

## CONTENTS

Introduction	ix
1 The Common Tongue	1
2 The Great Escape	17
3 Conquest	33
4 Holding On	41
5 The Speech of Kings	54
6 Chaucer	69
7 God's English	80
8 English and the Language of the State	94
9 William Tyndale's Bible	105
10 A Renaissance of Words	116
11 Preparing the Ground	129
12 Shakespeare's English	141
13 'My America'	154
14 Wild West Words	172
15 Sold Down the River	187
16 Mastering the Language	199

## *Contents*

17	The Proper Way to Talk	219
18	Steam, Streets and Slang	237
19	Indian Takeover	250
20	The West Indies	265
21	Advance Australia	276
22	Warts and All	287
23	All Over the World	297
24	And Now . . . ?	306
	Acknowledgements	313
	Picture Acknowledgements	317
	Bibliography	319
	Index	329