

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

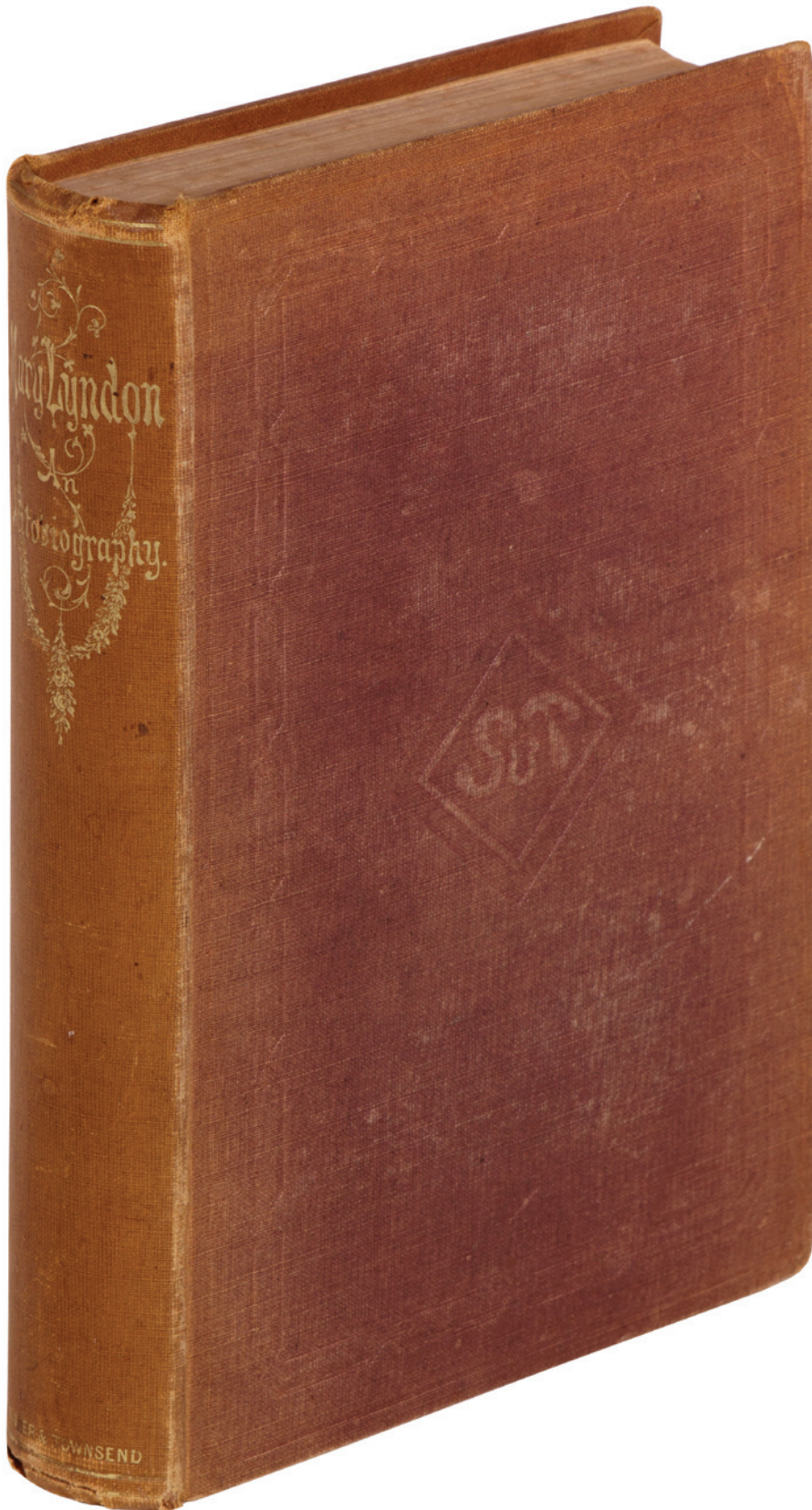
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A Radical Feminist's and Free Love Advocate's Autobiographical Novel

[Mary Sargeant Gove Nichols]

Mary Lyndon, or Revelations of a Life. An Autobiography

New York: Stringer and Townsend 1855



First edition. Thick octavo. 388, [32] publisher's catalog pp. Original purplish brown cloth stamped in blind and gilt. Inserted in the front is a printed advertisement on green paper for Gardiner and Kirk, a Sacramento, California bookseller; inserted in the rear is a printed advertisement on yellow paper from the publisher. Boards a little rubbed, slight breaks at the spine ends, but a handsome and tight, overall near fine copy with the spine gilt bright.

First edition of the pseudonymous autobiographical novel by Mary Gove Nichols. the novel begins with the heroine's intolerable marriage to a cold and abusive husband and then her subsequent match to a sympathetic reformer, the central theme pervades the book that conventional marriage is legalized slavery and the "annihilation of women." It is hard to determine how much of the "novel" is fiction, and how much is fact. In the text Nichols gives accounts of her fellow reformers Bronson Alcott, Charles Lane, and Henry Wright, as well as of Edgar Allen Poe, whom Nichols encountered in Baltimore.

