

CHAPTER IV.

LADY CHICHESTER'S COMPANION.

DR. JOLLIFFE was as good as his word. He wrote a full description of what he wanted to his sister-in-law before he went to bed that night, and in the course of a few days he received the following reply :

MY DEAR ANDREW,

"Your request that I should look out for a suitable companion for Lady Chichester reached me at an opportune moment, as I had just promised to find a nurse to accompany a patient of your brother's to India, so I was able to prosecute search for both parties at the same time, and I believe that I have been successful. I have seen several young ladies who are anxious to obtain the situation, but one amongst them strikes me as especially suitable. Her name is Charlotte Murray, her age (she tells me) is twenty-four, but she looks older. She is apparently quick, sensible and well educated, speaks perfectly, and has every appearance of a lady. She is a pleasant looking young woman also, and very modest in her demeanor ; her references are good. She is an orphan, but I have seen her uncle and guardian, who is evidently a gentleman of birth, though in poor circumstances, or (as he told me) nothing would induce him to allow his niece to earn her own living. He showed me a letter from her last employer, now in America, speaking in the highest terms of Miss Murray's devotion to his daughter (now deceased), and of his own gratitude to her. Miss Murray sang and played to me ; she seems to be a competent musician. She also speaks French and German, having been educated abroad. She asks one hundred pounds a year as salary, and I scarcely think your friends will obtain what they require for less.