

Chapter 6

The king hearing the good seruice of Mardocheus in detecting traitors, read in the chronicle (for which he had yet no rewarde) 4. commandeth Aman to honour him next to the king, 11. which he performeth.

That night the king ^apaffed without fleepe, and he commanded the hiftories and chronicles of former times to be brought him. Which when they were read in his prefence, ² they came to that place where it was written, how Mardocheus had vttered the treafon of Bagathan, and Thares the eunuches, coueting to kil king Affuerus. ³ Which when the king had heard, he fayd: What honour and reward hath Mardocheus receiued for this fidelitie? His feruantes and minifters faid to him: He hath receiued no reward at al. ⁴ And the king by and by, who is, quoth he, in the court? For Aman had entered the inner court of the kings houfe, that he might fuggeft to the king, and he might command Mardocheus to be hanged faft on the gibbet, which was prepared for him. ⁵ The feruantes answered: Aman ftandeth in the court. And the king faid: Let him come in. ⁶ And when he was come in, he faid to him: What ought to be done to the man, whom the king is defirous to honour? But Aman ^bthinking in his hart, and fuppofing that the king would honour no other, but him felf, ⁷ answered: The man, whom the king defireth to honour, ⁸ ought to be clothed with the kings garmentes, and to be fet vpon the horfe, that is for the kings faddle, and to take the kings crowne vpon his head, ⁹ and let the chiefe of the kings princes and nobles hold his horfe, and going through the ftreat of the citie,

^a Gods eye which neuer flepeth faw what Aman intended: and for execution of his owne diuine iuftice, vfed this meanes by fubtracting flepe that time from the king and infpiring his mind to heare the hiftories read, and to reward good seruice donne. *Iofeph.*

^b Ambitious men are moft blinde in conceite of their owne deferts, and fortunes.

crie, and fay: So shal he be honoured, whomfoeuer the
 king wil honour. ¹⁰ And the king laid to him: Make haft,
 and taking a robe and a horfe, do that thou haft fpoken,
 to Mardocheus the Iewe, which fitteth before the doores
 of the palace: Beware thou pretermitte nothing of thofe
 things, which thou haft fpoken. ¹¹ Aman therefore tooke
 a robe and a horfe, and putting it on Mardocheus, and
 fetting him on the horfe, in the ftreat of the citie went be-
 fore him, and cried: This honour is he worthie of, whom
 foeuer the king is willing to honour. ¹² And Mardocheus
 returned to the palace gate: and Aman made haft to goe
 into his houfe, mourning and his head couered: ¹³ and
 he told Zares his wife, and his frendes al things, that
 had chaunced him. To whom the wife men whom he
 had in counfel, and his wife answered: ^a)If Mardocheus
 be of the Iewes feede, before whom thou haft begune to
 fal, thou canft not refift him, but thou shalt fal in his
 fight. ¹⁴ As they were yet fpeaking, the kings eunuches
 came, and compelled him to goe quickly to the banket,
 which the queene had prepared.

^a Either they had read Gods promife to the Iewes *Gen. 13. 15. &c.*
 or coniectured this by humane prudence.