On the cusp of the American Civil War, a new generation of reformers, including Theodore Parker, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Martin Robison Delany, and Thomas Wentworth Higginson, took the lead in the antislavery struggle. Frustrated by political defeats, a more aggressive Slave Power, and the inability of early abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison to rid the nation of slavery, the New Romantics crafted fresh, often more combative approaches to the peculiar institution. Contrary to what many scholars have argued, however, they did not reject romantic reform in the process. Instead, the New Romantics roamed widely through romantic modes of thought, embracing not only the immediatism and perfectionism pioneered by Garrisonians but also new motifs and doctrines, including sentimentalism, self-culture, martial heroism, romantic racialism, and Manifest Destiny. This book tells the story of how antebellum America’s most important intellectual current, romanticism, shaped the coming and course of the nation’s bloodiest – and most revolutionary – conflict.

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Romantic Reformers and the Antislavery Struggle in the Civil War Era

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Abbreviations

Names

FD       Frederick Douglass
HBS      Harriet Beecher Stowe
MRD      Martin Robison Delany
TP       Theodore Parker
TWH      Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Sources

ASAOS    Theodore Parker, Additional Speeches, Addresses, and Occasional Sermons, 2 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1855)
FDPC     The Frederick Douglass Papers, Series Three: Correspondence, Volume 1, 1842–1852, ed. John R. McKivigan (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009)
Abbreviations


LCTP John Weiss, The Life and Correspondence of Theodore Parker, Minister of the Twenty-Eighth Congregational Society, 2 vols. (New York: D. Appleton, 1864)

LHBS Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Compiled from Her Letters and Journals, ed. Charles Stowe (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1890)

LTH The Letters and Journals of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1846–1906, ed. Mary Thatcher Higginson (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1921)


SAOS Theodore Parker, Speeches, Addresses, and Occasional Sermons, 2 vols. (Boston: Crosby and Nichols, 1852)

SLL Annie Fields, Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1898)

