

Chapter 14

Holofernes head is hanged on the wall. 6. Achior is circumcised. 7. The Ifraelites affault the Affyrians, 8. who going to awake their General, 14. finde him flaine, 17. and are al confounded with feare.

And Iudith faid to al the people: Heare me brethren, hang ye this head vpon our walles: ² and it shal be, when the funne shal rife, let euerie man take his armour, and yffue ye forth with violence, not that you goe downe beneath, but as it were inuading violently. ³ Then the watchmen muft of neceffitie runne to rayfe vp their prince to battel. ⁴ And when the captaynes of them shal runne to the tabernacle of Holofernes, and shal finde him headles rowled in bloud, feare wil fal vpon them. ⁵ And when you shal know that they flee, goe after them feurely, becaufe our Lord wil deftroi them vnder your feete. ⁶ Then ^a) Achior feeing the power, that God of Ifrael wrought, forfaking the rite of gentilitie, beleued God, and circumcised the flesh of his prepuce, and was ioyned to the people of Ifrael, and al the fuceffion of his kinred vntil this present day. ⁷ And immediatly as day brake, they hong the head of Holofernes vpon the walles, and euerie man tooke his armour, and they went forth with great noyfe and shouting. ⁸ Which the watchmen feing, ranne to the tabernacle of Holofernes. ⁹ Moreouer they that were in the tabernacle, coming, and before the dore of the tabernacle making a noyfe, to rayfe him, they endeouored by art to difquiet him, that Holofernes might awake not by them rayfing him, but by them making a noyfe. ¹⁰ For no man durft by knocking, or entring, to open the chamber of the chiefe of the Affyrians. ¹¹ But when his dukes

^a Achior an Ammonite (*ch. 5. v. 5.*) being truly conuerted and beleeuing in God, was admitted into the Church, notwithstanding that Ammonites and Moabites were excluded by name, *Deut. 23. v. 3.* which is therefore ment only of thofe that perfift impenitent and obftinate.

and tribunes were come, and al the chiefe of the armie of the king of the Affyrians, they faid to the chamberlayns: ¹² Goe in, and awake him, becaufe the mice yffuing out of their holes, haue prefumed to prouoke vs to battel. ¹³ Then Vagao entring into his chamber, ftoode before the cortine, and made a clapping with his handes: for he thought that he flept with Iudith. ¹⁴ But when with the fenfe of his eares he percieued no motion of perfon lying, he came neere to the cortine, and lifting it vp, and feing the bodie without the head of Holofernes weltred in his bloud lye vpon the ground, cried out in a lowd voyce with weeping, and rent his garmentes. ¹⁵ And going into the tabernacle of Iudith, he found her not, and he lept forth to the people, ¹⁶ and fayd: One Hebrewewoman hath made confufion in the houfe of king Nabuchodonofor: for behold Holofernes lyeth vpon the ground, and his head is not vpon him. ¹⁷ Which when the princes of the power of the Affyrians had heard, they al rent their garmentes, and intollerable feare and dread fel vpon them, and their mindes were trubled exceedingly. ¹⁸ And there was made an incomparable crie in the middes of their campe.