

## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	i
1 The theatre of life	9
2 The theatre of politics, 1832–1837	31
3 The theatre of parliament, 1837–1846	54
4 A leading part, 1846–1865	83
5 Top of the bill, 1865–1881	136
Envoi: the primrose sphinx	211
<i>Notes</i>	223
<i>Index</i>	240