

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
1 Introduction	1
Methodology	8
Speech and the Law	17
(Im)politeness and the Law	23
2 A Politer Peace	35
The Refinement of Massachusetts	35
From Sinful to Impolite Speech	46
3 Sensibility	62
Noise	65
Threats	80
Profane Swearing	92
4 Civility	127
Contempt	129
Cursing	135
Defamation and Satire	144
5 Credibility	181
Credit	185
Lying	202
False Swearing and Perjury	216
False Reports	227
Mumpers	240
6 Cacophony	252
Impolite Speech and the Imperial Crisis	252
The Criminal Law and Creating Social Order	256

x

Contents

7	Respectability	270
	Sedition and Sensibility	271
	The Speech of Citizens	277
	<i>Bibliography</i>	287
	<i>Index</i>	311