

THE CHOICE OF MOSES ;

OR, THE TURNING-POINT IN A GREAT CAREER.

MOSES, the illustrious founder of the Hebrew nation, celebrated in the annals of his people as emancipator, leader, lawgiver, prophet, whose colossal figure, uprising in the land of the Pharaohs, upwards of three thousand years ago, has overshadowed with its greatness all the intervening centuries, and to-day casts the spell of its mighty name upon the most enlightened and enterprising races on the globe. Of such a character it may be interesting to consider the turning-point of his history, which is briefly recorded in the words, "He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter."

The SIGNIFICANCE of this act is not always rightly estimated. Josephus¹ tells us that the act itself was presaged in a startling deed performed by Moses when a child. Thermuthis having on one occasion exhibited him to her royal parent, that illustrious personage "took him and hugged him, and, on his daughter's account, in a pleasant way put his diadem (the double crown, which etchings from the monuments have made familiar) upon his head ; but Moses threw it down, and in a puerile mood wreathed it round and trod upon it with his feet." Perhaps it is a fable, though singularly enough something like this occurred in the case of Rameses II., who, if then born, must have been a child like Moses. An inscription² on the temple of Abydos, placed there by Rameses II. in honour of his deceased sire, communicates the fact that while yet a boy he (Rameses) was crowned as co-regent with his father, "solemnly inducted as eldest son into the dignity of an heir to the throne, on the chair of the earth god Seb." Lifted into his father's lap, he was exhibited before the public, the regal circlet was placed on his brow, his fond father saying, "I will cause him to be

¹ *Antiq.*, ii. 9, 7. ² Brugsch, *Egypt under the Pharaohs*, vol. ii. p. 39.