

Chapter 7

Efther entertayning the king and Aman againe at a feaft, is promised to obtaine, whatfoeuer she wil aske. 3. She demandeth faftie for her felf, and al the people, againft Amans crueltie, 6. and Aman is hanged on the gallowes, which he had prepared for Mardocheus.

The king therefore and Aman went in, to drinke with the queene. ² And the king faid to her alfo the fecond day, after he was warme with wine: What is thy petition Efther, that it may be geuen thee? and what wilt thou haue done? although thou shalt aske the half part of my kingdome, thou shalt obteyne. ³ To whom she answered: ^a)If I haue found grace in thyne eies ô king, and if it please thee, geue me my life for the which I make request, and my people for the which I befech. ⁴ For we are deliuered I and my people, to be deftroyed, murdered, and to perifh. And would God we were fold for bondmen and bondwomen: it were a tolerable euil, and mourning I would hold my peace: but now it is our enemie, whose crueltie redoundeth vpon the king. ⁵ And king Affuerus answering, faid: Who is this, and of what might, that he dare doe thefe things? ⁶ And Efther faid: It is this Aman our aduerfarie and moft wicked enemie. Which he hearing ^b)forthwith was aftonifhed, not enduring to beare the countenance of the king and of the queene. ⁷ But the king being wrath rofe vp, and from the place of the banquet went into the garden fet with trees. Aman alfo rofe vp, to intreate Efther the queene for his life, for he vnderftood that there was euil prepared him of the king. ⁸ Who when he was returned out of the garden fet with trees, and had entered into the place of the

^a After three dayes faft of al the Iewes with prayers and other workes of penance, Efther asked and obtained the faftie of the whole people more precious to her then halfe of the kingdom.

^b Horror of a guiltie confcience is commonly the firft torment of a finner. *S. Chriſſocons 4. de Lagaro.*

banquet, he found Aman to haue fallen vpon the bed, wherein Efther lay, and he said: The queene also he wil force in my prefence, in my house. Neither was the word yet passed from the kings mouth, and immediatly they covered his face. ⁹ And Harbona, ^{a)}one of the eunuches which stood wayting on the king, sayd: Behold the gibbet, which he had prepared for Mardocheus, that spake for the king, standeth in Amans house, hauing in height fiftie cubites. To whom the king said: Hang him vpon it. ¹⁰ Aman therefore was hanged on the gibbet, which he had prepared for Mardocheus: and the kings wrath ceased.

^a What litle trust in false freindshipe, when bad men once fall into disgrace.