

Chapter 34

For rauishing Dina, the Sichimites (being first circumcised) are flaine by Simeon and Leui her brothers. 27. The rest of Iacobs fonnes 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 country. ² Whom when Sichem had seene the sonne of Hemor the Heuiter, 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 whereas 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 Israel, 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 another: geue vs your daughters, and take you our daughters. ¹⁰ And dwell with vs: the land is at your commandement, till it, 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 soeuer you shall appointe I will geue: ¹² raise the dowrie, and require giftes, and I shall gladly geue, what you shall demande: only geue me this wench to wife. ¹³ Iacobs sonnes answered

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

Sichem & his father ^ain guile, being wrath for the deflowering of their fiftter: ¹⁴ We can not doe that which you demande, nor geue our fiftter 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 circumcise 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 condescend, and dwelling together, 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 painful: 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 muredred withal Hemor and Sichem, taking away Dina their fiftter 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 reprobued 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, Iacob said to Simeon and Leui: You have troubled me, and made me odious to the Chananites, and Pherezites the inhabitants 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?