

**UNCLE
PHIL: A NOVEL**

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Uncle Phil: a novel by John M. Clay

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JOHN M. CLAY

**UNCLE
PHIL: A NOVEL**

UNCLE PHIL.

A NOVEL.

BY

MRS. JOHN M. CLAY,

*Author of "What Will the World Say," "Only a Woman," and
"Some Little of the Angel Still Left."*

[CLAY, JOSEPHINE RUSSELL]

"PLEASURE IS EVIL'S CHIEF BAIT; THE BODY THE PRINCIPAL CALAMITY OF THE SOUL; AND THOSE THOUGHTS WHICH MOST SEPARATE IT AND TAKE IT FROM THE AFFECTIONS OF THE BODY, MOST ENFRANCHISE AND PURIFY IT."—*Plato.*



F. TENNYSON NEELY,

PUBLISHER,

114

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LONDON.

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TO THE MEMORY OF
MY ANCESTOR
BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM RUSSELL
OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY
WHICH ACHIEVED
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

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UNCLE PHIL.

CHAPTER I.

FAIR AND FREE IS THE KING'S HIGHWAY.

"Keep your heart as light as you can,
An ounce of care killed a man."

The inhabitants, which are mostly of the Spanish race, of the peaceful little city of Bonito, are in the enjoyment of the post-meridian siesta.

There are exceptions, however, for, standing in the corridor of an ancient adobe building—its flagstaff, from which floats the American flag, proclaims its official character—and fronting the pier, for Bonito has a seaport, are three young people: sister and brothers, as evidenced by the strong resemblance they bear one to another; cast in the same generous mold, with the same upright carriage, lofty poise of head, and noble, finely chiseled features. The girl is young, not eighteen, and her brothers only a few years older.

These young people, contemplating a fishing excursion, are busily engaged selecting hooks and lines from a large assortment, filling a good-sized box; that is, Miss Geraldine Southampton has the