

**UNCLE JOHN: A
NOVEL; IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. II**

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Uncle John: A Novel; In Three Volumes, Vol. II by G. J. Whyte-Melville

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G. J. WHYTE-MELVILLE

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NOVEL; IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. II**

UNCLE JOHN.

UNCLE JOHN.

A Novel.

BY

G. J. WHYTE-MELVILLE,

AUTHOR OF

"MARKET HARBOROUGH," "THE GLADIATORS," "KATE COVENTRY,"
"SATANELLA," ETC., ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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UNCLE JOHN.



CHAPTER XI.

A PEARL OF PRICE.

“WELL, I'm sure! One would suppose you were a young girl, my dear, waiting for a lover. That's the fourth time you've fidgeted to the window. And I think you teach your husband very bad manners, bringing his slippers into the drawing-room, as if you were going to pull his boots off yourself.”

The speaker was Mrs. Dennison, sitting severe and grim under a stupendous hat plumed like a hearse, in a pretty little chamber, half study, half boudoir, opening on a garden of roses and looking over such a vale

of smiling pasture, rich corn-land, wood, water, and double hedgerows, as could only be seen in the very heart of merry England.

The lady thus rebuked turned a handsome happy face on her visitor and answered with a smile :

“I can't spoil him enough, Emily. If you only knew how good and kind he is! I feel like some draggled old ship that has been tossed and torn and buffeted, and got safe into harbour at last.”

Mrs. Algernon Lexley (late Miss Blair) certainly *looked* neither torn nor draggled nor buffeted. Her commanding beauty seemed only enhanced by the unfailing cosmetics of early hours, tranquillity, and good health. She was more careful too than ever in her dress and appointments, which, without extravagance, were in style if not in fabric those of a great lady rather than a country pastor's wife. With all her pride, Laura was enough of a coquette to know how such details set off the charms of a handsome woman in her own home, and she had determined that the man