

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction xi

- 1: The Making of a Scottish Improver 3
- 2: Improving Ventures: Civil Engineering and Steam 33
- 3: Birmingham, Boulton, and Steam Enterprise 63
- 4: Watt as Natural Philosopher: The Experimental Life 116
- 5: Team Watt: Collective Genius 167
- 6: The Fruits of Success 204
- 7: The Living Legend 232
- 8: Afterlife: A Man for All Causes 267
- 9: Concluding Reflections on the Great Steamer 312

Notes 323

Bibliography 381

Index 411