

Chapter 8

*Efther informeth the king that Mardocheus is her vn-
cle, he is aduanced in authoritie, 3. and contrarie letters
are fent that the Iewes be faued, 11. and their enemies
flayne. 15. Mardocheus is in high honour, and his whole
nation is eftemed and feared by other people.*

That day king Affuerus gaue vnto Efther the
queene the houfe of Aman the Iewes aduerfarie,
and Mardocheus went in before the kings prefence.
For Efther confeffed to him that he was her vn-²cle. And
the king tooke the ring, which he had commanded to
be taken agayne from Aman, and deliuered it to Mar-
docheus. And Efther appointed Mardocheus alfo ouer
her houfe. ³ Neither content with thefe things, she a)fel
downe at the kings feete, and she wept and fpeaking to
him prayed him, that he would command that the malice
of Aman the Agagite, and his moft wicked deuifes, which
he had inuented agaynft the Iewes, fhould be of none
effect. ⁴ But he after the maner put forth the golden
fcepter with his hand, by the which figne of clemencie
was fhewed: and fhe ryfing vp ftood before him, ⁵ and
faid: If it pleafe the king, and if I haue found grace in
his eies, and my requeft feme not contrarie to him, I
befech thee, that the old letters of Aman the traytour
and enemie of the Iewes, wherein he commanded that in
al the kings prouinces they fhould perish, may by new
letters be corrected. ⁶ For how can I abide the mur-
der and flaughter of my people? ⁷ And king Affuerus
anfwered Efther the queene, and Mardocheus the Iewe:
Amans houfe I haue geuen to Efther, and him felf I
haue commanded to be hanged on the gallowes, becaufe
he durft lay handes on the Iewes. ⁸ Write ye therefore to

^a Such honour is due to kinges, yea though they be Infideles, be-
caufe they haue terreftrial maieftie and authoritie from God. And
the contrarie opinion and behaiour of heretikes, *vvhich defpice
Dominion and blafpheme Maieftie*, is condemned by S. Iude, in
his Epiftle. v. 8.

the Iewes, as pleafeth you, in the kings name, figning the letters with my ring. For this was the cuftome, that no man durft fpeake againft the letters, which were fent in the kings name, and were figned with his ring. ⁹ And the kings fcribes and fecretaries being cald for (and it was the time of the third moneth, which is called Siban) the three and twentieth day therof letters were written, as Mardocheus would, to the Iewes, and to the princes, and the lieuftenantes and iudges, which were rulers ouer the hundred and feuen and twentie prouinces, from India euen to Æthopia: to prouince and prouince, to people and people, according to their languages and characters, and to the Iewes, according as they could read, and heare. ¹⁰ And the faid letters, which were fent in the kings name, were figned with his ring, and fent by ryding poftes: which running through al the prouinces, should preuent the old letters with the new meffages. ¹¹ To whom the king gaue commandment, that they fould fpeake to the Iewes in euerie citie, and fould command them to be gathered together in one, that they might ftand for their liues, and might kil and deftroy al their enemies with their wiues and children and al their houfes, and to take the fpoyle of them. ¹² And there was appointed through al the prouinces one day of reuenge, that is, the thirteenth of the twelfth moneth Adar. ¹³ And this was the content of the letter, that in al landes and peoples, which were fubieft to the empire of king Affuerus, it should be notified, the Iewes to be readie to be reuenged of their enemies. ¹⁴ And there went forth fwift poftes carying the meffages, and the kinges edict hong in Sufan. ¹⁵ But Mardocheus going forth out of the palace, and from the kinges prefence, shining in royal garmentes, to wit, hyacinthine and skie colour, bearing a golden crowne on his head, and clothed with a filke and purple cloke. And the citie reioyfed, and was glad. ¹⁶ But to the Iewes there femed a new light to rife, ioye, honour, and dauncing. ¹⁷ With al peoples, cities, and prouinces, whither foeuer the kinges commandmentes came, meruelous reioyfung, feaftes, and banketes, and holie day: in fo much that manie of the

other nation and sect, were ioyned to their religion and ceremonies. For great terrour of the name of the Iewes had inuaded them al.

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v. 1.