

Chapter 34

For rauishing Dina, the Sichimites (being first circumcised) are flaine by Simeon and Leui her brothers. 27. The rest of Iacobs sonnes spoile the citie. 30. Iacob blameth them, fearing harme may come by this fact.

And Dina the daughter of Lia went forth ^{a)}to see the women of that countrie. ² Whom when Sichem had seene the sonne of Hemor the Heuite, the prince of that land, he was in loue with her: and he tooke her away, and lay with her, by force rauishing the virgin. ³ And his foule was fast knit vnto her, and wheras she was sad, he comforted her with sweete wordes. ⁴ And going to Hemor his father, he said: Take me this wench to be my wife. ⁵ Which when Iacob had heard, his sonnes being absent, and occupied in feeding of the cattle, he held his peace til they returned. ⁶ And when Hemor Sichems father was come forth to speake vnto Iacob, ⁷ behold his sonnes came out of the field: and hearing what had passed, they were passing wrath, because he had done a foule thing in Ifrael, and committed an vnlawful fact, in rauishing Iacob's daughter. ⁸ Hemor therefore spake to them: The foule of my sonne Sichem is fastned to your daughter; Geue her vnto him to wife: ⁹ and let vs contract mariages one with an other: geue vs your daughters, and take you our daughters. ¹⁰ And dwel with vs: the land is at your commandement, till, occupie, and possesse it. ¹¹ Yea and Sichem also said to her father and to her brethren: Let me finde grace in your sight: and what foeuer you shal appointe I wil geue: ¹² raise the dowrie, and require giftes, and I shal gladly geue, what you shal demande: only geue me this wench to wife. ¹³ Iacobs sonnes answered Sichem &

^a O Dina (saith S. Bernard) what nede was there to see women of a strange countrie? *Tract. de gradib. humilitatis.*

his father ^ain guile, being wrath for the deflouring of their fifters: ¹⁴ We can not doe that which you demande, nor geue our fifters to an vncircumcised perfon: which with vs is an vnlawful & abhominable thing. ¹⁵ But in this order we may be confederate, if you wil be like to vs, and al the man fex among you be circumcised: ¹⁶ then wil we geue and take mutually your daughters, and ours: and we wil dwel with you, and wil be one people: ¹⁷ but if you wil not be circumcised, we wil take our daughter, and depart. ¹⁸ The offer pleased Hemor, and Sichem his fonne: ¹⁹ neither did the young man make delay, but forthwith fulfilled that which was demanded: for he loued the wench exceedingly, and he was the greateft man in al his fathers houfe. ²⁰ And going into the gate of the citie, they fpake to the people: ²¹ Thefe men are men of peace, and are willing to dwel with vs: let them occupie in the land, and til it, which being large and wide doth lacke men to tille it: their daughters we fhall take to wife, and ours we wil geue to them. ²² One thing there is for the which fo great a good is differred: If we circumcife our men fexe, following the rite of the nation. ²³ And their fubftance, and cattle, and al things that they poffeffe, fhall be ours: only in this let vs condefcend, and dwelling togeather, we fhall make one people. ²⁴ And they al affented, and circumcised al the man fex. ²⁵ And behold the third day, when the grieue of the woundes is moft painefull: Iacobs two fonnes, Simeon and Leui the brothers of Dina, taking their fwordes, entred into the citie boldly: and killing al the man fex, ²⁶ mured withal Hemor and Sichem, taking away Dina their fifter out of Sichems houfe. ²⁷ When they were gone forth, the other fonnes of Iacob ranne in vpon them that were flaine: and fpoiled the citie in reuenge of the rape. ²⁸ And wafting al things that were in their houfes, and fildes, their fheepe and heardes, and affes, ²⁹ their

^a They offended by fallly pretending religion, and by exceffe in reuenge, & therefore are reprobud by their father. *v. 30. & chap. 49. v. 5.* Otherwife their zeale was iuft to punifh fo foule a fault. *Iudith. 9.*

little ones also, and their wives they led away captive.
³⁰ Which things when they had boldly achieved, Jacob
said to Simeon and Levi: You have troubled me, and
made me odious to the Chananites, and Perezites the
inhabiters of this land. We are few: they being gathered
together will strike me; and I, and my house shall be
destroyed. ³¹ They answered: What should they abuse
our sister as a trumpet?