ESTHER.
THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Introversions and Alternations.)

A¹ | 1. 1. AHASUERUS. REIGN. EXTENT OF KINGDOM.

B¹ D¹ | 1. 2–20. AHASUERUS. ON HIS THRONE.
E¹ F¹ | 2. 21–23. MORDECAI. DISCOVERY OF PLOT (BOITHAN AND TEREUSH).
G | 3. 1–15. HAMAN. HIS PLOT.
F¹ | 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 H² | 6. 2, 3. MORDECAI. KING'S INQUIRY.
J | 6. 4–9. HAMAN. KING'S INQUIRY.
H² | 6. 10–14. MORDECAI. KING'S COMMAND.
C² | 7. 1. ESTHER. HER BANQUET.

B³ D³ | 7. 2–. AHASUERUS. AT ESTHER'S TABLE.
E² K | 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. 1–2. AHASUERUS. ON HIS THRONE.
E 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.

654
THE BOOK OF ESTHER.

1 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: so for 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, Biztha, Bigthan, and Abeqtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains 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 the king was fair to look on.

12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at eighteen years. See Ap. 50, VII (5). In this year Xerxes (who is supposed to be this king), according to Herod. vii, 8, and Dion. Sic. x. 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 each. palace = house, or, large house. Note the frequent Parentheses (Ap. 6) in cv. 1, 7, 13, 14, 20. wine. Heb. yapin. Ap. 37. I. law. Heb. dath = royal decree, or special mandate, as in cv. 13, 15, 19; 3, 8; 4, 11, 18. man's. Heb. 'ish. Ap. 14. II. Vashti. The daughter of Alyattes (king of Lydia), married by Cyrus to his son Astyages after the battle of Halys. See Ap. 57. 10 commanded. So rendered in cv. 15, 17; 2, 20; 4, 13; 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. 12 refused. Probably because sent for by servants; not by the nobles (v. 3), and before the "peoples" (v. 5).
1. 12. ESTHER.

commandment. Heb. dābār = word, precept. Occurs u. 15, 9; 22; 5.15; 6.14, 17. See note on v. 10.

for. See note on the parentheses, v. 7.

1. 13-22 (A2, p. 655). QUEEN VASHTI. DEGRADATION. (Alteration.)

| d | 22. Advice. Acted on.

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 (A1, p. 656). QUEEN ESTHER. SUBSTITUTED. (Repeated Alternation and Introversions.)

| C1 | e1 | 1, 5. Mordecai. Position.
| C2 | f2 | 8, 9. Esther. Included.
| C1 | e2 | 10, 11. Mordecai. Sought.
| e1 | 19, 20. Mordecai. Station.

1 After these things: i.e. in 467. Astyages was now twenty-one. In the seventh year (v. 16); one of these spent in preparations (v. 12).

Ahasuerus. See note on 1.1.

Vashti. See note on 1.9.

2 virgins. Heb. bāthlah. See note on Gen. 24, 43.
3 custody = hand. chamberlain = eunuch.
4 maiden = a young person. Heb. ma'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 the Jew became the name used by Gentiles.

Mordecai. Daniel and Ezekiel taken to Babylon (2 Kings 24, 16); Nehemiah and Mordecai to Shushan; and Mordecai dwelt in the royal palace, as did Daniel and others (Dan. 1, 4. 2 Kings 20, 16-18).


6 Jeconiah = Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24, 6). carried away. Cp. 2 Kings 24, 14, 15. Jer. 52, 24-34. 130 years before the generally received date (i.e. 598-250-1330), which, therefore, cannot be correct. From the carrying away of Jeconiah to the marriage of Esther to Astyages in his seventh year was only twenty-two years (349-467). See Ap. 50, VIT (5).

7 Hadassah = myrtle. Not living with Mordecai (who was in the palace, v. 5) but brought up by him.

Esther = star. But Rabbi Yehudah derives it from gather, to hide, because she was hidden in her guardian's house; and her nationality was concealed (v. 10), father. Ahabiah: now dead. See v. 10; 9, 25.

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 Benjamine;

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah 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 maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her
father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree were heard, and when all the 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.

And the maidens 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 maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

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

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

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 purifications 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her People; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of the king's chamberlain and his decree.
2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and reverenced Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him.

But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, "Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?"

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that Mordecai was a Jew.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

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

7 In the first month, (that is, the month Nisan,) in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman, from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

8 And Haman 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 they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of them that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

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,

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, to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

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

4 When Mordecai perceived that all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put
on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; 2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

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

4 So Esther's maidens and her chamberlains came and told it 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.

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 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.

10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him a 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 to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but they have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.”

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?”

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 “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: 17 and also my maidens 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. dâth. See notes on 1. 8; 2. 8.

and. Note the Fig. Polygynedeton (Ap. 6), to emphasise the greatness and universality of the mourning, fasting, &c. These were the accompaniments of true repentance.

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

(Division.)

C2 | G1 | 4. 4—17. Esther and Mordecai.

C2 | 5. 3—14. Esther and the king.

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

(Intercision and Alternation.)

G1 | H | 4. Esther. Information.

J 0 5, 6. Esther. Inquiry of Mordecai.

J 0 7—9. Mordecai. Reply and request.


4 maids. See note on 2. 4.

chamberlains = sōnuchos.

His Edition of A. V., 1611, reads “the”.

3 commandment = charge. Heb. dâth. See 3. 2.

7 the sum of the money = the exact sum of the money. Mordecai knew of this, but he could not tell. He evidently did not know that the king had made Haman a present of it (5. 13).


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

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


14 enlargement = respite. who knoweth . . . ? Note the Fig. Erotēsis (Ap. 6), 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 a night together make up a midnight, and that any part of such period is counted as a whole.” Cp. 1 Sam. 30. 12, 13. Jonah 1. 17. Matt. 24. 40. I perish. See note on 3. 12.

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 (G, above). ESTHER AND THE KING.

(Alternations.)

G2 | K | 1, 2. King on royal throne.


r | 4. Esther. Invitation given.

q | 5. King. Compliance.

r | 6. Esther. Invitation accepted. K

6. King at Esther's banquet.

L 0 8. King. Promise.

t | 7, 8. Esther. Second invitation.

s | 9. Haman's joy.


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.

over against = porch, or enceinte. Heb. pōtahb.

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.

G2 | K

3rd Nisan

462
5. 2.

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.

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

4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, and I shall please the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

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

6 And the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is.

8 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.

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

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

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.

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.

13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as she seeth Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

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.

6. 5.

2 obtained — won. Cp. 4. 11.

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

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. II) in this book. See Ap. 60. The second pivot on which the history turns.

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

6 petition — question. request — wish.

7 to morrow. She still keeps back her petition, showing the king that he had rightly divined that there was something important behind it.

5. 9-14 (t. p. 659). ESTHER. SECOND INVITATION. (Introversion.)


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

10 moved — stirred. Only here, and Ecc. 12. 3.

11 told — recounted. children — sons. He had ten sons. See 9. 10.

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

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

14 gallows — tree: i.e. a stake to which a criminal was fastened till he died. The same word for cross. Cp. 2, 23; 7, 9; and see Acts 5. 30; 10. 39; 13. 28. 1 Pet. 2. 24, 25.

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

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

— 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.

commanded. Heb. w‘mar. See note on 1. 10.

— they . . . read. The very portion which God ruled for the working out of His plan.

2 Mordecai had told. See 2. 21, 22.


4 Now Haman was come. This was the next step.

The Fig. Parenthesis (Ap. 6) is used to emphasize the importance of it.


5 Behold. Fig. Austeria. Ap. 6.

standeth in the court. As explained in the Parenthesis, v. 4.

come in. Note the Fig. Anaaplois (Ap. 6): v. 5 ending with the same verb which begins the next sentence.

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.

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

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.

5 And the king’s servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.”
6. 6. ESTHER.

6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, "What shall be done unto the 4 man whom the king delighteth to honour?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?"

7 And Haman answered the king, "For the 4 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 useth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head;

9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of 4 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 4 man whom the king delighteth to honour.'"

H

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 proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done unto the 4 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 12 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.

7. 10.

6 came in. See note on v. 5.


thought = said.

8 and. Note the Fig. Polymetron (Ap. 6) in vv. 8, 9, to emphasise the eagerness with which Haman enumerated the honours his heart desired.


10 Make haste = be expeditious. Heb. mahar, as in 5. 5; not dahaph (to urge oneself), as in v. 12; S. 10; or bâlah (to hurry away), as in v. 14; S. 14.

as = according as.

12 hasted. Heb. dahaph. See note on v. 10.

and. Note the Fig. Polymetron (Ap. 6) in vv. 12, 13, emphasising the excitement which had seized him.


14 while. Everything was hastening to the approaching crisis.

7. 2 petition ... request. See note on 5. 6.


4 are = have been.

sold. Impliedly that a bargain had been made.

5 destroyed ... slain. See note on the Fig. Synonymia (Ap. 6), to emphasise the urgency of her petition.

6 perish. See note on 3. 13.

countervail = make good, or compensate.

8 answered and said. Note the idiom = threatened and said.

see note on Dent. i. 41.

WHO IS HE, AND WHERE IS HE? ... This is the fifth Acrostic, which gives (not Jehovah but) the Divine Name "I AM" of Ex. 3. 14. See Ap. 60.


THAT WAS EVIL DETERMINED AGAINST HIM. This is the fourth, and last, of the four acrostics exhibiting the name Jehovah in this book. See Ap. 60.


the king. Note the Fig. Epamaitipòsis (Ap. 6), the verse beginning and ending with the same word, marking and emphasising its importance.

8 bed = couch.

Will he force ... ? Fig. Erotaïa. Ap. 6.

9 Behold. Fig. Asterismas. Ap. 6.

gallows. See note on 5. 14.

10 they hanged Haman. See note on "Benjamite" (2. 28).

6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy 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 4 life to Esther the queen; for he saw 4 "THAT THERE WAS EVIL DETERMINED AGAINST HIM by 4 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 ground, on 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 gallow 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. On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen.

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

2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

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.

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

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 be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my People? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

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

x y o Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

z a 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.

9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof;

and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every People after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:

11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all the people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being fastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

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.

The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.
17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

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 drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was over the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) 2 the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all the people.

And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputees, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

For Mordecai was great in the king’s house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces for this: man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.

And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred two men.

And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspah,

And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vashti.

The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.

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 two men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king’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 they hanged Haman’s ten sons.

17 became Jews made common cause with the Jews.

9. 1-28. 1. (p. 654). ESTHER. PLEA FOR HER PEOPLE. (Repealed Alteration and Introversion.)

M 11

| 1 | 4. Assemble.
| 14 | 15. Abstention from plunder.
| 18 | 19. Abstention from plunder.
| 22 | 23. Abstention from plunder.
| 24 | 25. Feasting. Villages. One day (13th).
| 28 | 29. Observance.

1. thirtieth. See note on 3. 12.


3. power — mastery. See note on 2. 8.

4. though, &c. Note the Parentheses (Ap. 6).

5. the Jews — the Jews themselves.


7. without that stand before — people — the peoples.

8. sword — slaughter — destruction. Note the Fig. Synonymia (Ap. 6), for emphasis.

9. And. Note the Fig. Polysemia (Ap. 6) in vv. 7-9, particularising each one of Haman’s ten sons.

10. The ten sons. In all Heb. MSS, and printed editions these ten names are written with the word v’eth, being the demonstrative pronoun = self, or this same, or himself, thus:

11. 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 = 567 (13 x 9), and the enemy of the Jews. See note on 3. 10.

12. laid they not their hand. Cp. note on "take the spoil" (8. 15). They probably remembered taking the spoil instead of obeying in 1 Sam. 15. Hence the emphasis on this in vv. 10, 14.

13. let Haman’s ten sons be hanged. One of the ten deaths occasioned or obtained by women. See note on Judg. 4. 21.

15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.

16 But the other Jews that were in the king’s provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, 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 high and low;

21 To establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

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

23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; and as Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;

24 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

25 Wherefore they called these days Pur after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

26 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;

27 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Pur should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

28 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority,