A1 | 1.1. AHASUERUS. REIGN. EXTENT OF KINGDOM.

B1 D1 | 1. 2—2. 20. AHASUERUS. ON HIS THRONE.

E1 F | 2. 21—23. MORDECAI. DISCOVERY OF PLOT (BIOFAN AND TEPHEF).

G | 3. 1—15. HAMAN. HIS PLOT.

F | 4. 1—3. MORDECAI. DISCOVERY OF HAMAN'S PLOT.

C1 | 4. 4—5. 14. ESTHER. HER INTERCESSION.

B2 D2 | 6. 1. AHASUERUS. ON HIS BED.

E2 H | 6. 2—3. MORDECAI. KING'S INQUIRY.

J | 6. 4—9. HAMAN. KING'S INQUIRY.

H | 6. 10—14. MORDECAI. KING'S COMMAND.

C2 | 7. 1. ESTHER. HER BANQUET.

B3 D3 | 7. 2—. AHASUERUS. AT ESTHER'S TABLE.

E3 K | 7. 7—2. KING. INQUIRY AND PROMISE.

L | 7. 3—4. ESTHER. PLEA FOR LIFE.

K | 7. 5—10. KING. INQUIRY AND WRATH.

C3 | 8. 1—. ESTHER. HER ROYAL GIFT.

B4 D4 | 8. 2—. AHASUERUS. ON HIS THRONE.

E4 M | 8. 3—6. ESTHER. PLEA FOR HER PEOPLE.

N | 8. 7—17. KING. DECREES.

M | 9. 1—28. ESTHER. PLEA FOR HER PEOPLE.

C4 | 9. 29—32. ESTHER. HER ROYAL AUTHORITY.

A2 | 10. 1—3. AHASUERUS. REIGN. EXTENT OF KINGDOM.
Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace;

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:

4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and four-score days.

5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus,

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Bigtha, Abgar, and Tarshish, the eunuchs that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the hand of his chamberlains.

18 But if queen Vashti refuse to come at the king's commandment by the hand of his chamberlains, what is king Ahasuerus that he should be held in the kingdom? Then said the king.

14 In those days: i.e. the days when these events took place. At other times he dwelt at Ecbatana, or else. Verse 1 mentions the ruler; v. 2, the place; v. 3, the time; sat took his seat, or came, to Shushan. Now, the ruins of Shus, on the river Shapur, east of Persian Gulf.


16 the third year: i.e. in 471; six years after the destruction of Jerusalem. Astyages now seventeen or eighteen years. See Ap. 50. VII (5). In this year Xerxes (who is supposed to be this king), according to Herod. vii. 8, and Diod. Sic. xi. 2, was preparing his expedition against Greece; whereas this chapter presupposes a season of peace and quiet. a feast. For its own sake. No reason is given. power. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Effect), Ap. 6, for those who exercised it: viz. the people of power. Persia and Media. In this book this is always the order, except 10. 2. In Daniel it is the reverse. an hundred and fourscore days. This was to allow all peoples to be feasted in turn. Not all at the same time; or one feast of that duration.


10 commanded. So rendered in vv. 17, 20; 4. 14; 6. 1; 9. 14, 25. Note the different words rendered "command" and "decree" in this book. seven chamberlains = seven eunuchs. This shows the minuteness of the writer's knowledge.

11 people = peoples. This is stated for by servants; not by the nobles (v. 4), and before the "peoples" (v. 5).
1. 12. ESTHER.

The king’s commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king’s manner toward all the wise men that knew law and judgment;)

14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Sataba, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Parsa, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king’s face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;

15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the king’s commandment which he commanded by the chamberlains?"

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus;

17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, 'The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.'

18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king’s princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

20 And when the king’s decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, "for it is great", "ALL THE WIVES SHALL GIVE TO their husbands honour, both to great and small."

21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

22 For he sent letters into all the king’s provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

A2 B1

2 0 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

2 Then said the king’s servants that ministered unto him, "Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king’s chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them;

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti." And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

A2 B1


13 for. See note on the parentheticals, v. 7.

1. 13–22 (A2, p. 655). QUEEN VASHTI. DEGRA­DATION. (Alternation.)


18 ladies = princesses.
20 decree = rescript. Only here and Ecc. 8: 11. it is great: i.e. the decree is important.

ALL THE WIVES SHALL GIVE. This is the first of the five Acrostics (Ap. 6), exhibiting in the initials the Divine name. See Ap. 60.

2. 1–20 (A2, p. 655). QUEEN ESTHER. SUB­STITUTED. (Repeated Alternation and Intro­versions.)


1 After these things: i.e. in 467. Astyages was then twenty-one. In the seventh year (v. 10); one of these spent in preparations (v. 12). Ahasuerus. See note on 1: 1.

Vashti. See note on 1: 9.


3 custody = hand. chamberlain = eunuch.

4 maiden = a young person. Heb. ṣā‘ar.

5 a certain Jew = a man (Heb. ’ish. Ap. 14: 11), a Jew. The contrast between Judah and Israel was lost in a strange land; and, as Nebuchadnezzar’s campaign was against Judah, so “Jew” became the name used by Gentiles.

Mordecai. Daniel and Ezekiel taken to Babylon (2 Kings 24: 14, 15); Nehemiah and Mordecai to Shus­shan; and Mordecai dwelt in the royal palace, as did Daniel and others (Dan. 1: 4; 2 Kings 20: 18–19).

6 Benjamite, a Benjamite.

7 Jecohiah = Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24: 6), carried away. Cp. 2 Kings 24: 14, 15. Jer. 52: 24–34, 133 years before the generally received date (i.e. 598–465 = 133), which, therefore, cannot be correct.

From the carrying away of Jecohiah to the marriage of Esther to Astyages in his seventh year was only twenty-two years (489–467). See Ap. 50. VII (5).

5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, "a Benjamite;"

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jecohiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle’s daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maids were of fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her
father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree were heard, and when the women's maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maidens unto the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maiden's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

13 In the evening he went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she was named by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her People; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of
3. 2.

ESTHER.

1 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence,
2 he thought to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him
3 the matters of Mordecai: what were in the king’s gate, said unto Mordecai, “Why
4 transgressest thou the king’s commandment?”
5 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them,
6 that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him
7 the matters of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the People of Mordecai.

8 And said unto king Ahasuerus, “There is a certain People scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it is not for the king’s profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that the king’s profit to suffer them.

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy.
11 And the king said unto Haman, “The silver is given to thee, the People also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.”

12 Then were the king’s scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month,
13 and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king’s lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king’s ring.

14 And the copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king’s commandment, and the decree was executed throughout the king’s provinces.

3. 1-15 (G, p. 654). HAMAN. PLOT.

(G) [Alternations and Introdution.]

D | i | 8, 9. Haman. Plot purposed.
E | k | 10, 11. The king. Compliance with Haman.
F | m | 12-. Pur. The day by lot.


commanded = appointed or charged. Heb. sa’ava. Mordecai. See note on 2. 5, bowed not. He could not bow to an Amalekite, against whom Jehovah had declared perpetual war. See note on Ex. 17. 16.

transgressed. Heb. ibar. Ap. 44. VII.

Haman sought. Another assault of Satan against the nation through whom the Seed of the woman was to come. See Ap. 23, p. 27.

7 they cast. From 1st Nisan 462 to 13th Adar 462.

Persian for “lot.” The reference is to “the monthly prognosticators” of Isa. 47. 12. This was to fix on a fortunate time. Cp. 9. 24.

8 Haman said. Having got the month and the day (the thirteenth, see 9. 13, cp. Ap. 10), he could go to the king.

There is a certain People. Would it have been necessary for Haman thus to have explained and described the Jews, if they had already received their emancipation? Impossible! We are asked to believe this according to the traditional teaching. But see note on 10. 3, and Ap. 55 and 56.


laws. See note on 1. 8. 9 talents. See Ap. 51. 11.

10 the Jews’ enemy. Haman so called four times: 3. 10; 8. 1; 9. 10, 24. No one else so called in Scripture.

11 the People also. This was the aim of the great enemy, who was using Haman as he had tried to use Pharaoh in Egypt. See Ap. 23.

12 the thirteenth day. Ominous number. See Ap. 10. Note the three thirteens: 3. 12, 13; 8. 12.

13 posts = the hand of the runners. Cp. 8. 10.

14 commandment = Imperial decree. Heb. dath.

See note on 2. 8. 15 commandment = word. Heb. dibar. See note on 1. 12. decree. Heb. dath. See notes on 1. 8; 2. 8, sat down to drink. So Joseph’s brethren (Gen. 37. 25), and Herod (Matt. 14. 6. Mark 6. 21). So will it be (Rev. 11. 7-10).

16 the city. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the inhabitants.


4. 1-3 (p. 654). MORDECAI. DISCOVERY OF (HAMAN’S) PLOT. (Division.)


1 done = being done.

given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

4 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put...
4. 1.

ESTHER.

462

on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.

5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.

6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

P

7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her People.

9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

J o

10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

11 "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such as the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."

P

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there be enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

H

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: also and my maids will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish,"

bitter cry. Not (we may be sure) without confession and prayer, as with Nehemiah (ch. 1), and Daniel (ch. 9).

2 even = as far as.

3 commandment = word. See note on 1. 12.

decree = Imperial decree. Heb. dath. See notes on 1. 8, 2. 8.

and. Note the Fig. Polysyndeton (Ap. 6), to emphasise the greatness and universality of the mourning.

fasting, &c. These were the accompaniments of true repentance.

4. 4—5. 14 (C¹, p. 654). ESTHER. INTERCESSION. (Division.)

C¹ | G¹ | 4. 4—17. Esther and Mordecai.

G¹ | G² | 5. 1—14. Esther and the king.

4. 4—17 (G¹, above). ESTHER AND MORDECAI.

(Introversion and Alternation.)

G¹ | H | 4. Esther, Information.


4 maids. See note on 2. 4.

chamberlains = eunuchs.

his. Edition of A. V., 1611, reads "the".

5 commandment = charge. Heb. dath. See 3. 2.

7 the sum of the money = the exact sum of the money. Mordecai knew of this, but how we cannot tell.

He evidently did not know that the king had made Haman a present of it (3. 11).


law = Imperial decree. Heb. dath. See note on 1. 8.

13 commanded. Heb. 'amor. See note on 1. 10.


14 enlargement = respite, who knoweth ... ? Note the Fig. Erotesis (Ap. 8), for emphasis. Used here of hope and trust in God and His overruling grace.

16 three days, night or day. The Jerusalem Talmud says "a day and night together make up a sabbath


17 went his way passed over = i.e. over the river Ulai, on which Shushan is built, to the Jewish quarter,

to accomplish his part of the compact.

5. 1—14 (G², above). ESTHER AND THE KING. (Alternations.)

G² | K | 1, 2. King on royal throne.


r | 4. Esther. Invitation given.


q | 7, 8. Esther. Second invitation.

s | 9. Haman's joy.


H 1 the third day. The beginning of a new life for Israel. See Ap. 10.

inner court. All houses had courts; a palace had several.

over against = right opposite.

upon his royal throne. To transact business.

gate = porch, or entrance. Heb. pethah.

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

5 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
462 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

L q

3 Then said the king unto her, "What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

r 4 And Esther answered, "If it seem good unto the king, o LET THE KING AND HAMAN COME THIS DAY unto the banquet that I have prepared for him."

s 5 Then the king said, "Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said."

U t

6 And the king said, "What honour and wealth shall be even given to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

X 7 Then answered Esther, and said, "My petition and my request is; if I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said."

Y 9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart:

u but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

v 10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

w 11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

x 12 Haman said moreover, "Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

y 13 Yet all THIS AVAILETH ME NOTHING, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

z 14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, "Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

D' 6 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

E' 9 obtained = won. Cp. 4. 11.

F' 3 kingdom. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for a year's revenue. Cp. Mark 6. 23.

G' 4 LET THE KING AND HAMAN COME THIS DAY. This is the second of the five Acrostics (Ap. 6) of the Divine name (Ap. 4. 11) in this book. See Ap. 60. The second pivot on which the history turns.

H 6 What is thy petition? He must have seen that there was something behind the mere banquet.

I 8 request = wish. To morrow do to morrow.

J 11 told = recounted.

K 13 THIS AVAILETH ME NOTHING. This is the third of the five Acrostics of this book, exhibiting the Divine names (Ap. 4. 11) to the eye. See Ap. 60.

L Mordecai. The enmity was not merely personal, but religious: which is the worst form enmity can take.

M Mordecai. The enmity was not merely personal, but religious: which is the worst form enmity can take.

N 9 stood not up. Notwithstanding the crisis reached; and well knowing the cause of it.

O moved = stirred. Only here, and Ecc. 12. 3.


Q 11 told = recounted.

R children = sons. He had ten sons. See 9. 10.

S 13 THIS AVAILETH ME NOTHING. This is the third of the five Acrostics of this book, exhibiting the Divine names (Ap. 4. 11) to the eye. See Ap. 60.

T Mordecai. The enmity was not merely personal, but religious: which is the worst form enmity can take.

U gallows = tree: i.e. a stake to which a criminal was fastened till he died. The same word used for cross. Cp. 2. 23; 7. 9; and see Acts 6. 36; 10. 39; 13. 29. 1Pet. 2. 24.

V 14 gallows = tree. See note on 5. 4.

W Zeresh his wife and all his friends. See Ap. 51. III (2).

X° 11 to morrow. There was no delay; but, quick as the action was, it was none too soon for its real usefulness.

Y 6. 1 On that night. The time for Divine action had come. See Ap. 23. p. 27.

Z° could not the king sleep. God uses small things to accomplish His purposes. See note on Judg. 3. 21. We know not what He used here. But the time had come for Him to work.

AA° commanded. Heb. 'nim. See note on 1. 10. they ... read. The very portion which God ruled for the working out of His plan.

BB° Mordecai had told. See 2. 21, 22.


DD° Now Haman was come. This was the next step. The Fig. Parenthesis (Ap. 6) is used to emphasize the importance of it.

EE° gallows = tree. See note on 5. 4.

FF° Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.

GG° standeth in the court. As explained in the Parenthesis, v. 4. come in. Note the Fig. Anaaptolias (Ap. 6); v. 5 ending with the same verb which begins the next sentence.

HH° 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

II° 3 And the king said, "What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?" When said the king's servants that ministered unto him, "There is nothing done for him."

JJ° 4 And the king said, "Who is in the court?" (Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.)

KK° And the king's servants said unto him, "Behold, Haman standeth in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."
6 So Haman came. And the king said unto him, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?" Thus said Haman in his heart, "To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?"

7 And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour."

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken."

11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour."

12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, "If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him."

14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enmity is this wicked Haman." Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, "Will he force the queen also before me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king; "Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him thereon."

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.
8.1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman unto Esther the queen.

D And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.

E 3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

F Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,

G 5 And said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written according to all that I say in the king's presence.

J 7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew,

K 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

L 9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, and in the twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and to the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces:

M 10 posts on horseback were couriers on horseback. Haman's "posts" were runners on foot, but speed was now essential. See 9.1.

N 11 their life was themselves. See note on 13.12. little ones. These were spared, notwithstanding. See note on 13.12.

O 12 thirteenth. See note on 13.12.

P 13 a commandment = an imperial decree. See note on 2.8.

Q 14 hastened. See note on 6.1. commandment = word. See note on 1.12.

R 15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

S 16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.
Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree came forth, the Jews were smitten, and their fame went out elsewhere great and greater. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those whom the king had spared.

And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews.

11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.

And the king said unto Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the kingdom's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done." Then said Esther, "If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows." And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and in the twelfth month, on the thirteenth day of the month, Mordecai the Jew became king over the Persians and Media.

It has been suggested that it is because they were hanged one above another. But, as each Hebrew character is a number as well as a letter, the numerical value of these names (regarded as an addition sum) amounts to 10,244, or 13 x 788; while Haman the Agagite = 117 (13 x 9), and Zeresh, who also has a Benjamite (2 x 5), adds up 1,912 = (8 x 239). See Ap. 10.

The enemy of the Jews. See note on 8.10. They probably remembered taking the spoil instead of obeying in Sam. 15. Hence the emphasis on this in vv. 10, 13, 14.

The ten sons. In all Heb. MSS. and printed editions these ten names are written with the word veth, being the demonstrative pronoun =self, or this same, or himself, thus: Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspahtha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parsamatha, Arisai, Adrai, Vajezatha.
15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and stood for their lives, and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

16 But the other Jews that were in the king’s provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey.

17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far; that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly.

21 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned into good days: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

22 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the isles of the sea, and upon the land, and upon the sea; and upon all the provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth.

23 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.