

MONA'S CHOICE.

BY MRS. ALEXANDER.

When Mrs. Newburgh's toilet was made, and her pillows properly arranged, she felt quite sure that her grandmother was making up her mind to speak. This change in the somewhat abrupt manner of old woman touched her—it was such a confession of tender feelings.

present at this conference, that you might understand the true state of the case. I leave you to draw your own conclusions. No, dear, do not re-open the discussion. I trust to your own common sense and right feeling. I am quite contented. Ring for Walter to help me to my room. I can see no one else to-day—no one—remember, Mona.

"I cannot keep giving it to you! And if you do not see up your mind to take me, you might just let me forget that you were driven to it."

"Yes! I am very ungrateful. There is another circumstance I ought to mention; you may not like to know that my name is not Jocelyn. My grandmother always called me by my second baptismal name; I am really Mona Craig. My father was of very humble origin, I believe; and Mrs. Newburgh never forgave my mother for marrying him, but I dearly loved him as a little child, though I have forgotten what he was like."

"I don't care what your name is, as long as you will take mine. I am no great thing as regards family, myself. I have heard something of Mrs. Newburgh's whim before."

"I don't fancy that anything is a secret," said Waring. "Perhaps it is not fair to press you for an answer to-day. But you see time flies, and I long to be able to tell Sir Robert Eversard that I have the right to discuss with him what is best to be done."

"I will be your wife!" interrupted Waring eagerly in his turn.

"I will, Mr. Waring, and try to be a good one." "You are a great deal too good for me; and as you do not care for any other fellow, perhaps you may end by caring for me."

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"Oh, you were always civil!" exclaimed Waring. "I was ashamed of not offering at least to be of use to you."

"I shall be guided by what you and Sir Robert and grandma think best," faltered Mona. "I am afraid I must go now."

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