

not go away, and she says your ladyship promised her she should see the colonel."

"Yes ; I did promise. Show her at once into the library. It is right that she should see him," Lady Harriet added, in a murmur to herself—"right, in justice and in mercy."

Mrs. May took Colonel Devereux by surprise. The servant said, as he threw open the door, "A person to see you, sir," for she had refused to give her name, and then he closed it again. The colonel was standing before two wax-lights, reading letters. Mrs. May looked at him : a dark, repulsive-faced man, who stared at her in astonishment. At least, the heavy frown on his face caused it to be repulsive then.

For Colonel Devereux was not in the habit of allowing this kind of impromptu intrusion, and felt wroth both with the intruder and his servant. Mrs. May stood trembling just within the closed door.

"Who are you?" he demanded, haughtily. "What do you want?"

"Ob, sir, don't be harsh with me!" she implored, stepping forward. "If all that I suspect is true, you ought not to be. I have come with a message from *her*."

He began to think this woman must have escaped from Bedlam. Truly she looked wild enough : and trouble was rendering her incoherent.

"From *her*, sir. My poor child, Sophiar Lyvett, who is in Newgate awaiting for her execution."

A recollection of Lord Dooham's conversation with the waiter at Deal recurred to Colonel Devereux. He connected the woman's words with that, as having reference to the same subject, but he connected them with nothing else.

"Waiting for her execution!" he repeated, when his surprise allowed him to speak. "Sophia Lyvett!—what have I to do with it, if she is? She is nothing to me."

"She ought to be something to you," retorted Mrs. May, indignant at what she thought was his want of humanity. "She was something to you when she was Sophia May—if 'twas only as an acquaintance living in the same house."

"So-phi-a May!" he repeated slowly, "his haughty tone changing to a subdued one. "It is not Sophia May who—who is condemned, is it?"