



Uncle Arehie's Wife
chaprer $\overline{\text { v.-(commund.) }}$
CHAPTER V.-(ContranuED.)
However there was not much use
wasting time in conjecture, but just Wasting time in conjecture, but just
then the dinner-bell rang, and uncle
Archie came hurriedly in. He looked. I thought, rather relieved. that we had
not fallen out in deadly fashion during his brief absence, Poor uncle Archie,
how plainly every nervous look and
geisture gesture betrayed his consciousness
the terrible error he had made! away in quiet une evening passed
Mother dozed as usual by the chin. ney-corner; Estelie Gerrard, with a apparently absorbed in its contents;
uncle Archie, after one or two halfhearied attempts to make the conver-
sation general, drew his chair up to mine and began to
gagement and Dick.
Irene? hen is he coming to see me,
old keindy inkering interest at the ring I the
nervas as I spoke. "Soot. I hope. Ingent
to be better acquainted to be better acquainted with the
young fellow who has been liteky,
enough to win my little Irene's love., "I am the lucky person, uncle Ar-
chie," I returned quickly, "You wil
soon see that when You knowe Dick;
he is the cleverest, the kindest, the "Of course, the Chevalior Bayard
and Admiral Crichton in one -I wwill
take all that on trust, Irene, and still sake al that on trust, Irene, and still
say he is not too good for my little
gir. Irene."his voice dropped still
lower, and there was a wistuulness in lower, atd there was a wistfulness in
bis kidd troubled eyes that made my
heart ache-uI hope yout mid be heart ache-"I hope you will be as
hapy as you have tiled to make
others all your innocent young lifenight." have tried to make me toIndefinite as the words ivere, I
knew what he meant, and glanced
hurridly at Estele, who was only di-
vided from us by the width of the long room; but she was still placidly read.
ing, and apparently uninterested 1 ir $^{\circ}$
our conversation. reassuring squeeze of his hand, , is is it
disrespecful to tell one's uncle he is
taiking nonsense? Because, if so so
must be disrespeettul, I am afraid! If you and I do not understand one
another by this time, we are never
likely to do so; and Mrs. Gerrard and
I will be sworn friends and allies = $=\mathrm{EV}$
 will hen do ou sidy foung Mat tineau





 Tolk "huld olys nod aseueut and wooler

 just yet, though I I really am tired to
death! Podr mother made a polite protest
Which Mrs. Gerrard answered with that, after all, another quarter of an hour did not make much difference-
it would soon be over.
The seconds that made up that
time of walting arept by slowly
but ten struck at last, and with the stroke came the servant to
tell us that, the carriage was at the
door. ..Well'-mother's pent-up indigna-
tion found vent at last when we were
safely alone, rolling smoothly and safely alone, rolling smoothly and
swittly along tiv the catm summer
night. what do you think of your Uhe is very beautiful and a little
punzling," I answered, rather at
lose for a word. uPuzzling! ${ }^{2}$ mother echoed, with
contemptuous, laugh. her something more than that--some
thing stronger and more condemn atory But, after all, e universa
demnation when you, the
apologist, cain find no other whid to -I want to like her it I can
mother."
"Of cours you do, for Your uncle's sake; but we cannot put up with abso
lute rudeness-with insoient disre
gard not only for her feelings, but o








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| the tall, graceful woman walked e h, and me with a kiss, there was anpression of amused disappointmen |
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