Novel Professions

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Studying the professional did not make me one: Nancy Armstrong deserves the credit for that. I feel enormously lucky to have worked with her and to still have the benefit of her wisdom whenever the need arises. Ellen Rooney and Tamar Katz read this book in its very earliest stage, and I thank them for their thorough, thoughtful readings. Sarah Winter and Elaine Hadley graciously included me in the “Locating the Victorians” Conference in London in 2001, at which I delivered a part of chapter 3, and I’ve been grateful for their support ever since. Cathy Shuman and Anita Levy inspired some of this work and kindly read some of it as well. Nicholas Daly, Caroline Reitz, and Danny Hack make me glad I joined this profession. Thanks also to Bruce Robbins and Jim English for generously commenting on chapters when I approached them out of the blue.

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