

Chapter 12

Iudith is brought into Holofernes treafurehoufe, 2. hath leaue to abftaine from the Gentils meates, 5. and to goe forth in the night to pray. 10. The fourth day she cometh to Holofernes banquet, 16. he is taken with concupifcence, and drinketh very much wine.

Then he bad her goe in where his treafures were layd vp, and bad her tarie there, and he apoynted what should be geuen her of his owne banquet. ² To whom Iudith anfwered, and faid: Now, ^a)I can not eate of thefe thinges, which thou commandeft to be geuen me, left there come difpleafure vpon me: but I wil eate of thefe thinges, which I haue brought. ³ To whom Holofernes faid: If thefe thinges which thou haft brought with thee fhall fayle thee, what fhall we doe to thee. ⁴ And Iudith faid: Thy foule liueth my lord, that thy handmayde fhall not fpend al thefe thinges, til God doe by my hand thefe thinges, which I haue purpofed. And his feruantes brought her into the tabernacle, which he had commanded. ⁵ And whiles she went in, she defired that fhe might haue licence to goe forth, in the night and before day to prayer, and to befech our Lord. ⁶ And he commanded his chamberlaynes, that as it pleafed her, she fhould goe out & come in to adore her God for three dayes. ⁷ And she went forth in the nightes into the vale of Bethulia, and washed her felf in a fountaine of water. ⁸ And as she came vp, she prayed our Lord the God of Ifrael, that he would direct her way to the deliuerie of his people. ⁹ And going in, she remayned ^b)pure in the tabernacle, vntil she tooke her owne meate in the euening. ¹⁰ And it came to paffe in the fourth day, Holofernes made a fupper to his feruantes, and fayd to Vagao his eunuch: Goe, and perfwade

^a See *chap. 10. v. 5.*

^b This puritie confifted in abftaining from meates forbid by the Law, or offered to Idoles.

Puella.

that Hebrew woman, that she consent of her owne accord to dwel with me. ¹¹ For it is a foule thing with the Affyrians, if a woman mocke a man in doing, that she passe free from him. ¹² Then Vagao went in to Iudith, & said: Let not the good yong maide feare to goe in to my Lord, that she may be honoured before his face, that she may eate with him and drinke wine in ioyfulnes. ¹³ To whom Iudith answered: Who am I, that I should gaynefay my lord? ¹⁴ Al that shal be good and best before his eyes, wil I doe. And whatfoeuer shal please him, that shal be best to me al the dayes of my life. ¹⁵ And she arose, and decked herself with her garments, and going in she stood before his face. ¹⁶ And the hart of Holofernes was strooken: for he burnt in the concupiscence of her. ¹⁷ And Holofernes said to her: Drinke now, and sit downe in ioyfulnes, because thou hast found grace before me. ¹⁸ And Iudith said: I wil drinke my lord, because my foule is magnified this day aboute al my dayes. ¹⁹ And she tooke, and did eate, and dranke before him those thinges, which her handmayde had prepared her. ²⁰ And Holofernes was made pleasant toward her, and dranke wine exceeding much, so much as he had neuer drunke in his life?