

Chapter 7

Elther entertayning the king and Aman againe at a feaft, is promifed to obtaine, whatfoeuer ſhe wil aſke. 3. She demandeth faſtie for her ſelf, and al the people, againſt Amans crueltie, 6. and Aman is hanged on the gallowes, which he had prepared for Mardocheus.

The king therfore and Aman went in, to drinke with the queene. ² And the king ſaid to her alſo the ſecond day, after he was warme with wine: What is thy petition Elther, 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: ^aIf 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 deſtroyed, murdered, and to periſh. 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, ſaid: Who is this, and of what might, that he dare doe theſe things? ⁶ And Elther ſaid: It is this Aman our aduerſarie and moſt wicked enemie. Which he hearing ^bforthwith was aſtoniſhed, not enduring to beare the countenance of the king and of the queene. ⁷ But the king being wrath roſe vp, and from the place of the banket went into the garden ſet with trees. Aman alſo roſe vp, to intreate Elther the queene for his life, for he vnderſtood that there was euil prepared him of the king. ⁸ Who when he was returned out of the garden ſet with trees, and had entered into the place of the

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

^b Horreur of a guiltie conſcience is commonly the firſt torment of a finner. *S. Chriſſocons 4. de Lagaro.*

banket, he found Aman to haue fallen vpon the bed, wherein Efther lay, and he laid: The queene alfo he wil force in my prefence, in my houfe. Neither was the word yet paffed from the kings mouth, and immediatly they couered his face. ⁹ And Harbona, ^{a)}one of the eunuches which ftood wayting on the king, fayd: Behold the gibbet, which he had prepared for Mardocheus, that fpake for the king, ftandeth in Amans houfe, hauing in height fiftie cubites. To whom the king laid: Hang him vpon it. ¹⁰ Aman therfore was hanged on the gibbet, which he had prepared for Mardocheus: and the kings wrath ceafed.

^a VVhat litle trueth in falfe freindshipe, when bad men once fal into difgrace.