

Chapter 6

Elifeus maketh iron to fwimme vpon the water: 8. leadeth the king of Syria his men (fent to apprehend him) blindly into Samaria. 20. Where their eyes being opened, they are curtoufly intertained, and freely difmifsed. 24. The Syrians befiege Samaria. 26. For extreme famine a mother eateth her child. 31. And the king commandeth to kil Elifeus.

And the children of the prophetes fayd to Elifeus: Behold the place, wherin we dwel before thee is ftreite for vs. ² Let vs goe as far as Iordan, and take out of the wood euerie man fome timber, that we may build there a place to dwel in. Who faid: Goe. ³ And one of them fayd: Come therfore thou alfo with thy feruantes. He answered: I wil come. ⁴ And he went with them. And when they were come to Iordan they cut wood. ⁵ And it chanced, that when one had cut downe timber, the head of the axe fel into the water: and he cried out, and faid: Alas alas alas my lord, this fame alfo I ^adid borow. ⁶ And the man of God fayd: Where fel it? and he fhewed him the place: he therfore cut of a pece of wood, and caft it thither: and the yron did fwimme, ⁷ and he faid: Take it vp. Who ftretched forth his hand, and tooke it. ⁸ And the king of Syria fought againft Ifrael, and tooke counfel with his feruantes, fay-ing: In that and that place let vs lay embufhementes. ⁹ Therfore the man of God fent to the king of Ifrael, fay-ing: Beware thou paffe not into fuch a place: becaufe the Syrians are there in embushementes. ¹⁰ The king of Ifrael therfore fent to the place, which the man of God had told him, and preuented him, and looked wel to him felf there not once or twife. ¹¹ And the hart of the king of Syria was trubled for this thing. And calling together his feruantes, he fayd: Why doe you not tel me who is the betraier of me to the king of Ifrael?

^a His grief was great, becaufe he had not meanes to recompence the loffe to the owner.

¹² And one of his seruantes fayd: Not fo my lord king, but Elifeus the prophet, which is in Ifrael, telleth the king of Ifrael al wordes, whatfoeuer thou fhalt fpeake in thy priuy chamber. ¹³ And he fayd to them: Goe, and fee where he is: that I may fend, and take him. And they told him, faying: Behold in Dothan. ¹⁴ He therfore fent thither horfes and chariotes, and the force of his armie: who when they were come in the night, they befette the citie. ¹⁵ And the feruant of the man of God rifing early, went out, and faw an armie round about the citie, and horfes and chariotes: and he told him, faying: Alas alas my lord, what shal we doe? ¹⁶ But he answered: Feare not: for there are more with vs then with them. ¹⁷ And when Elifeus had prayed, he fayd: Lord open the eies of this man, that he may fee. And our Lord opened the eies of the feruant, and ^ahe beheld: and loe the mountaine ful of horfes, and of firie chariotes round about Elifeus. ¹⁸ But the enemies went downe to him: moreouer Elifeus prayed to our Lord, faying: Strike, I befech thee, this people with blindeneffe. And our Lord fmote them, that they faw not, according to the word of Elifeus. ¹⁹ And Elifeus fayd to them: This is not the way neither is this the citie: folow me, & I wil shew you the man, whom you feeke. He therfore led them into Samaria: ²⁰ and when they were entered into Samaria, Elifeus faid: Lord open the eies of thefe men, that they may fee. And our Lord opened their eies, and they faw them felues to be in the middes of Samaria. ²¹ And the king of Ifrael faid to Elifeus, when he had fene them: Shal I ftrike them, my father? ²² And he faid: Thou shalt not ftrike them: for thou didft not take them with thy fword, and thy bow, that thou mayft ftrike them: but ^bfet bread and water before them, that they may eate and drinke, and goe to their maifter. ²³ And a great

^a A husbandman, in yorshire called Kettle had the gift to see euil spirites, wherby he often detected & hindered their bad purposes. *Neubrig. li. 2. c. 21. Rer. Anglic.*

^b By bread and water is vnderstood ordinarie meate and drinke. *v. 23.*

preparation of meates was fette before them, and they did eate and drinke, and he difmiffed them, and they went away to their maifter, and the robbers of Syria came no more into the Land of Ifrael. ²⁴ And it came to paffe after thefe thinges, Benadad the king of Syria gathered together al his armie, and went vp, and befieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria: and fo long it was befieged, til the head of an affe was fold for foure fcore filuer peeces, & the fourth part of a cabe of pigeons dung, for fiue filuer peeces. ²⁶ And when the king of Ifrael paffed by the wall, a certayne woman cried out to him, faying: Saue me my lord king. ²⁷ Who fayd: No, our Lord faue thee: how can I faue thee? of the floore, or of the preffe? And the king fayd to her: What ayleth thee? Who answered: ²⁸ This woman fayd to me: Geue thy fonne, that we may eate him to day, & my fonne we wil eate to morrow. ²⁹ We therefore boyled my fonne, and did eate him. And I fayd to her the next day: Geue thy fonne, that we may eate him. Who hath hid her fonne. ³⁰ Which when the king had heard, he rent his garmentes, and paffed by the wal. And al the people faw the hearecloth, which he ware next vpon his flesh. ³¹ And the king fayd: Thefe thinges doe God to me, and thefe adde he, if the head of Elifeus the fonne of Saphat shal ftand vpon him this day. ³² But Elifeus fate in his houfe, and the ancientes fate with him. He therefore fent a man before: and before that meffenger came, he fayd to the ancientes: Doe you know that this murderers fonne hath fent to cut of my head? See therefore, when the meffenger shal come, fhut the doore, and fuffer him not to enter in: for behold the found of his maifters feete is behinde him. ³³ Whiles he was yet fpeaking to them, the meffenger appeared, which came to him. And he fayd: Behold, this fo great euil is of our Lord: what shal I looke for more of our Lord?