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0521781086 - Victorian Writing about Risk: Imagining a Safe England in a Dangerous World

Elaine Freedgood

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In *Victorian Writing about Risk*, Elaine Freedgood explores the geography of risk produced by a wide spectrum of once-popular literature, including works on political economy, sanitary reform, balloon flight, Alpine mountaineering and African exploration. The consolations offered by this geography of risk are precariously predicated on the stability of dominant Victorian definitions of people and places. Women, men, the laboring and middle classes, the English and the Irish, Africa and Africans: all have assigned identities that allow risk to be located and contained. When identities shift and boundaries fail, danger and safety begin to appear in all the wrong places. The texts that this study focuses on reveal the ways in which risk moralizes and naturalizes the economic and political institutions of industrial, imperial culture during a period of unprecedented expansion and change.

ELAINE FREEDGOOD is Assistant Professor in English at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has appeared in *Victorian Studies*, *Genders* and *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*.

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Imagining a Safe England in a Dangerous World

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction: the practice of paradise	1
1 Banishing panic: J. R. McCulloch, Harriet Martineau and the popularization of political economy	13
2 The rhetoric of visible hands: Edwin Chadwick, Florence Nightingale and the popularization of sanitary reform	42
3 Groundless optimism: regression in the service of the ego, England and empire in Victorian ballooning memoirs	74
4 The uses of pain: cultural masochism and the colonization of the future in Victorian mountaineering memoirs	99
5 A field for enterprise: the memoirs of David Livingstone and Mary Kingsley	132
Conclusion	170
<i>Notes</i>	173
<i>Bibliography</i>	199
<i>Index</i>	212

Illustrations

1 “Abstract of the total quantity of White Herrings Cured, Branded for Bounty, and Exported, in so far as the same have been brought under the Cognizance of the Officers of the Fishery, from the 5th of April, 1810, distinguishing each Year, and the herrings Cured Guttled from those Cured Unguttled.” From J. R. McCulloch, <i>A Descriptive and Statistical Account of the British Empire</i> (1847).	page 17
2 “The moon shines forth with peculiar brilliancy.” From James Glaisher, <i>Travels in the Air</i> (1871).	97
3 “We saw a toe – it seemed to belong to Moore – we see Raynaud a flying body.” From Edward Whymper, <i>Scrambles Amongst the Alps</i> (1873).	106
4 “Dr Livingstone’s escape from the lion.” From John S. Roberts, <i>The Life and Explorations of David Livingstone, LL.D.</i> (1874).	139

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0521781086 - Victorian Writing about Risk: Imagining a Safe England in a Dangerous World

Elaine Freedgood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

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The University of Pennsylvania's Department of English is a great

Cambridge University Press

0521781086 - Victorian Writing about Risk: Imagining a Safe England in a Dangerous World

Elaine Freedgood

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

Acknowledgments

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