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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Tables, Maps, Illustrations; Introduction; 1. Reading and the Ironies of Technological Innovation; 2. The Publisher's Market; 3. The Book Peddler and Literary Dissemination; 4. The Transportation Revolution and Book Distribution; 5. The Railroad, the Community, and the Book; 6. Family, Church, and Academy; 7. The Common School and Other Institutions; 8. The Letter and the Reading Public; 9. Numeracy, the News, and Self-culture; 10. The Interior Organization of a Bookstore; 11. Gender and Boundlessness in Reading Patterns; 12. Time, Space, and Chaos Appendix 1: Regionalism, Literacy, and Economic Development Appendix 2: Categories in the Analytical Catalogue (1850) of the New York Society Library; Notes; Works Cited; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y

Sommario/riassunto

This text aims to explode two notions that are commonplace in American cultural histories of the 19th century: that the spread of literature was a simple force for the democratization of taste, and that there was a body of 19th-century literature that reflected "a nation of readers".
