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978-0-521-14746-0 - Dark Eden: The Swamp in Nineteenth-Century American Culture

David C. Miller

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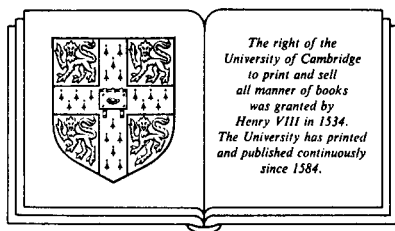
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THE SWAMP IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN CULTURE

DAVID C. MILLER
Allegheny College



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*To my mother and father,
for their endless encouragement,
support, and help*

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*These plates are available for download in colour from
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The yarns of seamen have a direct simplicity, the whole meaning of which lies hidden within the shell of a cracked nut. But Marlow was not typical (if his propensity to spin yarns be excepted), and to him the meaning of an episode was not inside like a kernel but outside, enveloping the tale which brought it these misty halos that sometimes are made visible by the spectral illuminations of moonshine.

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Generally speaking, a howling wilderness does not howl: it is the imagination of a traveller that does the howling.

H. D. Thoreau, "Allegash and East Branch"

Crispin knew

*It was a flourishing tropic he required
For his refreshment, an abundant zone,
Prickly and obdurate, dense, harmonious,
Yet with a harmony not rarefied
Nor fined for the inhibited instruments
Of over-civil stops.*

Wallace Stevens, "The Comedian as the Letter C"