

# Contents

*Acknowledgments ix*

Introduction: Reading Things 1

- 1 Souvenirs of Sadism: Mahogany Furniture, Deforestation,  
and Slavery in *Jane Eyre* 30
- 2 Coziness and Its Vicissitudes: Checked Curtains and Global  
Cotton Markets in *Mary Barton* 55
- 3 Realism, Fetishism, and Genocide: Negro Head Tobacco in  
and around *Great Expectations* 81
- 4 Toward a History of Literary Underdetermination:  
Standardizing Meaning in *Middlemarch* 111

Coda: Victorian Thing Culture and the  
Way We Read Now 139

*Notes 159*      *Index 187*