



**R.B. Tobias and Mary E. Marcy**

*Women as Sex Vendors or Why Women are Conservative (Being a View of the Economic Status of Woman)*

Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Company Co-Operative (1918)

First edition. 12mo. A few signatures roughly opened resulting in modest chips on the margins of the first three leaves of text, else near fine in very good or better dustwrapper with a moderate chip on the rear panel affecting no text, and some overall light soiling. A denunciation of the state of women who had come to rely upon their beauty rather than their brains and abilities to advance in the world, and a devastating swipe at alleged sex experts who used "scientific method" to denigrate the claims of the equality of women, the work was unreservedly praised by H.L. Mencken. The Illinois-born Mary Marcy was a fairly fascinating character, a socialist author, pamphleteer, poet, and magazine editor who supported her young siblings from a young age, she was fired from her job as a stenographer for an American flag factory for wearing a button supporting populist William Jennings Bryan for President. Clarence Darrow heard of her trouble and got her a job as a stenographer for the president of the University of Chicago which included free tuition, and where she studied psychology under John Dewey. She married and moved to Kansas City where she took a job in a meat packing plant, which led to her series of muckraking articles "Letters of a Pork Packer's Stenographer," for which, of course, she lost her job. She had an affair with Socialist publisher Charles H. Kerr, precipitating his divorce. She continued to write, often under pseudonyms (including her maiden name, Tobias), her co-author here was her brother Roscoe B. Tobias), and eventually went to work for Kerr. She lost her home when she put it up to insure bail for IWW leader "Big Bill" Haywood, who promptly fled to Soviet Russia. Demoralized by the state of America, she committed suicide in 1922. Very uncommon, especially in jacket. [BTC#392807]