

## Chapter 8

*Efther informeth the king that Mardocheus is her vn-  
cle, he is aduanced in authoritie, 3. and contrarie letters  
are sent 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.*

**T**hat day king Affuerus gaue vnto Efther the  
queene the houle of Aman the Iewes aduerfarie,  
and Mardocheus went in before the kings prefence.  
For Efther confessed to him that he was her vn-  
cle. <sup>2</sup> 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 also ouer  
her houle. <sup>3</sup> Neither content with these things, she a)fel  
downe at the kings feete, and she wept and speaking to  
him prayed him, that he would command that the malice  
of Aman the Agagite, and his most wicked deuises, which  
he had inuented agaynft the Iewes, should be of none  
effect. <sup>4</sup> But he after the maner put forth the golden  
scepter with his hand, by the which signe of clemencie  
was shewed: and she ryfing vp stood before him, <sup>5</sup> and  
said: If it please the king, and if I haue found grace in  
his eyes, and my request seme not contrarie to him, I  
beseech thee, that the old letters of Aman the traytour  
and enemy of the Iewes, wherein he commanded that in  
all the kings prouinces they should perish, may by new  
letters be corrected. <sup>6</sup> For how can I abide the mur-  
der and slaughter of my people? <sup>7</sup> And king Affuerus  
answered Efther the queene, and Mardocheus the Iewe:  
Amans houle I haue geuen to Efther, and him self I  
haue commanded to be hanged on the gallows, because  
he durst lay handes on the Iewes. <sup>8</sup> Write ye therefore to

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<sup>a</sup> Such honour is due to kinges, yea though they be Infideles, be-  
cause they haue terrestrial maiestie and authoritie from God. And  
the contrarie opinion and behauiour of heretikes, *vvhich despise  
Dominion and blasphemie Maieftie*, is condemned by S. Iude, in  
*his Epistle. 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And there was appointed through al the prouinces one day of reuenge, that is, the thirteenth of the twelfth moneth Adar. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And there went forth fwift poftes carying the meffages, and the kinges edict hong in Sufan. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But to the Iewes there femed a new light to rife, ioye, honour, and dauncing. <sup>17</sup> With al peoples, cities, and prouinces, whither foeuer the kinges commandmentes came, meruelous reioyfing, 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.

Large L ch. 16.  
v. 1.