEISURE		115
34	A Paine birthday celebration	115
35	A Bradlaugh victory celebration	117
36	The Hall of Science classes	119
37	Huddersfield Secular Sunday School	121
PART THREE: THE SPRINGS OF PROTEST		123
DESTRUCTIVE PROTEST		125
38	Moral revulsion at the Atonement	125
39	A street-corner lecture on the Atonement	126
40	The horrors of the Bible	128
41	Anti-clericalism	131
42	A de-conversion	133

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM	136
43 Biblical criticism	136
44 Scientific criticism (1)	139
45 Scientific criticism (2)	141
46 The principles of naturalism	142
47 An argument for atheism	143
THE NEW SYSTEM	147
48 The Law of Nature	147
49 The New Moral World	149
50 The principles of Secularism	151
PART FOUR: THE POLITICS OF LIBERATION	153
DOMESTIC RADICALISM	155
51 Paineite republicanism	155
52 Carlile's republicanism	156
53 An attack on apolitical Owenism	158
54 A defence of apolitical Owenism	159
55 Dreams of a new radicalism	160
56 A plea for compromise	162
57 In praise of Mr Gladstone	165
58 Bradlaugh's election manifesto, 1868	168
59 Republicanism for England	171
60 The new socialism	174
61 Secularism and socialism in Leicester	179
EUROPEAN REPUBLICANISM	181
62 Hopes and fears in 1849	181
63 Arms for Garibaldi	184
WOMEN'S RIGHTS	186
64 A plea for divorce	186
65 The Knowlton Pamphlet	187
PART FIVE: LAW AND PUBLIC OPINION	191
PERSECUTION AND PROSECUTION	193
66 A history of persecution	193
67 Blasphemy in Edinburgh	195

68 A problem for the Newcastle magistrates	204
CIVIL RIGHTS	208
69 Britain not a free country	208
70 The Bradlaugh case	210
PUBLIC OPINION	214
71 The suppression of infidel socialism	214
72 A Christian mob	215
73 Signs of progress	219
<i>Sources and Further Reading</i>	221
<i>Index</i>	225