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THE  
FIVE BOOKS  
OF  
M A C C A B E E S  
IN ENGLISH.

WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY

HENRY COTTON, D.C.L.

ARCHDEACON OF CASHEL, AND LATE STUDENT OF CHRIST  
CHURCH, OXFORD.



OXFORD,  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

.MDCCLXXXII.



TO  
THE PROVOST, FELLOWS, AND SCHOLARS,  
OF  
TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,  
TO WHOSE VALUABLE LIBRARY  
I HAVE HAD MOST LIBERAL ACCESS,  
THE PRESENT PUBLICATION IS INSCRIBED,  
IN TESTIMONY  
OF RESPECT AND REGARD.



# CONTENTS.



PREFACE .....	P. vii
Introduction .....	xi
The Greek text of Eleazar's prayer.....	xxxix
Genealogy of the Maccabees.....	xliii
—— of the family of Herod .....	xliv
Chronological table .....	xlvi
Book I. ....	1
—— II.....	43
—— III. ....	147
—— IV. ....	219
—— V. ....	277
Index .....	447



## P R E F A C E.

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**I**T is well known, that the history of the period intervening between the days of Nehemiah, where the accounts of the Old Testament close, and the birth of Jesus Christ, is very insufficiently attended to by the greater part of our students in theology.

For this defect there is indeed some show of reason: for the history of these times is scanty and incomplete; the narratives themselves being few in number, and moreover lying detached and dispersed in various places, with the single exception of the writings of Josephus.

With a view of removing one cause of this deficiency, I have collected together the writings of some ancient Jewish authors which refer to this period, translating some, and correcting the current versions of the rest: and have endeavoured to il-

illustrate or confirm their statements, by noticing accounts of the same transactions, which are to be found in the works of Greek and Roman historians.

Of the five books presented in this volume, only two are familiar to the generality of readers, as being found in the editions of our English Bible. As for the others, scarcely one student in a hundred has heard their names; and perhaps not one in a thousand may have read a line of their contents. Yet, since they all contain interesting and valuable matter, I have here brought them together in an English dress, arranged in such a form as to be consulted or perused with the greatest ease and best prospect of advantage.

The history of each book, and of my labours upon it, will be found detailed in the Introduction. I have merely to add *here* a few words, on the *occasion* which has caused their appearance.

Driven from my parish, by the violence of that storm which has suddenly burst upon the heads of the Irish clergy,—at once

reducing to the verge of ruin a body of men who were peaceably pursuing the duties of their holy calling, under the presumed sanction and protection of the laws,—men, against whom, be it remembered, *no charge has been produced, either of moral or ministerial delinquency*;—and thus compelled to seek temporary shelter at a distance from my home:—I judged it right to employ some portion of the leisure thus thrown upon my hands, in an occupation, which, while it was not unsuitable to my profession, might also hereafter have its use.

Doubtless the present work is susceptible of numerous improvements: and even in the same hands its execution might have been less faulty, under more favourable circumstances. Whatever literary aids this city could furnish, I have sought out, and have endeavoured to make available: but we cannot hope to find in every place all the works requisite for pursuing inquiries into points of ancient literature, nor every where to command the ample resources of

the Bodleian Library or the British Museum.

For the omissions and imperfections, arising from this and other causes, I have to entreat the reader's kind forbearance : and to hope that, even in its present state, this publication may not be wholly unsuccessful, in calling the attention, more especially of students in divinity, to an important supplement to the inspired records of Holy Writ ;—to a very instructive portion of Jewish history ;—to those transactions, in which the Maccabæan family, “ according to the prophecies which went before ” concerning them, took for some time so distinguished and influential a part, on behalf of the favoured country, the peculiar people of God.

H. C.

Dublin, 26th April,  
1832.

## INTRODUCTION.

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**T**HE portion of Jewish history, which is comprised between the return from Babylon and the birth of Jesus Christ, commends itself to our consideration on a variety of grounds.

Restored to their liberty and home by Cyrus, and furnished, both by him and several of his successors, with liberal supplies of all things necessary for their purpose, the Jews commenced and brought to a happy conclusion, the building of their "Second House." (B. C. 515.) Some few years afterwards, under the guidance of Nehemiah, they repaired the walls and private dwellings of Jerusalem; and, both there and throughout the other cities of Judæa, once more established the name and semblance of a people, and employed themselves, as heretofore, in the ordinary occupations of civil life.

But their condition was not such as it had been in the former golden days of their prosperity: their numbers were diminished, their resources were impaired, their limits circumscribed, their authority restricted; since now they were no longer governed by independent princes of their own, but were subjected to the uncertain and ar-

bitrary controul of governors appointed by the kings of Persia.

We thus see them already placed in a new position: they are also entering on a new career of action; as being now brought into immediate contact with other nations; and about to bear their part in the fulfilment of those prophecies of Daniel, which speak of the rise and progress of the Grecian empire in Asia, and of the treatment which the religion and fortunes of the Jews should experience at the hands of the successors of Alexander.

Unable, by their numbers and position, to maintain their independence as a state, we find them falling alternately under the sway of Syria or of Egypt; and suffering perpetual annoyance from the mutual quarrels which arose between these states, in addition to the positive persecutions, on *religious* grounds, which they underwent from Ptolemy Philopator, (B. C. 217.) and from Antiochus Epiphanes.

One short bright space in their history succeeds, when resistance to religious tyranny procured for them civil freedom also: when under the leadership of the Asmonæan princes they obtained, not merely independence, but some portion of renown and splendour.

This light, however, was soon quenched through the bane of internal dissensions; and by the growing influence of the Romans, who now began to appear on the Eastern stage, and to take an active part in the politics of Asia and Egypt, they were consigned to the hands and dominion of a half-

stranger in the person of Herod the Great; who wielded a sceptre, which he had obtained through rivers of blood, *really* at the will and beck of a Roman commander, though *nominally* retaining the name and diadem of a sovereign; because the Word of God had announced that "the sceptre should not depart from Judah," till the Shiloh, the Messiah, should appear.

Mixed up as we have seen the Jews to have been during the above-named period, with the affairs, not only of Asia, but also of Greece and Rome, we might reasonably expect to find ample notices concerning them in the several Greek and Roman historians. To a certain extent this expectation has been realized: we still possess various and valuable information on Jewish matters, in the works of classic authors which are yet remaining; and there is ground for believing that much more of the same stamp and value has been lost to us, through that common misfortune which has deprived these later ages of so large a portion of the literary treasures bequeathed by the learned of former days.

*Polybius*, of Megalopolis in Arcadia, who flourished during the times of the Maccabees, and is known and valued for the extent and accuracy of his observations, had particular reasons for directing his attention to the Jewish affairs of his day; inasmuch as he was not only acquainted with the general outline of their proceedings, but enjoyed the personal and close friendship of Demetrius the Second, whose escape from Rome he certainly

was privy to, and perhaps had originally advised. Polybius left behind him a history in forty books : of these, no more than five entire, with fragments of twelve others, have been preserved to the present time : but from these small remains we learn to estimate the extent of our loss : and, judging from that portion of Jewish history which we find in these fragments, we might have expected from his unmutilated works very considerable accessions of important information.

*Diodorus Siculus* lived during the reigns of Hyrcanus and Herod : he wrote a history of Roman affairs in forty books ; of which only fifteen are now remaining, with extracts from some few of the rest. We collect that Diodorus had given particular attention to Jewish matters : in his 34th book he speaks of the bad character which that nation bore amongst foreigners, and relates several of the acts of Antiochus Epiphanes. Again, in a fragment of the fortieth book, there is evidence that he had written a narrative of Pompey's expedition against Jerusalem ; as he begins with the words 'Ἡμεῖς δὲ μέλλοντες ἀναγράφειν τὸν πρὸς Ἰουδαίους πόλεμον, &c. : but all which now remains of this, whatever it might have been, is merely the introductory part, relating to the early history and habits of the Jews, such as they were believed by Diodorus to be. For the preservation of even this short fragment we are indebted to the most learned and diligent Photius, patriarch of Constantinople.

Another historian, who was contemporary with Herod the Great, is *Dionysius of Halicarnassus* :

but, as the plan of his work did not embrace the period of time with which these books are concerned, we are not to expect from him any thing either of corroborative or corrective information.

*Strabo*, the eminent Greek geographer, likewise, flourished before the death of Herod. He is said to have written some historical books; but these unfortunately are lost. This author is very frequently quoted by Josephus; and there is good ground for supposing that if his works had survived, they would have contained much valuable matter connected with this period of Jewish history.

*Livy*, who was alive during the time of Herod and Augustus, is well known to have related every thing belonging to Roman history with considerable minuteness of detail: but a very large portion of his great work has perished through lapse of time, and especially that part which contained the transactions belonging to the period of the Maccabees: had these survived, there is little doubt that, from the close connexion at this time existing between the affairs of Syria and Rome, ample notice and information upon various points of this our history would have been found in the pages of *Livy*.

Besides these writers, most of whom were living during the times of which the five books of Maccabees treat; and all of whom wrote their accounts or histories before Josephus published his great work on Jewish history, and therefore could not have been either biassed or informed at secondhand by him:—we find others, of high

name and great celebrity, who have taken more or less pains in transmitting to posterity some memorials of the Jews and their affairs.

*Tacitus*, who lived at a time when the Jewish name and nation was either odious or utterly despised at Rome, after the final overthrow of Jerusalem,—has left to us, in the fifth book of his Histories, a short account of the origin and customs of the Jews; defective indeed and distorted, as rather through prejudice than ignorance. He relates the expedition of Pompey against Jerusalem; and probably in the latter part of that book, which unhappily has perished, had given a fuller detail of the part which the Romans took in the concerns of Judæa, from the commencement of Augustus' reign till the destruction of the Holy City by Titus.

*Plutarch*, who flourished about thirty years after the destruction of Jerusalem, has incidental notices of the Jews and their affairs.

*Appian*, about twenty or twenty-five years later, composed, among other works, a History of Syria: in which he relates the transactions of Antiochus the Great and his successors on the Syrian throne; likewise the deeds of Pompey in Judæa, and his putting an end to the dynasty of the Seleucidæ.

*Athenæus* is said to have written a history of Syria; but not a vestige of it is now remaining. He flourished at the close of the second century after Christ.

Besides the above named, *Dion Cassius* and some other authors are known to have touched

more or less on points of Jewish history; but from none of them have we obtained, or at least do we now possess, any thing like a continuous or comprehensive work upon the subject.

It is manifest that all these united, interesting as they certainly are, and affording valuable confirmation of accounts derived from another quarter, are very far from supplying us with any thing like a complete history of the times, or furnishing that accurate or continuous information concerning the Jews and their transactions during this period, which we should greatly have desired to possess.

We turn therefore, not more naturally than necessarily, to the Jewish historians themselves; and enquire what amount of information we can gather thence, checked, and (if need be) corrected, by the concurrent testimonies of the writers of other nations. I say *checked* and *corrected*: for it is remembered that for all *this portion* of Jewish history we lack the infallible direction of inspired guides. The *historical* books of the Holy Scripture reach no lower in point of time than to Nehemiah (B. C. 434.): and from the *Prophets* who lived after the captivity, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi, we gather little or nothing of historical relation; and even Malachi, the last of these, wrote at a period nearly four hundred years antecedent to the birth of Christ.

We are dependant therefore upon such accounts as are transmitted to us by Josephus, who lived and wrote subsequently to the destruction of Je-

rusalem by Titus ; and by certain other writers, whose relations, less known than his, or, at least, less studied, though some of them are prior in point of time, and perhaps superior in accuracy on many points, are here collected and exhibited in attempted order, as separate yet not useless links of a much to be desired chain.

Although the entire five treatises bear the same name, that of "*Books of Maccabees*," it is to be borne in mind that this connection between them is more nominal than real. Composed, perhaps at different times, by different authors, in different languages, on different subjects, they may derive importance and usefulness from juxta-position and a common name : but at the same time it is necessary that the reader should be furnished with a separate account of each ; more especially, since I have felt it right to invert the order of some of them which are more familiar to common readers, with the view of making a chronological arrangement subservient to the purposes of general information.

## BOOK I.

The *first* book, commonly known as the *third*, contains the history of not more than eight or nine years. It opens with the battle of Raphia, which was fought between Antiochus the Great, king of Syria, and Ptolemy Philopator, king of Egypt ; in the third year of the 140th Olympiad,—of Rome 537,—of the Seleucidæ 96,—before Christ 217. The principal event recorded in it is the attempted punishment and extraordinary deliverance of the

Jews at Alexandria. This transaction, as we learn from chap. ii. took place during the high-priesthood of Simon, son of Onias, who succeeded to that office in the year B. C. 211.

This book in time is prior to both the second and the third, and in authority is considered superior to the latter<sup>a</sup>: although Philostorgius, a writer of the fourth century, declares it “monstrous” and full of improbabilities. Its author is unknown: he is supposed to have been a Jew of Alexandria; indeed some, as Franciscus Junius, attribute both this and the Book of *Wisdom* to Philo: and the work is thought by Dr. Allix (“Judgment of the Jewish Church”) to have been written during the reign of Ptolemy Philopator, or a little after the Book of *Ecclesiasticus*, about two hundred years before Christ.

The Greek text is considered to be the Original. There is a Syriac version of it, to be seen in the Polyglott Bibles of Paris and London, and a literal Latin *from this Syriac* is given in the Bible of P. de la Haye. There is no *ancient Latin*; but a *modern* one, by Nobilius, is in the Polyglotts. Calmet observes, that the Latins, so far as he knew, had never quoted this book: nor does it appear in their earlier printed Bibles; the first edition in which he had found it was one printed by Froben, of the year 1538. The book also appears in the *German* Bibles, in a version made by Jo.

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Milman, in his History of the Jews, flippantly calls the Third (First) Book a “romantic story,” and “a legend.” But ancient writers

of sound learning speak of it with respect: and Grotius disdained not to comment on it, as well as on the other two books.

Circemberger, first printed at Wittemberg in 1554. It was translated into French by Calmet, and is found in the third volume of his "Literal Commentary on the Bible."

Although it was reckoned Canonical by some of the Fathers, and is contained in most manuscripts of the Septuagint; yet, as it never found its way into the Vulgate translation, nor was received by the western church, our authorized English Bibles have not usually contained it. Yet an English version of it was put forth by Walter Lynne<sup>b</sup>, in a small volume, in 1550; which in the next year, with some few alterations, and many corrections of the spelling, was appended to a folio Bible printed by John Daye.—About 170 years afterwards, a new translation of it was published by Whiston, in his "Authentic Documents," 2 vols. 8vo. 1719 and 1727. And a third version, made by Clement Crutwell, was added to his edition of the Bible with bishop Wilson's notes, 3 vols. 4to. Bath, 1785. Having compared each of these with the Greek text, I think Whiston's version to be the most faithful of the three; but have not at all considered myself as bound to retain it, wherever an examination of the Original suggested an alteration as advisable.

<sup>b</sup> Lynne dedicates his book to lady Anne, duchess of Somerset: and assigns as his reason for the publication, that the work was often quoted in the Table, or Concordance, compiled by Bullinger and others of the church of Zu-

rich, which he had translated, and was publishing in the same volume; and that it was to be found in no English Bible except one which John Daye was then printing. This edition of Lynne was reprinted in 12mo, in 1563.

The book, in reality, does not belong to the history of the Maccabees; since it relates events which took place fifty years before their time. But it has been remarked, that the expression “Maccabee” was adopted by the Jews to designate any one who had suffered persecution for religion; in honourable remembrance of that family, which so nobly fought and fell, in the sacred cause of their country and their God.

The events of this book are not found in the historical works of Josephus: but in the *Latin* portion (where the Greek is wanting) of his second book *against Apion*, a somewhat similar transaction is related as having occurred; not indeed under Ptolemy Philopator, but fifty or sixty years later, during the reign of Ptolemy Physcon. There is good reason for believing that Josephus is here in error.

## BOOK II.

The *second* book, or the *first* of our English Bibles, contains a clear and succinct account of events which befell the Jews during the space of forty years; namely, from the accession of Antiochus Epiphanes, to the death of Simon Maccabæus, in the 135th year before Christ.

Its author is unknown; and its original language has been greatly controverted. Origen and St. Jerome assert, that they had seen the original *in Hebrew*; but this is considered to have been lost. Yet it is to be observed, that Dr. Kennicott, in his “*Dissertatio Generalis*,” cites two MSS., one of which, No. 474, is preserved at Rome, “*Libr.*

“Maccab. Chaldaice,” written early in the 13th century: a second, No. 613, existing at Hamburg, “Libr. Maccab. Hebraice,” written in the year 1448. Archbishop Ussher, following St. Jerome, says, “it is a book exactly translated out of the Hebrew, and containeth every where the brevity and Hebraisms of it.” *Annals of the World*. Michaelis, in “*Biblioth. Oriental. part. XII.*” (as quoted by Harles in his edition of Fabricius,) asserts that Josephus took his account of these transactions from the *Hebrew* book of Maccabees, and did not consult the Greek version. Theodotion has by some writers been considered as its translator into Greek: and the book is thought to have been compiled partly from the memoirs collected by Judas Maccabæus, and partly from those of John Hyrcanus, whose leadership began at the period where this book leaves off, and who moreover himself has been regarded by some persons as its author. Others again, as Beveridge, in his “*Codex Canonum Vindicatus*,” contend that both books were originally written in Greek.

There is in bishop Walton’s Polyglott Bible a *Syriac* version of this book, made from the Greek: also an *ancient Latin* one; respecting which, see Sabatier in the Prolegomena to his edition of the Hebrew Bible: there is likewise a *modern Latin* translation, by Nobilius.

It deserves to be noticed, that a short history of king Antiochus, *in Hebrew*, but differing in many points from the account given in this book of Maccabees, is printed, accompanied by a Latin version, by Bartoloccus in his “*Bibliotheca Rab-*

“binica,” (tom. I. p. 383, &c.) who states it to be found in the Ritual of the Spanish Jews. Fabricius, in his “Codex Pseudepigraphus Veteris Testamenti,” (tom. I. p. 1165,) has reprinted the Latin version of Bartoloccius, but without his long and learned notes; in which he maintains that the author of the work is unknown, but that beyond doubt it was compiled from the Talmud.

Christopher Wagenseil reports that he had discovered a manuscript of the same work, in *Chaldee*, in the dirty study of a Jew at Nicolasburg in Moravia. Wagenseil translated this into Latin, and his version is said to be remaining in the public library at Leipsic.

In Archbishop Marsh’s library at Dublin is a small Hebrew roll on parchment, without points, containing this history of Antiochus and of “John the son of Mattathias;” of which the beginning (and probably the whole) agrees with that which has been published by Bartoloccius.

### BOOK III.

The *third* book, or *second* of our Bibles, contains, under the form of an abridgment, some account of the transactions of about fifteen years, commencing with a period ten or twelve years earlier than the preceding book. Jason, one of the Jews who were living at Cyrene in Africa, appears to have described, in five books, the principal transactions of the Jews during the reigns of Seleucus IV, Antiochus Epiphanes, and Antiochus Eupator. His work was abridged, by order of the Sanhedrim of Jerusalem, (as is asserted by

Sixtus Senensis,) by some unknown writer; who has also added to the book, as we now possess it, the acts and death of Nicanor, derived from some other source. It is observable, that the two epistles occurring at the beginning of the work belong to a later period; and these, in the opinion of Grotius, may have been taken from the records of the Jewish synagogue at Alexandria. By the style, and also by the manner of computation, which differs from that of the preceding book, the abridger at least, if not the author, appears to have been a Hellenistic Jew.

The work exists in *Greek*, but is not known in *Hebrew*. It has been attributed to Philo, and to Josephus; and by Leo Allatius, to Simon Macca-bæus. It is thought to be the Μακκαβαϊκῶν Ἐπιτομή mentioned in the "Stromata" of Clemens Alexandrinus. In point of authority and historic value it is considered far inferior to the former book, from which it differs in several particulars. There is a *Syriac* version of it in the London Polyglott. A *German* translation was published in 1786, by Jo. G. Hasse, accompanied by several critical disquisitions; the author of which is of opinion that it was written about B. C. 150, by some Egyptian Jew, namely, the same person who composed the book of *Wisdom*, attributed to Solomon.

The *English* version of the second and third books, which appears in the present volume, is that of our authorized Bible; but corrected in very many places by aid of the various readings from Greek manuscripts, furnished in the folio Oxford Septuagint, edited by Holmes and Parsons.

As these two have generally accompanied the Bibles throughout the western church, they have, much more than all the others, engaged the attention both of critics and commentators. A *Harmony* of them was composed and printed, though never published, by a French author, named Nicolas Toinard, who died in 1706. There seems great reason to regret the non-appearance of this work, from the high character which is bestowed on its author by cardinal Noris, in his “*Epochæ Syro-Macedonum*,” 4to. 1696. At p. 78, Noris thus expresses himself: “*Spero fore ut hunc nobis nodum solvat Nicolaus Toinardus Aureliensis, in Harmonia libri utriusque Maccabæorum. Nam cum in sacra æque ac profana historia sit versatissimus, idemque peregrinarum linguarum peritissimus, simulque veterum nummorum Regum Syriæ aliorumque curiosus perscrutator et interpret doctissimus, in laudato opere typis quidem impresso sed nondum publici juris facto, historiam Maccabæorum ac rerum ab iis gestarum tempora summa eruditione explicabit.*” Again, at p. 244: “*Idem etiam qui totam hanc messem metet, longe probabiliorum eorundem interpretationem exhibebit, quam et ipse veluti ab oraculo emissam cum plausu excipiam.*”

A short *ordo temporum* accompanies Houbigant’s preface to these books, in his edition of the Hebrew Bible, 4 vols. folio, 1753. Information illustrative of the Maccabæan history from *coins* may be found in “*Vaillant’s Historia Regum Syriæ*,” fol. 1732.

A *Latin* version, or rather *Harmony*, is said (by Harles, "Introductio ad Ling. Græc." tom. II. part. 2. p. 54.) to have been commenced by Jo. Melchior Faber of Anspach, in a dissertation entitled, "Harmonia Maccabæorum," Onoldini, 1794. This treatise I have not seen.

#### BOOK IV.

The *fourth* book, such as we now possess it, contains the history of the martyrdom of Eleazar and the seven brethren, under Antiochus Epiphanes; together with mention of Heliodorus' attempt to plunder the temple at Jerusalem.

It exists in *Greek*, in the Alexandrian manuscript of the Septuagint; and from thence was printed by Dr. Grabe, about 125 years ago, and was reprinted at Oxford in 1817, 8vo., and again in the folio Septuagint by Parsons. (In fact it had appeared in Greek Bibles at least so long ago as the year 1545.) From the various readings of this last edition I have been enabled to correct the text of 1817, which is extremely faulty.

The author of this fourth book is not known for a certainty; but it has been generally attributed to Josephus; with whose treatise *De Maccabæis*, or *De imperio rationis*, it certainly agrees very much; yet not entirely, as may be readily seen upon a close comparison.

Its character as a composition is highly spoken of both by Augustin and Jerome: the former of whom thus expresses himself in his *Sermo de Maccabæis*: "Quorum mirabiles passiones cum  
"legerentur non solim audivimus, sed etiam vidi-

“ mus et spectavimus.” Augustin. Oper. tom. V. p. 850. And Jerome, at greater length, and with still warmer admiration, thus writes on the subject: “ Quid memorem insignes Macchabæorum victorias? qui ne illicitis carnibus vescerentur, et communes tangerent cibos, corpora obtulere cruciatibus; totiusque orbis in ecclesiis Christi laudibus prædicantur, fortiores pœnis, ardentiores quibus comburebantur ignibus. Victa sunt in eis omnia crudelitatis ingenia, et quicquid ira persecutoris invenerat, patientium fortitudo superavit. Inter pœnas magis paternæ legis quam dolorum memores: lacerantur viscera, tabo et sanie artus diffluebant, et tamen sententia perseverabat immobilis: liber erat animus, et mala præsentia futurorum spe despiciebat. Lassabantur tortores, et non lassabatur fides: frangebantur ossa, et volubili rota omnis compago nervorum atque artuum solvebatur, et in immensum spirantia mortem incendia consurgebant: plenæ erant ferventis olei sartagine, et ad frigenda sanctorum corpora terrore incredibili personabant: et tamen inter hæc omnia paradisum animo deambulantes, non sentiebant quod patiebantur sed quod videre cupiebant. Mens enim Dei timore vallata flammam superat; varios tormentorum spernit dolores. Cumque semel virtuti se tradiderit, quicquid adversi evenerit calcat et despicit.” Hieron. Epist. 100. Oper. tom. I. p. 613. edit. Vallarsii.

In fact, this is the treatise which, by Athanasius and other ancient writers, is understood by “ the fourth book of Maccabees:” yet Sixtus Se-

nensis, in his *Bibliotheca Sancta*, asserts that he had seen in the library of Sanctes Pagninus, a learned friar, a manuscript calling itself *the fourth book*, but very different from the above, and containing the acts of John Hyrcanus : [thus following the series of history of our *second* book.] This manuscript was never published, and the library of Sanctes Pagninus, at Lyons in France, was destroyed by fire : I shall therefore subjoin a translation of the whole account, as given by Sixtus.

“ The fourth book of Maccabees, which the  
“ synopsis of Athanasius classes among the apo-  
“ cryphal books, contains the history of thirty-one  
“ years ; that is, the acts of John Maccabæus,  
“ who, from having conquered Hyrcanus, took  
“ that surname. After the treacherous murder of  
“ his father Simon by Ptolemy, John succeeded  
“ both to the high-priesthood and the chieftaincy ;  
“ and instantly led out an army against his fa-  
“ ther’s murderer. He afterwards entered into  
“ a treaty with Antiochus king of Syria, upon  
“ whose death he took by force of arms many  
“ cities of Syria. He was the first Jewish leader  
“ who employed hired soldiers. He dug up three  
“ thousand talents which were buried in the tomb  
“ of David. He renewed the treaty which his  
“ father had entered into with the Romans. He  
“ conquered and put to flight Antiochus Cyzice-  
“ nus king of Syria. After a siege of a year, he  
“ levelled with the ground the rival city of Sa-  
“ maria ; and, by bringing the course of some  
“ streams over the spot, utterly erased all traces

“ of the vanquished city. He renewed the walls  
 “ of Jerusalem, which had fallen down through  
 “ age.

“ After these successful achievements, he dies  
 “ in the thirty-first year of his authority, (being  
 “ a man illustrious in three distinct characters, as  
 “ a priest, a general, and a prophet,) in the  
 “ hundredth year before Christ; at which period  
 “ the fourth and last book of the Maccabees ends.  
 “ The commencement of which book is thus, as it  
 “ is found in a Greek manuscript which I have  
 “ read in the library of that very learned preacher  
 “ Sanctus Pagninus: *Καὶ μετὰ τὸ ἀπεκτανθῆναι τὸν*  
 “ *Σίμωνα ἐγενήθη Ἰωάννης υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ἀρχιερεὺς ἀντ’ αὐτοῦ.*  
 “ The series of the history, and the narrative, are  
 “ almost the same with those which are in the  
 “ thirteenth book of Antiquities of Josephus;  
 “ but the style abounds with Hebrew idioms, and  
 “ is very unlike his. It is most probable that  
 “ this work was translated, by some unknown  
 “ hand, from ‘the Book of Days’ (Chronicles) of  
 “ the priesthood of John, of whom it is written at  
 “ the end of the first book of Maccabees, ‘The  
 “ rest of the sayings of John, &c. &c.’

“ From the above, it clearly appears that those  
 “ persons are mistaken, who think that the fourth  
 “ book of Maccabees is that in which Josephus  
 “ has described the martyrdom of the Maccabæan  
 “ mother and her seven sons; which book also is  
 “ found in some Greek Bibles, with the title,  
 “ *Ἰουσίππου εἰς τοὺς Μακκαβαίους.*” Sixti Senensis  
 Biblioth. lib. i. sect. 3.

But Calmet, in his “Dictionary of the Bible,”

under the article “Maccabees,” supposes that Sixtus was mistaken in his opinion of this being the true fourth book: and that probably what he saw was that work which in Arabic has been printed in the Paris and London Polyglotts, [namely my *fifth* book:] this latter however contains much more than Sixtus takes notice of, and reaches down to the birth of Jesus Christ.

In his “Literal Comment on Scripture,” Calmet has given *our* fourth book both in Latin and French.

I do not believe that it has ever yet appeared in *English*; except in a very loose paraphrase, in L’Estrange’s translation of Josephus, folio, London, 1702: but Whiston, a subsequent translator of that author, does not consider it as the production of Josephus, and therefore has wholly passed it by, for reasons which may be seen at the end of his version of the treatise against Apion. I have endeavoured to suit the style and language to those of the preceding books, as closely as was consistent with a careful adherence to the Original.

## BOOK V.

The *fifth* book, although Calmet supposes that it was originally written in *Hebrew*, and from thence was translated into *Greek*, is not now known to exist in either of those languages. We have it in *Arabic*, and also in *Syriac*. It is a kind of Chronicle of Jewish affairs, commencing with the attempt on the treasury at Jerusalem made by Heliodorus, (with an interpolation of the

history of the Septuagint version composed by desire of Ptolemy,) and reaching down to the birth of Jesus Christ: or, speaking accurately, to that particular point of time, at which Herod, almost glutted with the noblest blood of the Jews, turned his murderous hands upon the members of his own family; and completed the sad tragedy of the Asmonæan princes, by the slaughter of his own wife Mariamne, her mother, and his own two sons.

The *Arabic* of this book, with a Latin version of it by Gabriel Sionita, first appeared in the Paris Polyglott Bible of Le Jay, with no other notice than the following preface. “Liber hic a  
 “ cap. 1 usque ad 16 inclusive inscribitur ‘II.  
 “ *Machabæorum ex Hebræorum translatione,*’ uti  
 “ in calce ejusdem cap. 16 videre est. Reliquus  
 “ vero liber simpliciter notatur ‘II. *Machabæo-*  
 “ *rum,*’ continuata tamen cum antecedentibus ca-  
 “ pitum serie. At cum neque textui Syriaco, qui  
 “ præcipuæ inter Orientales auctoritatis est, neque  
 “ Græco, neque Vulgatæ editioni consonet, (quan-  
 “ quam in omnibus ferme Orientalium extet codi-  
 “ cibus,) illum in calce horum Bibliorum reposui-  
 “ mus, et quidem destitutum apicibus suis: tum  
 “ ne cuiquam inter cæteros Canonicos libros recen-  
 “ seri a nobis videatur: tum quia secundus Macha-  
 “ bæorum, qui pro Canonico habetur, ex integro  
 “ nobis extat, quanquam sub nomine primi. Habes  
 “ tamen in hoc quædam ex primo et secundo;  
 “ quædam vero alia hactenus forte in lucem non  
 “ edia quæ tibi non injucunda fore speramus:  
 “ quandoquidem liber totus est quædam historiæ

“ continuatio, ab ipsis Machabæis deducta usque  
 “ ad regnum Herodis et præfecturam Pilati <sup>c</sup>, et  
 “ consequenter Christi Domini tempora. Tandem  
 “ hoc unum scias velimus, nos ea bona fide textum  
 “ expressisse, ut ne ea quidem quæ facile emendari  
 “ poterant mutaverimus.”

The appearance of this book in the Paris Polyglott, without any account of the Manuscript from which it had been taken, or any farther particulars connected with its publication, is thought to have arisen from the quarrels which were continually taking place between two of the editors of the Oriental department of that Bible, Gabriel Sionita and Abraham Ecchellensis. From the Paris edition it was copied into the London Polyglott of Bishop Walton.

Its author is wholly unknown. He may have been contemporary with Josephus, but was not Josephus himself; as may be proved by many differences from that historian, and some contradictions of him, collected instances of which may be seen in Calmet. That he lived after the capture of Jerusalem by Titus may be evidenced by the expression occurring at chap. ix. “ till after  
 “ the third captivity:” and again, in chap. xxi.  
 “ till the destruction of the second House.” It has been supposed to have been compiled from the Acts of each successive high priest. In three places, chap. xxv. 5, lv. 25, and lix. 96, mention is made of “ the author of this book;” but *who* is

<sup>c</sup> This appears to be a mistake, as will be perceived on referring to the note on chap. lix. verse 25.

the person designated by this expression, it is not perhaps easy to say.

The book contains some remarkable peculiarities of language; such as "The House of God," and "The Holy House," for *the Temple*:—"the land of the Holy House," for *Judæa*:—"the city of the Holy House," for *Jerusalem*:—the exclamations, "to whom be peace!" and "God be merciful to them," used in speaking of the dead:—"the men of the west:"—the "great and good God," (answering to the "Deus Optimus Maximus" of Roman authors;) and the same expression is found in the Samaritan Chronicle:—"the land of the sanctuary:" in the Samaritan Chronicle Jerusalem is called "the sanctuary," and its king, "the king of the sanctuary."

I may here remark, in passing, that this *Samaritan Chronicle* exists in an Arabic translation, made from the Hebrew, but in the ancient Samaritan characters, in a manuscript which formerly belonged to the learned Joseph Scaliger, and is now preserved in the public library at Leyden. It begins from the death of Moses, (whence it obtained the title of "the book of Joshua,") and ends with the emperor Antonine. I am not aware that it has ever been published; but Hottinger has given an epitome of it in his "Exercitationes Anti-morinianæ," 4to. 1644; and several extracts in his "Smegma Orientale," 4to. 1658: it is also briefly mentioned by Basnage, in his "History of the Jews," II. i. 2.

The learned Dr. Huntington, who about a hundred and thirty years ago travelled into the East,

and visited the town of *Sichem*, where he found only small and miserable remains of the Samaritans, saw there a "Samaritan Chronicle" different from that which is mentioned by Scaliger, and less copious, but still embracing the period from the Creation to the time of Mahomet. This book he brought over with him to England, and it is now deposited among the Huntington MSS. in the Bodleian library. A chronological abstract of it appears in the "Acta Eruditorum" for 1691: where it seems to have been continued by some unknown hand down to the year of Christ 1492.

In the "Biblia Maxima" by Jo. de la Haye, 19 tom. folio, Paris, 1660, the *Latin* version of Le Jay's Polyglott is reprinted, but with the omission of the first nineteen chapters.

A *French* translation of this *fifth* book, from the Arabic, appears, with other apocryphal writings, in the Appendix to De Sacy's Bible: and Calmet has given a version of a portion of it, viz. of chapters xx to xxvi; being so much as contains the acts of John Hyrcanus, namely, that part only which Sixtus Senensis had seen, and had considered to be the legitimate fourth book. He adds, that the entire book had been recently published in French by M. Baubrun, in the third volume of Le Maitre's Bible, fol. Paris. This I have not seen.

I do not know that it has hitherto appeared in *English*. I have rendered it from the Latin version of the Arabic text printed in the Polyglotts; taking care to adhere as closely as possible to my copy, lest a translation of a translation

should be found to have wholly lost sight of the Original, if too much liberty were allowed; only endeavouring, as before stated, that the English should bear some resemblance to that of the other Maccabaic books.

In the several notes and illustrations from heathen authors subjoined to the text, I have thrown upon various parts of it whatever light I was able to procure. But at the same time I have been unwilling to quote at length the corresponding passages of those authors, lest the volume should be swelled to a bulk disproportionate to its worth.

*On the Canonical authority sought to be affixed to two of these books.*

It is well known to the learned, that of these five books, those which are commonly called the *first* and *second* have been usually attached to copies of the Bible throughout the western church; and by the adherents to the see of Rome they are, even at this day, deemed to be of Canonical authority. The ground for this may perhaps be sought, and found, in an overstrained interpretation of those approving terms in which several of the early Fathers spoke of these books, either as faithful or edifying narratives.

But, on the question of their having been considered *as the work of inspiration*, and in such a character admitted either into the Jewish or early Christian canon, I shall beg permission to adduce one single testimony from each of these two churches; which, as it is that of a writer of high character, and is direct and unambiguous, I trust

may be thought decisive of the question, according to the maxim of Aristotle, εἶς πιστὸς μάρτυς ἰκανός.

For the *Jewish* canon, hear Josephus, in his first book against Apion, sect. 8. Ἀπὸ δὲ Ἀρταξέρξου μέχρι τοῦ καθ' ἡμᾶς χρόνου γέγραπται μὲν ἕκαστα· πιστεως δ' οὐχ ὁμοίως ἤξιώται τοῖς πρὸ αὐτῶν, διὰ τὸ μὴ γενέσθαι τὴν τῶν προφητῶν ἀκριβῆ διαδοχὴν. “But from  
“ Artaxerxes down to our own times all events  
“ are indeed recorded: but they are not consi-  
“ dered equally worthy of belief with those which  
“ preceded them, because there was not an exact  
“ succession of prophets *as before*.”

And for the *Christian* church, no less an authority than St. Jerome distinctly affirms, “Macha-  
“ bæorum libros legit quidem ecclesia, SED EOS  
“ INTER CANONICAS SCRIPTURAS NON RECI-  
“ PIT.” Præfat. in Proverb. Salomonis.

One might have thought, that this solemn assertion, coming from so high a quarter, would have been decisive: that a Roman catholic at least would have bowed with implicit deference to the recorded judgment of this learned Father, to whom he owns himself indebted for *his* Bible. And so indeed he did, during earlier and better times. But Rome found troubles come upon her: doubts arose, and objections were made, and must be met at all events: and the third book of Maccabees offered too fair a field, of dreams, and visions, and miraculous appearances, and a (fancied) recommendation of prayers for the dead, to be neglected by that church. The council of Trent boldly pronounced the two books Canonical; and

as such they are professedly received by all the adherents of the Roman see.

It is sad however, to see some of her learned followers betraying their distrust of the grounds upon which they are bidden to stand; and such men as P. de la Haye, and Calmet after him, driven to the miserable shift of attempting to find reasons for the propriety of their being deemed Canonical, from the mere fact of St. Paul's having used, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, ch. xii. 35, where he is speaking of the martyrs, the expression, ἄλλοι δ' ἐτυμπανίσθησαν—"which torture," say they, "Eleazar suffered!" as if *therefore* it necessarily followed, that the particular book which details these his sufferings must be, not only that one which the Apostle had in view, but moreover must have been written by divine inspiration, and consequently be Canonical!

The reader, who desires to see this point treated in detail, is referred to "Jo. Rainoldi censura librorum apocryphorum Veteris Testamenti, adversum Pontificios," 2 tom. 4to. Oppenheimii 1591: and to Archbishop Ussher's "Summary of Christian Religion."

I may also take leave to mention, that the question of the Canonical character of these books was warmly debated in Germany, about the middle of the last century, by Frœlich and the two Wernsdorfs; the former of whom denied, and the latter maintained, their title to that high distinction. The contest began by some observations made in a publication of Frœlich, entitled "Annales Regum Syriæ," 4to. 1744. To these E. Werns-

dorf replied, in “*Prolusio de Fontibus Historiæ Syriæ in Libris Maccabæorum*,” 4to. Lipsiæ, 1746. Frœlich rejoined, in “*Prolusio in Examen vocata*,” 4to. 1746. G. Wernsdorf then entered the field, with a “*Commentatio de Fide Historica Librorum Maccabæorum*,” 4to. 1747; and was supported by an anonymous Jesuit, who published a treatise entitled, “*Authoritas Librorum Maccabæorum canonico-historica adserta*,” 4to. Viennæ, 1749. In 1754, Frœlich republished his “*Annales*,” and probably replied to all the arguments of his opponents: for in the Preface he states, “*post ultimum anno 1749, pro libris Maccabæorum finitum certamen, silentium et pax.*”

What may be the character or merits of these last-named publications, I am unable to judge or pronounce; as not a single one of them was to be procured in any public or private library in Dublin.—Nor have I been able to meet with “*Michaelis on the Maccabees*,” 4to. 1774: nor “*Charles Wilson’s Version of the apocryphal books, with critical and historical Observations*,” 8vo. 1801: nor the dissertations said to be contained in the “*Bibliotheca Historica*” of Meuselius: nor the “*Harmony*” by J. M. Faber, 8vo. 1794, &c. &c.: a perusal of which treatises, together with many others illustrating the same subject, might perhaps have considerably diminished the imperfections of the present work.

*The Prayer of Eleazar, occurring in  
Book I. Chapter vi.*

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It will be at once perceived and allowed, that both the imagery and language of this prayer are highly poetical, although the words themselves have never yet been submitted to the strict rules of a metrical arrangement.

Βασιλεῦ μεγαλοκράτωρ, ὕψιστε, παντοκράτωρ Θεέ, τὴν παῖσαν διακυβερνῶν ἐν οἰκτιρμοῖς κτίσιν, ἔπιδε ἐπὶ Ἀβραὰμ σπέρμα ἐπὶ ἡγιασμένου τεκνα Ἰακώβ, μερίδος ἡγιασμένης σοῦ λαὸν ἐν ξένη γῆ ἀδίκως ἀπολλύμενον, πατέρ.

Σὺ Φαραὼ πληθύνοντα ἄρμασι, τοπρὶν Αἰγύπτου ταύτης δυναστὴν, ἐπαρθέντα ἀνόμῳ θράσει καὶ γλώσση μεγαλορρήμονι, σὺν τῇ ὑπερηφάνῳ στρατίᾳ παντοβρόχους ἀπόλεσας, φέγγος ἐπιφάνας ἐλέους Ἰσραὴλ γένει.

Σὺ τὸν ἀναριθμήτοις δυνάμεσι γαυρωθέντα, Σενναχηρεῖμ βαθὺν Ἀσσυρίων βασιλέα, δοράτι τὴν πάσαν ὑποχείριον ἤδη λαβόντα γῆν, καὶ μετεωρισθέντα ἐπὶ τὴν ἀγίαν σοῦ πόλιν, βαρέα λαλοῦντα κόμπῳ καὶ θράσει σὺ δέσποτα ἔθραυσας, ἔκδηλον δεικνὺς ἔθνεσι πολλοῖς τὸ σὸν κράτος.

Σὺ τοὺς κατὰ τὴν Βαβυλωνίαν τρεῖς ἐταίρους, πυρὶ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐθαιρέτως δεδωκότας, εἰς τὸ μὴ λατρεῦσαι τοῖς κενοῖς, διάπυρον δροσίσας κάμινον, ἐρρύσω μέχρι τριχὸς ἀπημάντους, φλόγα πᾶσιν ἐπιπέμφας τοῖς ὑπεναντίοις.

Σὺ τὸν διαβολαῖς φθονοῦ λέουσι κατὰ γῆς ριφέντα θηροῖ βορὰν Δανιὴλ εἰς φῶς ἀνήγαγες ἀσινῆ.

Τόν τε βυθοτρεφοῦς ἐν γαστρὶ κήτους Ἰωνὰν τηκόμενον ἀφειδῶς, ἀπήμαντον πᾶσιν οἰκείοις ἀνέδειξας, πατέρ.

Καὶ νῦν μισύβρι, πολυέλεε, τῶν ὅλων σκεπαστὰ, τὸ τάχος ἐπιφάνηθι τοῖς ἀπὸ Ἰσραὴλ γένους, ὑπὸ δὲ ἐβδελυγμένων ἀνόμων ἔθνῶν ὑβριζομένοις.

Εἰ δὲ ἀσεβείαις κατὰ τὴν ἀποικίαν ὁ βίος ἡμῶν ἐνέσχηται, ῥυσάμενος ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ ἐχθρῶν χειρὸς, ὡς προαίρη δέσποτα ἀπόλεσον ἡμᾶς μόρφ.

Μὴ τοῖς ματαιοῖς οἱ ματαιόφρονες εὐλογησάτωσαν ἐπὶ τῇ τῶν ἡγαπημένων σου ἀπωλείᾳ, λέγοντες, οὐδὲ ὁ Θεὸς αὐτῶν ἐρρύσατο αὐτούς.

Σὺ δὲ, ὁ πᾶσαν ἀλκὴν καὶ δυναστείαν ἔχων ἅπασαν, Αἰώνιε, νῦν ἔπιδε, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς τοὺς καθ' ὕβριν ἀνόμων ἀλόγιστον ἐκ τοῦ ζῆν μεθισταμένους ἐν ἐπιβούλων τρόπῳ.

Πτηξάτω δὲ ἔθνη σὴν δύναμιν ἀνίκητον σήμερον, ἔντιμῃ, δύναμιν ἔχων, ἐπὶ σωτηρίᾳ Ἰακώβ γένους.

Ἴκετεύει σε τὸ πᾶν πλῆθος τῶν νηπίων, καὶ οἱ τούτων γονεῖς μετὰ δακρῶν.

Δειχθῆτω πᾶσιν ἔθνεσιν ὅτι μεθ' ἡμῶν εἶ Κύριε, καὶ οὐκ ἀπέστρεψας τὸ πρόσωπον σου ἀφ' ἡμῶν ἀλλὰ καθὼς εἶπας, ὅτι οὐδ' ἐν τῇ γῇ τῶν ἐχθρῶν αὐτῶν ὄντων ὑπερείδες αὐτούς, οὕτως ἐπιτέλεσον, Κύριε.

The words of the foregoing prayer fall almost naturally into English blank verse; the following translation being, *for the most part*, no more than a mere verbal rendering of the Greek, as it stands at present.

Monarch most powerful ! highest, mightiest God !

Whose mercies all creation ever guide—

Lo ! Abraham's seed—lo ! Jacob's sacred race—

Thy sanctified inheritance—thy lot—

What wrongs we suffer in a stranger-land.

'Thou—when stern Pharaoh, Egypt's mighty lord,

Spread forth his chariot-band in proud array,

And with high-swelling boasts defied thy power ;

Him and his host, beneath the boiling wave

Of his own sea didst whelm ; while with mild ray

O'er Israel's rescued sons thy mercy shone.

Thou—when Sennacherib, Assyria's chief,  
 The self-styled conqueror of a little world,  
 Proud of his countless troops, his battles won,  
 His cities sack't, and idol-gods o'erthrown—  
 Could not restrain his bursting insolence,  
 But rashly dar'd thy holy land to invade;—  
 Thou, to the world displaying thy vast might,  
 The empty threatenings of his idle tongue  
 Didst in one moment, and for ever, quell.

When the three Hebrew youths in Babel's court  
 Sustain'd the trial; whom nor threats could force,  
 Nor soft persuasion charm, to bow the knee  
 In idol-worship;—firm in faith they stood,  
 Unmov'd, unflinching; while beneath their glance  
 The courtiers wither'd, and the baffled king  
 Champ't at his favours spurn'd, his power defied.  
 He ask'd their *conscience*—and they gave their *lives*.

But when his angry furnace flam'd on high  
 With seven-fold fury charg'd, from its huge mouth  
 Gaping as if for prey, whole sheets of fire  
 Burst forth beyond controul, and with blind rage  
 The helpless ministers for victims slew.

Into this lake, of fire and seeming death,  
 Bound hand and foot, they sank.—But quickly rose,  
 And walked, unharm'd, and free.—For THOU wert  
 there!

At thy command, above, below, around,  
 The laughing flames played harmless; and a dew  
 Heaven-sent, breathed such cool freshness o'er the place,  
 The tyrant's Hell became God's Paradise.—

Thou from the Assyrian lions' hungry jaws  
 Didst rescue Daniel, foully doom'd to die.  
 And Jonah, in the huge sea-monster's maw  
 Immur'd, beyond all hope of human aid,  
 To his despairing friends didst safe restore.

And now, most merciful, all-seeing God,  
 Hater of insolence, thyself display  
 A swift avenger of thy people's wrongs,  
 Whom odious heathens lawlessly oppress.

And, for those sins, which idly we have wrought  
Against thy name in this sad pilgrimage,  
We dare not ask forgiveness :—Yet, at least  
Save us, we pray, from *man's* rude tyranny ;  
Into *Thy* hands, O LORD, content we fall.

Let not vain Gentiles with mistaken joy  
Thank their false idols for our overthrow ;  
Nor ask exulting, “ Where lies Israel now ?  
“ Where is their promis'd aid, their boasted GOD ?”

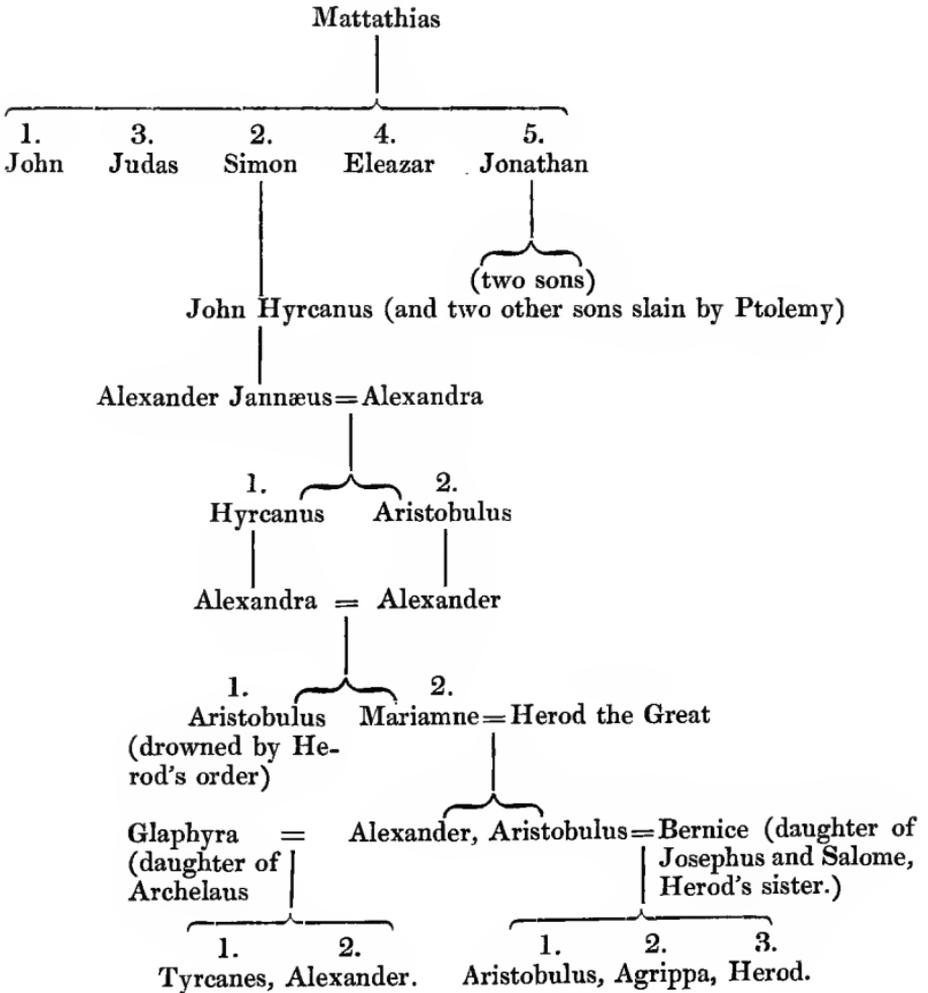
But THOU, who hast all majesty and might,  
Eternal One ! look down, behold thy sons  
Smarting beneath oppression's iron rod,  
And to a traitor's abject fate consign'd.

Thou honour'd mighty One ! this very morn  
Let heathens own thy power, o'er Israel sav'd.  
Our elders pray Thee, and our infant babes  
In untaught eloquence of tears implore.

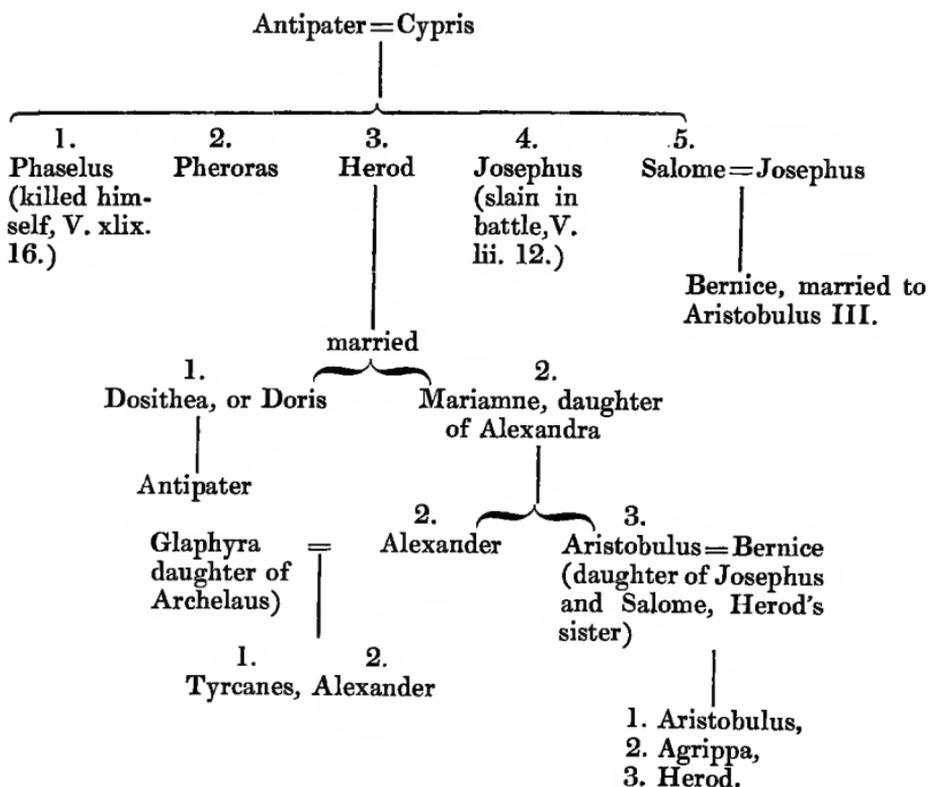
Prove to the world that 'Thou art with us still,  
Thy face still on us sheds its favouring light :  
And for thy promise, never to desert  
E'en in captivity thy once-lov'd race,  
That gracious promise, LORD, this day fulfil.

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*The Genealogy of the Maccabæan Family, so far as it is mentioned in these Five Books.*



*The Genealogy of Herod the Great, so far as it relates to these  
Five Books.*



CHRONOLOGY, ACCORDING TO BLAIR

PT.	KINGS OF SYRIA.	HIGH PRIESTS, AND PRINCES OF THE JEWS.	KINGS OF
is.	312 Seleucus Nicator.	323 Onias.	256 Arsace
adelpheus.	280 Antiochus I. Soter.	302 Simon the Just.	253 Tiridat
ergetes.	261 ——— II. Theos.	283 Eleazar.	216 Artaba
upator, or	246 Seleucus II. Callinicos.	251 Manasses.	196 Phriap
	226 ——— III. Ceraunus.	225 Onias II.	181 Phraat
iphanes.	223 Antiochus III. the Great.	211 Simon II.	173 Mithri
hilometor	187 Seleucus IV. Soter, or Philopator.	191 Onias III.	136 Phraat
Euergetes	175 Antiochus IV. Epipha- nes.	175 Jason (or Jesus.)	127 Artaba
n, jointly.	164 ——— V. Eupator.	172 Menelaus (or Onias IV.)	124 Mithri
on alone.	162 Demetrius Soter.	162 Alcimus.	87 Mnask
Lathurus,	150 Alexander Balas.	153 Jonathan Maccabæus.	76 Sinatr
with Cleo-	146 Demetrius II. Nicator.	144 Simon Maccabæus.	69 Phraa
	144 Antiochus VI. Theos.	135 John Hyrcanus.	60 Mithr
Alexander,	143 Tryphon.	107 Aristobulus.	53 Orode
ra.	139 Antiochus VII. Sidetes.	106 Alexander Jannæus.	36 Phraa
thurus re-	130 Demetrius II. restored.	79 Hyrcanus and Alexandra.	reig
	127 Alexander Zebina.	70 Hyrcanus alone.	yea
Alexander	123 Antiochus VIII. Gry- phus.	67 Aristobulus.	birth
opatra.	93 Philip and Demetrius.	63 Hyrcanus restored.	[Arta
Alexander	83 Tigranes.	40 Antigonus : [but Herod is declared king by the Romans.]	kin
Dionysius	69 Antiochus Asiaticus.	37 Herod, who finishes the Asmonæan dynasty by slaying Antigonus.	A. hir
ulettes.	63 Pompey puts an end to the kingdom.	[Dies 24th Nov. B. C. 4.]	Par
Dionysius		3 Archelaus.	hav
opatra.			482
XV. Pto-			
CÆLOSRYIA.			
inates the	112 Ant. IX. Cyzicenus.		
y reducing	93 Ant. Pius.		
Roman pro-	85 Aretas.		



THE  
FIRST BOOK  
OF  
MACCABEES:

CONTAINING  
OCCURRENCES WHICH TOOK PLACE AT JERUSALEM AND  
ALEXANDRIA, DURING PART OF THE REIGN OF PTO-  
LEMY PHILOPATOR, KING OF EGYPT, BETWEEN  
THE YEARS 217 AND 209 BEFORE CHRIST.

CHAPTER I.

*Ptolemy defeats Antiochus. He visits Jerusalem; and attempts to enter the Temple.*

1 **N**OW<sup>a</sup> when Philopator<sup>b</sup> learned from those who returned, that Antiochus<sup>c</sup> had taken away the places<sup>d</sup> which had been under his dominion, he gave orders to all his forces, both 2 foot and horse, to march: and taking with him his sister Arsinoe, he proceeded as far as the parts about Raphia<sup>e</sup>, where Antiochus and his army had pitched their camp.

<sup>a</sup> Grotius has remarked, that this book opens abruptly, as though it were part of some larger work; and this idea appears to be confirmed by an expression occurring at ch. ii. 25.

<sup>b</sup> Ptolemy Philopator, king of Egypt, the fourth of that family and name.

<sup>c</sup> Antiochus the Great, king of Syria, the son of Seleucus

Callinicus.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Tyre, Seleucia, Ptolemais, Abila, Gadara, Scythopolis, and other towns; as related by Polybius, lib. V.

<sup>e</sup> A town on the southern border of the Holy Land; ἡ κείται μετὰ Ῥινοκόλουρα πρώτη τῶν κατὰ Κοίλην Συρίαν πολέων ὡς πρὸς τὴν Αἴγυπτον. (Polybius.) Coins struck here are still extant.

But one Theodotus<sup>f</sup>, intending to complete a treacherous design which he had, took the best of the arms which Ptolemy had formerly intrusted to him, and approached by night to Ptolemy's tent, as *intending* himself alone to kill him, and thereby to put an end to the war. But Dositheus, 4 called *the son* of Drimylus, by birth a Jew, but one who afterwards forsook his religion and estranged himself from the ordinances of his forefathers, taking *Ptolemy* out of the way, caused a certain obscure person<sup>g</sup> to lodge there in his stead; who accordingly received that punishment which was intended for the other.

Now when a sharp battle took place, and success seemed rather to favour Antiochus<sup>h</sup>, Arsinoe<sup>i</sup> went frequently up and down among the troops; and exhorted them with lamentation and tears, having her hair in disorder, to fight manfully for themselves and for their children and wives; promising to give to every one, if they conquered, two

<sup>f</sup> This individual, who here is so lightly spoken of, appears, from Polybius's account, to have been a person of considerable importance. He was by birth an Ætolian, was high in the confidence of Ptolemy, by whom he was advanced to posts of the utmost consequence, and at length was made governor of Coelosyria. Having from some cause incurred the king's ill graces, and suspecting that his life was in danger, he took the resolution of separating himself from his former master, and thenceforth espoused the interests of king Antiochus. See Polybius, V. 40, and 61.

<sup>g</sup> Polybius relates in detail this attempt of Theodotus; adding, that he wounded two persons, and slew the king's physician, who probably is the person here alluded to. Polyb. V. 81.

<sup>h</sup> In fact Ptolemy's left wing had been vanquished and put to flight; so that Antiochus, young and inexperienced in the field, was fully persuaded that the victory was his own: nor was he undeceived till it was too late to repair the disaster.

<sup>i</sup> This princess is also mentioned by Polybius, as zealously assisting Ptolemy in the battle.

- 6 minæ<sup>k</sup> of gold *as a reward*. By which means it came to pass that their enemies were destroyed<sup>l</sup> in the battle<sup>m</sup>, and many of them were taken prisoners also. *Ptolemy* therefore, having overcome this treachery, determined to go and encourage the neighbouring cities<sup>n</sup>; by doing which, and by making presents to their temples, he made his subjects to be full of courage.
- 8 But when the Jews had sent to him some of their council<sup>o</sup> and elders, to salute him and to bring with them presents, and to congratulate with him on past events; it came to pass that he felt a stronger desire to take a journey to them with all speed.
- 9 Now when he was come to Jerusalem, he offered a sacrifice to the Most High God, and returned thanks, and did what was then proper in
- 10 that place<sup>p</sup>. Moreover, when he was on the spot, he was astonished at the diligence and decency there observed. And wondering at the good order

B. C.  
216.B. C.  
214.

<sup>k</sup> There is the Hebrew, the Attic, the Roman, and the Egyptian mina; each differing from the others in value. If the last be the one here meant, as is most probable, it is equivalent to thirty-two Hebrew shekels (or eight ounces) of gold: so that two such minæ would be worth, in our present money, about sixty guineas.

<sup>l</sup> The particulars of this battle of Raphia are well and minutely given by Polybius, lib. V.

<sup>m</sup> Gr. *ἐν χειρονομίαις διαφθαρῆναι*. The reading has been questioned, but surely without reason. Every one remembers

that *διαφθειρέσθαι ἐν χείρων νόμῳ* is a classical expression, used by Polybius and other Greek writers. Of the same class is *εἰς χεῖρας βιάζεσθαι*, *to resist hand to hand*, which we find in Diodorus Siculus.

<sup>n</sup> Polybius is severe upon the fickle readiness with which these cities received and hailed the victor.

<sup>o</sup> Gr. *Γερονσία*, a word which usually denotes the Roman senate, but is used to express the Jewish Sanhedrim or Great Council, in these books, also in that of Judith, and by Josephus.

<sup>p</sup> Namely, in the court of the Gentiles.

about the holy place, he took a design to manage matters so, that he might enter into the temple itself<sup>q</sup>. But when they said that this could not be done, because it was not lawful for even persons of their own nation to enter into that place; no, not for all the priests themselves, but only for the superior of them all, the high priest, and even for him but once in a year:—he would by no means be dissuaded. And when the law<sup>r</sup> to this effect was read in his presence, he would by no means cease offering himself: but said that he must go in; and “even if they are deprived of that honour, I must not be so deprived.” He asked also this question—why none of those who attended any other temples hindered him from entering into them? And when a certain person inadvertently said, that this was an unlucky fiction<sup>s</sup> of his: he answered, “Now that this has been done, from whatever cause it may, why shall I not enter at all events, whether you will or no?”

Then the priests fell down in their holy garments, and prayed the Most High God to assist them in the present distress, and to avert the violence of him who was making this wicked attempt

<sup>q</sup> Here is meant the inmost recess, the Holy of Holies.

<sup>r</sup> And besides these ordinances of the Law of Moses, Antiochus the Great, in his benevolence towards the Jews, had issued a public decree that no foreigner should enter into the temple without their will and permission. Joseph. Ant. XII. 3.

<sup>s</sup> Gr. κακῶς αὐτὸ τοῦτο τερατεύσθαι. The sense appears

somewhat doubtful. Grotius would read *ἰερατεύεσθαι* for *τερατεύεσθαι*. Crutwell translates the passage, “that it was monstrously wicked.” The sense seems to be, that “this very thing,” viz. his entering into other temples, “was improperly done,” (qu. *πράττεσθαι*?) Or, “that they minded their business badly in thus allowing him to go in.”

upon them: and they filled the temple with cries  
 17 and tears. And they which were left in the city  
 were troubled, and came running, as thinking the  
 affair to be something new and wholly unexpected.  
 18 The virgins also, who were shut up<sup>t</sup> in private cham-  
 bers, together with their mothers, rushed out; and  
 • sprinkling ashes and dust upon their heads, filled  
 19 the streets with groans and lamentations. And  
 those who lately were adorned *in wedding gar-*  
*ments*, leaving their marriage-chambers<sup>u</sup>, and that  
 decent modesty which belonged to them, ran  
 20 about the city together in disorder. And as for  
 the young children, both their mothers and nurses  
 who had charge of them, left these, one in one  
 place, one in another; some in their houses, others  
 in the streets, without any regard: and went in  
 21 troops together to the most high temple. And  
 various was the prayer of the whole company on  
 22 account of this his unhallowed attempt. Together  
 with these were the bolder citizens, who would  
 not bear his persevering in the business, and his  
 23 resolution to effect his purpose. And crying out,  
 that they must arm themselves for this onset, and  
 courageously die for the Law of their fathers, they  
 occasioned no small stir<sup>x</sup> in the place: and having  
 with difficulty been dissuaded by the seniors<sup>y</sup> and  
 elders, at last these also retired to the same station  
 of prayer.

24 As for the multitude, they continued as before,  
 25 in the same manner, praying. While the elders

<sup>t</sup> Gr. κατάκλειστοι, called by Philo, *πάρθενοι θαλαμενόμεναι*. Compare 2 Macc. iii. 19.

<sup>u</sup> Gr. τοὺς πρὸς ἀπάντησιν διατεταγμένους παστούς.

<sup>x</sup> Or, confusion. Gr. τρα-

χύτητα: as in Homer, *τετρήχει δ' ἄγορή*. Il. B. 95.

<sup>y</sup> Gr. γηραιοί; whom Grotius conceives to be the members of the council or Sanhedrim.

who were about the king tried in many ways to divert his proud mind from his intended purpose. But he, in a haughty manner, and disdain<sup>z</sup> all 26 their persuasions, began now to make an advance; as thinking to accomplish his declared design. Which, when his attendants perceived, even they 27 turned to join with our people in calling upon Him who has all power, to give help in the present distress, and not to overlook this lawless and proud behaviour.

Now from the reiterated and vehement cry of 28 the multitude united together there was an inconceivable sort of noise<sup>a</sup>: for one might suppose 29 that not the men alone, but the very walls and the ground echoed again; as if the whole multitude at that time chose to die rather than that place should be profaned.

## CHAPTER II.

*The prayer of Simon. Ptolemy is baffled. His cruel edicts.*

<sup>b</sup> THEREUPON the high priest Simon<sup>c</sup>, bow- 1  
B. C. ing his knees before the holy place, and  
211. spreading out his hands in reverent form,

<sup>z</sup> Or, "sending them all aside:" or, "dismissing all other considerations:" Gr. πάντα παραπέμφας. (or πάντας).

<sup>a</sup> Gr. ἀνείκαστός τις ἦν βοή. Homer uses a similar expression, βοή δ' ἄσβεστος ὀρώρει.

<sup>b</sup> There is some uncertainty respecting the exact time at which the transactions mentioned in this book took place. Archbishop Ussher, in his "Annals of the World," places Ptolemy's ill-usage of the Jews under the year B. C. 216;

and Vaillant, in his "Histoires Ptolemæorum," assigns it to the eighth year of that king's reign, viz. B. C. 212. But, if we support the reading in the text of ver. 1 of this chapter, that "the high priest *Simon* prayed for the "people," we must carry the occurrence a few years onward; as it is allowed that Simon did not succeed to that office until B. C. 211.

<sup>c</sup> The son of Onias II. and father of Onias III.: he suc-

2 made the following prayer: "O Lord, Lord, king  
 " of heaven, and ruler of all creation, Holy in the  
 " holies<sup>d</sup>, the only Governor, the Almighty;—  
 " give ear unto us who are afflicted by this wicked  
 " and profane man, puffed up with insolence and  
 3 " strength. For thou, who hast created all things,  
 " and rulest all things, *thou* art the righteous Go-  
 " vernor, and judgest those who do any thing in  
 4 " insolence and pride. Thou didst destroy them  
 " who in former times worked wickedness, among  
 " whom were the giants<sup>e</sup>, trusting in their  
 " strength and courage, by bringing upon them  
 5 " an immense mass of water. Thou didst burn  
 " up with fire and brimstone the Sodomites, work-  
 " ers of wickedness, who were infamous for their  
 " iniquities; and madest them an example<sup>f</sup> to  
 6 " those who *should* come afterward. Thou shew-  
 " edst thy dominion by trying the vaunting bold  
 " Pharaoh, (who had enslaved thy people the holy  
 " Israel,) with many and various kinds of punish-  
 " ment, whereby thou madest known thy great  
 7 " strength. And when he pursued *them* with his  
 " chariots and the multitude of his troops, thou  
 " didst drown him in the depth of the sea: and  
 " didst carry through unhurt those who trusted  
 8 " on thee, the Lord of the whole creation. Who  
 " also, after they had experienced the works of  
 9 " thy hands, praised thee<sup>g</sup>, the Almighty. Thou,

ceeded to the high priesthood in the year B. C. 211. He is thought to have been the person of whom that eulogy is pronounced in the book of Ecclesiasticus, chap. 1.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. "Αγιε εν αγίοις.

<sup>e</sup> So in the book of Wis-

dom, xiv. 6, "the proud giants" are mentioned, in allusion to Genesis vi. 4. See also Ecclesiasticus, xvi. 7.

<sup>f</sup> Compare 2 Peter ii. 6; and Jude, ver. 7.

<sup>g</sup> See the fine song of Moses, on the deliverance of the Is-

“ O King, when thou hadst created the boundless  
 “ and immeasurable earth, didst chuse this city,  
 “ and sanctify this place for thy name<sup>g</sup>, who  
 “ standest in need of nothing<sup>h</sup>: and hast glorified  
 “ it by thy magnificent presence, and compacted  
 “ it for the glory of thy great and honourable  
 “ name. And out of love to the house of Israel, 10  
 “ thou promisedst<sup>i</sup> truly that if we should fall off  
 “ from thee, and distress<sup>j</sup> should overtake us, and  
 “ we should come to this place and pray; thou  
 “ wouldest hear our supplication. And indeed 11  
 “ thou art faithful and true.

“ And since, when our fathers were often in 12  
 “ affliction, thou hast afforded them assistance in  
 “ their low estate, and hast delivered them out of  
 “ great dangers:—Lo now, O holy King, we are 13  
 “ afflicted on account of our many and great sins:  
 “ we are also become subject to our enemies, and  
 “ are fainting in our infirmities. Now in our 14  
 “ calamity<sup>k</sup> this insolent and profane man endea-  
 “ vours to dishonour this holy place, which has  
 “ been set apart upon earth for thy glorious  
 “ name. Thy habitation indeed is the heaven of 15  
 “ heaven<sup>l</sup>, unapproachable<sup>m</sup> by men. But because 16  
 “ thou hast been pleased to *place* thy glory  
 “ among thy people Israel, thou hast sanctified

raelites, at Exodus xv. 1—19.

<sup>g</sup> See 1 Kings xiv. 21 ;  
 2 Chron. vii. 15. xii. 13 ; Ezra  
 vi. 12 ; Nehemiah i. 9, &c.

<sup>h</sup> τῷ τῶν ἀπάντων ἀπροσδεῖ.  
 So at 3 Macc. xiv. 35, God is  
 said to be τῶν ὅλων ἀπροσδεής.  
 Compare Acts xvii. 25.

<sup>i</sup> See 1 Kings viii. and ix.  
 and 2 Chron. vi. and vii.

<sup>j</sup> See Deuteron. iv. 30.

<sup>k</sup> Literally, “ our fall,” (or  
*prostration*;) Gr. καταπτώσει.

<sup>l</sup> See 1 Kings viii. 27 ;  
 2 Chron. ii. 6 ; vi. 18.

<sup>m</sup> So at 1 Tim. vi. 16, Christ  
 is said to dwell “ in the light  
 “ which no man can approach  
 “ unto.”

17 “ this place. Do not thou take vengeance<sup>n</sup> on us  
 “ by the pollution of these men : neither do thou  
 18 “ punish us by their profanation : that the trans-  
 “ gressors may not glory<sup>o</sup> in their fury, nor re-  
 “ joice in the pride of their tongue ; saying, ‘ We  
 “ have trodden down<sup>p</sup> the house of sanctification,  
 “ as the houses of abominations<sup>q</sup> are trodden  
 19 “ down.’ Blot out our sins, and disperse our  
 “ errors, and send the light of thy mercy *upon*  
 20 “ *us* at this hour. Let thy mercies prevent us<sup>r</sup>  
 “ quickly : and put praises into the mouth of us  
 “ who are fallen down and become contrite in our  
 “ souls, by giving us peace.”

21 Here the all-seeing God, who is before all  
 things, Holy in the holies, heard our righteous  
 supplication ; and chastised him who was greatly  
 22 exalted with insolence and boldness : shaking him  
 this way and that way, as a reed *is shaken* by  
 the wind ; so that he lay upon the floor without  
 the power<sup>s</sup> of exertion, and paralysed in his limbs,  
 and not even able to speak, being overtaken with  
 23 a just judgment. Whereupon his friends and  
 body-guards, when they saw that speedy and  
 sharp punishment which had overtaken him, be-  
 ing afraid lest he should even die ; struck with  
 overwhelming fear they quickly drew him out of  
 the place.

<sup>n</sup> See the same sentiment expressed at 3 Macc. x. 4 ; and also below, chap. vi. 10, of this book.

<sup>o</sup> See Psalm xxv. 2.

<sup>p</sup> Compare Isaiah lxiii. 18 ; Daniel viii. 13.

<sup>q</sup> Literally “ stumbling-  
 “ blocks,” Gr. προσοχθισμάτων,

a word of frequent occurrence in the Septuagint version, denoting *idols*.

<sup>r</sup> See precisely the same words at Psalm lxxix. 8.

<sup>s</sup> Gr. ἄπρακτον, a word frequently used by Polybius in this sense.

But when after some time he had recovered him- 24  
 self, his punishment did not bring him to repent-  
 ance: but he departed with bitter threatenings. So  
 B. C. that when he came into Egypt, he both grew 25  
 210. worse in wickedness, and upon conversing  
 with his drinking companions and such friends as  
 were estranged from all which was good, of whom  
 we have already spoken<sup>t</sup>; he not only persevered 26  
 in countless instances of debauchery<sup>u</sup>, but pro-  
 ceeded farther to that degree of insolence, that he  
 raised reproaches against us in those places; and  
 that many of our friends, carefully watching the  
 king's purpose, did themselves also follow his will.

Now he proposed to bring forward publicly an 27  
 accusation against our nation: and raising up a  
 pillar at the door of his court, he engraved on it  
 an inscription: "That none who did not sacrifice 28  
 " in their temples should enter; and that all the  
 " Jews should be brought to the *lowest* registry<sup>x</sup>,  
 " and to the condition of slaves: and that those  
 " who refuse to comply should be seized upon by  
 " force and put to death. That those also who 29  
 " are registered shall have a mark imprinted by  
 " fire upon their body, namely, an ivy-leaf<sup>y</sup>, the

<sup>t</sup> This does not appear in any previous part of the book, such as we now possess it; it therefore furnishes an additional reason for our thinking, with Grotius, that that which remains is only a portion of a larger work. See the note on chap. i. 1.

<sup>u</sup> Historians, as Polybius, Justin, and Strabo, speak of the systematic luxury and licentiousness of this monarch, especially at this period.

<sup>x</sup> Gr. *εις λαογραφίαν*, which Grotius translates "relatio in plebem." See his note.— Compare chap. vii. 22.

<sup>y</sup> Compare 3 Maccabees, vi. 7. From the horror with which the Jews appear to regard this threat, may be judged the falsehood of the story, which is mentioned by Plutarch and alluded to by Tacitus, (Histor. V. 5.) that they were supposed by some writers to be worshippers of Bacchus.

“ emblem of Bacchus : and that those thus marked<sup>z</sup> shall be inscribed in a separate register with  
 30 “ inferior and diminished rights.” But, that he might not appear an enemy to them all, he wrote underneath thus : “ that if any of them chuse to  
 “ be joined with those who are initiated into our  
 “ mysteries, *and* to live accordingly, they shall  
 “ have equal privileges<sup>a</sup> with the citizens of Alexandria<sup>b</sup>.”

31 Then indeed a few of those who dwelt in the city, who hated the advances<sup>c</sup> of the religion of the city, easily resigned themselves *to his will* : as expecting to be made partakers of some great glory, from the familiarity which they would have  
 32 with the king. But the greatest part persevered with a generous spirit, and did not depart from their religion : and redeeming their lives with money, did fearlessly endeavour to escape from the registries, and stood in good hope of obtain-

<sup>z</sup> Gr. οὓς καὶ καταχωρίσαι εἰς τὴν προσυνεσταλμένην αὐθεντίαν. Crutwell wholly omits this clause. See Grotius's note on the place.

<sup>a</sup> Precisely the same thing had been granted to their ancestors by Ptolemy Lagus. See Josephus, Ant. XII. 1. And at a still earlier period Seleucus Nicator had honoured them in a similar manner, by creating them citizens of Antioch. Joseph. Ant. XII. 3.

<sup>b</sup> That is, with the Macedonians who had been planted at Alexandria by Alexander and his successors.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τὰς τῆς πόλεως εὐσεβείας ἐπιβάθρας στυγούντες. The sense of the word ἐπιβάθρα ap-

pears from a passage in Josephus, Ant. XI. 8. Ἐγούνητο γὰρ τὸν τούτου γάμον ἐπιβάθραν τοῖς παρανομεῖν—βουλησομένοις γενέσθαι : where it signifies, “ they considered that  
 “ his marriage would become  
 “ a *step* (or stepping-stone) to  
 “ those who wished to trans-  
 “ gress the laws.” Ἐπιβάθρα was the name of an engine of war used in sieges ; as may be seen in Vitruvius, who translates it “ Accessus, seu  
 “ ascendens machina.” See Vitruv. de Architect. X. 19. and the note of Philander on the passage. It is also used by Polybius, and by Diodorus Siculus.

ing assistance. They also abhorred those of themselves who had apostatized; and deemed them the enemies of their nation; and excluded them from common intercourse and the advantages of social life.

### CHAPTER III.

#### *Ptolemy's persecuting edict against the Jews.*

Now as soon as this wicked man was informed 1  
 of these things, he was so enraged as not  
 B. C. 210. only to be very angry with those Jews who  
 dwelt at Alexandria, but also he became a more  
 grievous adversary to those who dwelt in the  
 country<sup>a</sup>: and commanded to make haste and ga-  
 ther them all together<sup>b</sup>, and put them to death  
 in the most cruel manner.

While these things were in agitation, a malig- 2  
 nant report went forth against our nation, from  
 those men who were consenting to this wicked  
 project; a handle being given for this their de-  
 sign, *upon the complaint of those apostates* that  
 we forbade them to communicate with us in our  
 ordinances. But the Jews continued to preserve 3  
 unchangeable their good will and fidelity to their  
 kings. But, as they worshipped God, and ordered 4  
 their conversation according to his law, they made  
 a separation in some points, and rejections<sup>c</sup> of some

<sup>a</sup> Namely, in the country  
 parts of Egypt.

<sup>b</sup> Viz. to Alexandria.

<sup>c</sup> The Greek text has κα-  
 τατροφάς: but Grotius pro-  
 nounces that by all means we  
 must read ἀποστροφάς, *re-*  
*jections*. Several of these na-  
 tional peculiarities are brought

forward, in disparagement of  
 the Jews, by the historian  
 Diodorus Siculus: Eclog. lib.  
 XXXIV. and XL.: others  
 are mentioned (as erroneously)  
 by Dio Cassius: and Ta-  
 citus has left on record some  
 curious particulars, exhibiting  
 the imperfect knowledge and

others: on which account to some persons they  
 5 appeared odious. Yet by adorning their conver-  
 sation<sup>d</sup> with the works of the righteous, they had  
 6 become well approved by all men. But those  
 foreigners<sup>e</sup> paid no regard to that character for  
 good deeds of the nation everywhere so much  
 7 spoken of: but made a great noise about the sepa-  
 ration which they made from others, in their ways  
 of worship and sorts of food: and said, that these  
 men were not sociable either with the king or  
 with his armies; but that they were disaffected<sup>f</sup>,  
 and greatly opposed to the success of their af-  
 fairs: so that they covered them with no small  
 8 blame. Now those Greeks, who were in the city,  
 and were in no wise injured *by them*, observing  
 the unexpected disturbance which was raised, and  
 unforeseen concourses of people about these men,  
 were indeed unable to help them, for the consti-  
 9 tution<sup>g</sup> of the government was tyrannical: yet

loose notions which even the polished Romans then had, respecting a people lately subdued by their own generals. Hist. V. 2, &c.

<sup>d</sup> Doing that which St. Paul recommends to the Christian converts, at Coloss. iv. 5, and 1 Thess. iv. 12, "Walk honestly" [in wisdom] "towards them that are without."

<sup>e</sup> Namely, the Macedonians, settled at Alexandria.

<sup>f</sup> It is remembered that the same charge was made by Haman, the Agagite, when he persuaded king Ahasuerus to issue an edict for a general massacre of the Jews throughout his

dominions: "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." Esther, iii. 8. See also the Apocryphal additions, xiii. 5. See likewise Josephus's justification of his nation in these particulars, in his Antiquities, XVI. 10.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. *διάθεσις*: which Schlessner contends to mean here no more than a simple edict.

they used exhortations *in their favour*, and were very sorry for them, and thought these things would have a change; for that so vast a body of men who had done no harm through ignorance<sup>h</sup> would not be thus overlooked *by their God*. And 10 besides, certain of their neighbours and friends and partisans called some of them together privately, and plighted their faith to protect them, and to use every endeavour for their assistance.

Ptolemy then, as exulting in his present pros- 11 perity; and having no regard to the power of the Most High God; but supposing that he should continue always in the same design, wrote this epistle against them: “ King Ptolemy Philopator 12 “ to his commanders and soldiers in Egypt and “ elsewhere, joy and health. I myself am in health, 13 “ and our affairs also *are prosperous*. Since our 14 “ last expedition into Asia, as you yourselves “ know, has, through the unforeseen<sup>i</sup> assistance “ of the gods to us, and by our own fortitude, “ justly been brought to a happy conclusion; we 15 “ determined to treat the nations which inhabit “ Cœlosyria and Phœnice, not with force of arms, “ but to nurse them with kindness and great ten- “ derness, and willingly to do them good. And 16 “ having bestowed great revenues on the temples “ of the several cities, we proceeded as far as “ Jerusalem: and went up with an intention to “ honour the temple of these wretches, who will “ never leave off their madness. Now those men 17

<sup>h</sup> Gr. μηδὲν ἡγνοηκόσ. Compare 3 Macc. xi. 31.

<sup>i</sup> The Greek text reads ἀπροσπτόω: but the interpret-

ers unanimously translate the word as if it had been ἀπροόπτω. See Schleusner's Lexicon Vet. Test.

- “ in word took our coming thither kindly, but in  
 “ their behaviour insincerely<sup>k</sup>: for, when we in-  
 “ tended to go into their holy place, and to ho-  
 “ nour it<sup>l</sup> with excellent and most noble gifts:  
 18 “ they, carried away with their ancient pride, pro-  
 “ hibited our entrance, not having experienced<sup>m</sup>  
 “ our power by reason of that kindness which we  
 19 “ shew to all mankind. And making manifest  
 “ their ill-will towards us, and being the only na-  
 “ tion in the world which is insolent towards  
 “ kings and towards its own benefactors, they are  
 “ not willing to bear anything kindly<sup>n</sup>.  
 20 “ Now we, being moved by the madness of these  
 “ men, though we had returned home with vic-  
 “ tory, and had come back into Egypt with the  
 “ testimony of having met all nations with kind-  
 “ ness, have done that which was fit for us to do.  
 21 “ And in the midst of these things we have de-  
 “ clared to all men our forgiveness of their na-  
 “ tion; and on account of their assistance in war  
 “ and the innumerable affairs with which from  
 “ the beginning we innocently intrusted them<sup>o</sup>,  
 “ we earnestly endeavoured to change them, and  
 “ were willing to bestow on them the privileges  
 “ of citizens of Alexandria, and to make them

<sup>k</sup> Gr. νόθως.

<sup>l</sup> As several kings had done before, according to the account given by Josephus, Ant. XII. 3.

<sup>m</sup> Gr. ἀπολειπόμενοι τῆς ἡμετέρας ἀλκῆς.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. οὐδὲν γνήσιον βούλονται φέρειν. or, the sense may be, “ will not behave themselves kindly:” or, “ will not bear

“ any thing which is fair and equitable.” γνήσιον appears to be opposed to νόθως (*insincerely*) above in ver. 17. See the same word occurring again at ver. 23.

<sup>o</sup> Josephus relates that Ptolemy Lagus intrusted several of his garrisons to the keeping of the Jews. See also ch. vi. 25, of this book.

“ companions of our priests<sup>p</sup> for the time being.  
 “ But they, taking this offer in a contrary light, 22  
 “ and by that wicked habit which is natural to  
 “ them<sup>q</sup>, rejecting the good and inclining per-  
 “ petually to that which is evil; did not only 23  
 “ turn away from that inestimable privilege, but  
 “ abhorred both publicly and privately<sup>r</sup> those few  
 “ amongst themselves who were favourably dis-  
 “ posed towards us: ever expecting that by their  
 “ infamous course of procedure we should speedily  
 “ change our just measures.

“ Wherefore, we both being well assured by 24  
 “ certain signs that these men do in every way  
 “ bear us ill-will; and providing lest, upon any  
 “ sudden trouble which may come upon us here-  
 “ after, we should have these wicked wretches be-  
 “ hind our backs as traitors and barbarous ene-  
 “ mies: have given order, that as soon as this 25  
 “ epistle is brought to you, the same hour you  
 “ seize on these people who are dwelling among  
 “ you, together with their wives and children<sup>s</sup>,  
 “ with insult and vexation; and send them to us  
 “ every way secured in iron bonds, that they may  
 “ suffer an inevitable and ignominious death, such

<sup>p</sup> Gr. τῶν ἀεὶ ἱερέων. Gro-  
 tius proposes a preferable  
 reading, ἱερῶν, “ the ancient”  
 (or perpetual) “ rites of our  
 “ religion.”

<sup>q</sup> It is too notorious that  
 the Jews universally bore a  
 bad name among surrounding  
 nations: and the strange no-  
 tions which even the learned  
 and polished Romans could  
 allow themselves to entertain  
 respecting their origin and

customs, may be seen in Tacit-  
 us, *Histor.* V. 2, 4, and 5.

<sup>r</sup> Gr. λόγῳ τε καὶ σιγῇ.

<sup>s</sup> There is a remarkable  
 similarity between this epistle  
 of Ptolemy and that of Ar-  
 taxerxes, written at the sug-  
 gestion of Haman, which is  
 mentioned at *Esther*, iii. 13;  
 and is given at length in  
 the apocryphal part of that  
 book, xiii. 4—7.

- 26 “ as is suitable to the disaffected. For when once  
 “ all these have been brought to punishment to-  
 “ gether, we suppose that during the rest of our  
 “ time our affairs will be perfectly established, in  
 27 “ security and the best condition. And whoso-  
 “ ever shall conceal any individual of the Jews,  
 “ from an old man to an infant and the very suck-  
 “ lings, he and all his family shall be racked to  
 28 “ death with the severest tortures. But whoso-  
 “ ever is willing to discover any of them, he shall  
 “ thereby obtain the substance<sup>t</sup> of him who fell  
 “ under punishment, and two thousand drachmæ  
 “ of silver<sup>u</sup> besides out of the royal treasury. He  
 “ shall also be made free, and shall be crowned.  
 29 “ And every place where a concealed Jew shall  
 “ be by any means caught, let it be made impas-  
 “ sable<sup>x</sup> and be burned with fire: and it shall be  
 “ rendered wholly useless to every mortal being  
 “ for all time to come.”  
 30 The form, then, of that epistle was to this  
 effect.

<sup>t</sup> This custom, which has more or less obtained among both ancient and modern nations, appears to be recognised in the Old Testament, 2 Sam. xvi. 3, 4: where David confiscates the property of Mephibosheth, and gives it to his accuser Ziba.

<sup>u</sup> Assuming the Hebrew drachma to be equal to the Roman, namely, one eighth of an ounce, this weight of silver will amount to about fifty-seven pounds sterling.

<sup>x</sup> Gr. ἄβατος καὶ πυριφλεγῆς

γινέσθω. So in the letter of Artaxerxes recorded in the apocryphal part of the book of Esther, it is commanded that every place which disobeys the king's command be made οὐ μόνον ἀνθρώποις ἄβατος, ἀλλὰ καὶ θηρίοις καὶ πετεινοῖς εἰς τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον ἔχθιστος. The expression ἄβατος (in the sense of *unentered, unprofaned*) is applied to the temple of Jerusalem by Josephus, Antiq. XIV. 8. Compare the note on ch. v. 43, of this book.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The king's edict is executed with great severity.*

NOW wheresoever this decree came to hand, 1 there was made a general festival among the heathen, with shouting and joy: that hatred, which had been hardened over<sup>a</sup> in their mind of old, now shewing itself outwardly in open discourse. But among the Jews there was intolerable lament- 2 ation, and a most doleful cry with tears; as if their hearts were set on fire on every side with their groans: while they bewailed that unexpected destruction which was suddenly decreed against them.

What district<sup>b</sup> or city, or indeed what habitable 3 place or what streets were there, which were not filled with lamentations and mourning over them? For they were sent away unanimously with such 4 bitter and merciless feeling by the commanders in every city, that at their extraordinary<sup>c</sup> punishment some of their very enemies, having common pity before their eyes, and considering the uncertain catastrophe of human life, wept at their most miserable expulsion.

For there was led along a multitude of aged 5 men decked with hoary heads, stooping by reason

<sup>a</sup> Gr. *προκατεσκιρρωμένης*, literally signifying, "covered " by a callus."

<sup>b</sup> Gr. *νόμος*, the proper appellation of the præfectures or districts of Egypt.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *ἐξάλλοις τιμωρίας*. So in the Septuagint version of 2 Sam. vi. 14, David is said

to be *ἐνδεδυκὼς στολὴν ἑξαλλον*, though our English translators do not thus render the Hebrew. Compare chap. vii. 3, and 3 Macc. ix. 6. Thucydides also, in book III. chap. 82, uses a similar expression, *ἀτοπία τῶν τιμωριῶν*.

- of the slowness of their feet<sup>d</sup>, through old age and the hurry of a forcible removal, obliged, without any *regard to shame*, to walk at a quick pace.
- 6 Nay, the young women, who had lately entered into the marriage-chamber in order to *enjoy* matrimonial society, were made to partake of groans instead of pleasure; and being defiled with dust sprinkled on their hair, which was moist with ointment, *and* led along unveiled, with one accord they sang lamentations instead of wedding-songs, as being torn to pieces with vexations unknown<sup>e</sup>
- 7 in the country. And, *like* public captives<sup>f</sup>, they were dragged by force to an embarkation on board ship.
- 8 Their husbands also, wearing halters, instead of garlands, about their necks, in their flourishing and youthful vigour, instead of feasting and juvenile relaxation, passed the rest of their nuptial days in lamentations, as seeing the grave lying
- 9 *open* immediately beneath their feet. And they were conveyed like beasts, led in the confinement of iron bonds: some of them fastened by the neck to the benches of the ships; others having their
- 10 feet made fast in indissoluble fetters. And besides all this, they were shut out from the light by the thick planks<sup>g</sup> which lay above them; that their

<sup>d</sup> Or, "While they (viz. the king's officers and soldiers) forced the sluggishness of their crippled feet to a quick pace, without any regard to shame, through the hurry of a forcible removal." The Greek text is somewhat obscure.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. *σκυλμοῖς ἀλλοεθνέσι*, a kindred phrase to that which appears above, at ver. 4, *ἐξ-ἀλλοῖς τιμωρίαις*.

<sup>f</sup> Or, "like captives they were publicly dragged."

<sup>g</sup> It appears that they were thrust down into the lowest part (the hold) of the vessel;

eyes might be wholly in the dark; and that they might receive the treatment of traitors during their whole voyage.

When these men therefore had been carried <sup>11</sup> thus unto the *port called* Schedia<sup>h</sup>, and the journey by water was ended, according to the king's former decree; he gave further orders to put them into the Hippodrome<sup>i</sup>, which was before the city, a place of vast circuit, and very fit for exposing them to the view of all who entered into the city, or who went out thence into the country to sojourn: that they might hold no communication with his forces, nor might have the favour of walls<sup>j</sup> to enclose them.

But as soon as this was done, the king, hearing <sup>12</sup> that those of their nation who lived in the city went out privately and frequently to bewail that opprobrious misery of their brethren,—fell into a <sup>13</sup> passion; and gave command to treat those also exactly in the same way as the others; and not at all to abate to them the punishment which the others suffered. And that the entire race should <sup>14</sup> be enrolled by name: not now with a view of forcing them to that painful way of worship which we briefly explained before<sup>k</sup>: but in order to have them tortured miserably according to his edict, and at last to destroy them utterly in the space of

so as to be deprived as much as possible both of light and fresh air.

<sup>h</sup> A place in Lower Egypt, possessing a harbour, distant about thirty miles from Alexandria.

<sup>i</sup> See a description of this building in Strabo, b. XVII.

<sup>j</sup> That is, "might not be honoured so far as to be admitted within the city walls."

<sup>k</sup> Namely, at ch. ii. 29.

15 one day. The registering of them therefore was made with bitter diligence and zealous perseverance from sun-rising to sun-setting, not being  
 16 completely ended<sup>1</sup> for forty days. But the king *was* greatly and continually filled with joy; ordaining festivals *in the temples* of all his idols; with a mind far erring from the truth, and a profane mouth, praising such *gods* as were deaf, and could neither speak to nor assist them; and uttering unbecoming expressions against the Most High God.

17 Now after the aforesaid space of time, the scribes addressed themselves to the king, *informing* him that they could no longer make the enrolment of the Jews by reason of their immense number;  
 18 there being still a great number throughout the country, some of them abiding quietly at home, others being scattered here and there; so that the business was impracticable, *even* for all the com-  
 19 manders in Egypt. But after he had threatened them severely as having been bribed in order to procure their escape, it turned out that he became  
 20 fully satisfied on that point: when they said, and proved, that both the paper<sup>m</sup> and pens which they used had failed them. This was the powerful operation of that invincible Providence which gave help to the Jews from heaven.

<sup>1</sup> The sense appears to be, that the registering continued during forty days, and even then was not finished. See vv. 18, 19.

<sup>m</sup> The Greek word here

used is *χαρτηρία*, manifestly adopted from the Latin tongue; several instances of which usage we have in the New Testament, familiar to every scholar.

## CHAPTER V.

*The Jews ordered to be destroyed by elephants. The king's irresolution.*

THEN calling to him Hermo, who had the care 1  
of the elephants, being full of fierce anger, and to-  
tally unchangeable through rage; he commanded 2  
that against the next day they should dose all the  
elephants, in number five hundred<sup>a</sup>, with large  
handfuls of frankincense<sup>b</sup> and a great quantity of  
undiluted wine; and when they had been mad-  
dened by the copious supply of this drink, they  
should then introduce them to meet and destroy<sup>c</sup>  
the Jews. He then, having given this command, 3  
returned to his banquet, having collected round  
him those of his friends and of his army who were  
the greatest enemies to the Jews. But Hermo, 4  
the commander of the elephants, performed exactly  
what had been ordered. And the servants, who 5  
were appointed to that business, going out in the  
evening, bound the hands of the poor wretches,  
and took all other care necessary to secure them;  
supposing that *the whole* tribe would together,  
that very night<sup>d</sup>, receive their final destruction.

<sup>a</sup> Bochart suspects some error in this number; as Ptolemy had only seventy-three elephants at the battle of Raphia, and several of these were lost there. (Hierozoicon, tom. I. p. 260.)

<sup>b</sup> The stimulating effects of this drug were early known, and are mentioned by Dioscorides and Pliny.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. πρὸς συνάντησιν τοῦ μόρου τῶν Ἰουδαίων, "that the  
" Jews by them might meet  
" their death."

<sup>d</sup> It may seem strange that the servants should have imagined this, seeing that the elephants were ordered to be ready for *the next morning*. Grotius therefore would alter the punctuation, and by join-

6 Now the Jews, who seemed to the heathen to  
 be destitute of all protection, by reason of the con-  
 7 finement in chains which environed them on all  
 sides, did all with an unceasing cry and with tears  
 call upon the Almighty Lord, the supreme Dis-  
 8 poser of all power, their merciful God and Father:  
 beseeching him to change the unholy design  
 against them; and to deliver them, by a glorious  
 manifestation of himself, from that fate which was  
 9 ready at their feet. So the earnest supplication of  
 these *Jews* ascended up to heaven.

10 But Hermo, having given to the merciless ele-  
 phants their potion, and filled them with a plenti-  
 ful supply of wine and crammed them with frank-  
 incense, was early at the palace in the morning to  
 11 inform the king thereof. But He<sup>e</sup>, who bestows  
 what He pleases upon all men, had cast upon the  
 king a sleep, a thing which from all eternity has  
 been considered good in the night, but now was  
 12 sent in the day. And he was detained in a most  
 sweet and deep slumber, through the operation<sup>f</sup> of  
 the Lord of all things: being greatly disappointed  
 of his unlawful purpose, and mightily deceived in  
 13 his immutable contrivance. But the Jews, having  
 escaped the appointed hour, praised their holy

ing *ἔνυχον* with *ἀσφάλειαν*,  
 would render the passage,  
 “the servants took all other  
 “care necessary to secure  
 “them for that night.”

<sup>e</sup> The Greek text of this  
 verse is obscure, and possibly  
 corrupt: Τοῦτο δ' ἀπ' αἰῶνος  
*χρόνου κτίσμα καλὸν ἐν νυκτὶ καὶ*  
*ἡμέρᾳ ἐπιβαλλόμενον ὑπὸ τοῦ χα-*  
*ριζομένου πᾶσι, οἷς ἂν αὐτὸς θε-*  
*λήσῃ ὑπνου μέρος ἀπίστευτε πρὸς*

*τὸν βασιλέα.* Nor do the va-  
 rious readings resolve the in-  
 tricacy. Grotius explains the  
 text agreeably to the transla-  
 tion here given.

<sup>f</sup> Nonne lapsus est in hoc  
 loco Schleusnerus, qui voces  
 masculas ἡδίστῳ καὶ βαθεὶ cum  
 v. foeminea ἐνεργείᾳ conjungen-  
 das censuerit? Confer Lex.  
 Vet. Test.

God; and prayed again to Him who is easy to be reconciled, that He would shew to the proud heathen the strength of his powerful hand.

And when it was about half way past the ninth 14 hour, he who was appointed to invite the guests, when he saw them in great numbers about him, came and shook the king. And when he had 15 awaked him with great difficulty, he informed him that the time for the feast was passing by, entering into conversation on these matters <sup>ε</sup>. Which the king reflecting on, betook himself to 16 his banquet, and commanded that the guests who were come to the feast should sit down in his presence. Which being done, he exhorted them to 17 give up themselves to revelry, and to honour the abundant feast before them, by spending the time in merriment.

And when the interview had lasted long, the 18 king sent for Hermo, and asked him with bitter threatening for what cause the Jews had been suffered to outlive that day. And when he shewed 19 that even over-night he had completely finished that which was enjoined him<sup>h</sup>, and his friends also testified to this effect: *the king*, with a bar- 20 barity worse than that of Phalaris, said that they might thank his sleep of that day: “ but against “ the next morning without all excuse do thou “ prepare the elephants in like manner for the “ annihilation of the wicked Jews.” And when 21

<sup>ε</sup> Gr. τὸν περὶ τούτων λόγον ποιούμενος: which Grotius interprets, “discoursing about “ the quality of the guests “ whom he had invited.”

Whiston rendered it, “adding a few words about the “ other design.”

<sup>h</sup> Namely, to bind and secure the Jews.

the king had said this, all who were present cheerfully and joyfully commending it with one accord, 22 departed each to his own home. And they did not so much employ the night-time in sleep, as in devising all sorts of indignities<sup>i</sup> against those who seemed to be miserable wretches.

23 Now as soon as the cock had crowed at day-break, Hermo had armed the elephants, and was exercising them in the great cloistered court<sup>k</sup>.  
24 And the multitudes in the city crowded together to this most sad spectacle, earnestly waiting for  
25 the morning. But the Jews being in suspense<sup>l</sup> for some short time, with weeping supplication in mournful strains, stretching out their hands to heaven, besought the Most High God again to assist them with all speed.

26 The rays of the sun were not yet spread abroad, when, the king waiting to receive his friends, Hermo stood by his side, and called to come forward, shewing that the royal desire was in a way  
27 to be speedily fulfilled. But when he received this intelligence, and was astonished at that unusual<sup>m</sup> coming forth *so early*, being overcome with total ignorance, he asked what that matter

<sup>i</sup> Similar treatment of the early Christians is described by Tacitus (Annal. lib. XV.) Compare Juvenal, Sat. I. 155.

<sup>k</sup> Gr. Περιστύλω, literally "an area enclosed or surrounded by columns." Bochart contends that the place here spoken of must have been some distinct public building; as scarcely any court or part of a palace could have afforded space for the

manœuvring of five hundred elephants. He judges it to have been a particular *street* in the city of Alexandria so called, and adduces the grounds of his opinion from Achilles Tatius, book V.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. κατὰ τὸν ἀμερῆ ψυχουλούμενοι χρόνον: or, "expecting to live only a moment of time."

<sup>m</sup> Gr. τῇ παρανόμῳ ἐξόδῳ.

was for which *all* this had been so diligently done by him.

Now this was the operation of God who dis- 28  
poseth all things, who had planted in his mind an  
entire forgetfulness of the plans which before he  
had contrived.

But Hermo and all his friends explained *to him* 29  
that the beasts and the troops are ready, “ accord-  
“ ing to thine earnest desire, O King.” But he, 30  
filled with great wrath at their words, (because  
that through God’s providence all his sense about  
these matters was scattered to nought,) looking  
steadfastly *on Hermo* with threats, said, “ If your 31  
“ parents<sup>n</sup> or children had been here, they should  
“ have furnished a glorious prey for the wild  
“ beasts, instead of these blameless Jews; who  
“ have shewn in a remarkable degree, to me and  
“ to my ancestors, an entire and unshaken fidelity.  
“ And indeed, but for that affection which our 32  
“ education together and your usefulness<sup>o</sup> has  
“ kept up, you should have been put to death in-  
“ stead of these.”

So Hermo underwent an unexpected and dan- 33  
gerous threatening; and was cast down in his  
eyes and countenance. The king’s friends also 34

<sup>n</sup> I do not know that any  
commentator has noticed this  
speech of Ptolemy as being  
in verse: yet it will be seen  
that the greater portion of it  
(with the help of some criti-  
cal emendation) forms toler-  
able trimeter Iambics:

Εἴ σοι γονεῖς παρήσαν ἢ παίδων  
γοναί,

[<sup>h</sup>] τήνδε θήρσιν ἀγρίοις ἐσκέυ-  
άσαν

Δαψιλῆ θόιναν ἀντὶ τῶν ἀνεγκλή-  
των

Ἐμοὶ [τε] καὶ προγόνοισ' ἔμοις  
δεδειγμένων

Ἵλοσχερῆ βεβαίαν πίστιν ἐξόχως  
Ἰουδαίων. [The last word is  
probably a Gloss.] Καί περ  
εἰ μὴ διὰ τὴν τῆς συντροφίας  
στοργὴν, καὶ τῆς χρείας, τὸ ζῆν  
ἀντὶ τούτων ἐστερήθης.

<sup>o</sup> Or, “ office which you  
“ hold:” Gr. τῆς χρείας.

coming out secretly<sup>p</sup> one by one with a sad countenance, sent away the assembled multitudes each  
 35 to his own private affairs. And when the Jews had heard what the king had said, they praised the glorious God and King of kings, having obtained from Him this *second* assistance also.

36 But the king after the very same manner appointed another banquet, and invited *his friends*  
 37 to turn their minds to mirth. And calling for Hermo, he said to him with threats, "How often,  
 " O thou wretch, must I give fresh orders to thee  
 38 " about these same people? Arm the elephants  
 " once again for to-morrow, for the annihilation  
 " of the Jews."

39 But his kinsmen who were seated with him at the banquet, wondering at his unstable mind, said  
 40 thus: " O king, how long wilt thou trifle with us,  
 " as though we were irrational brutes? commanding us now this third time to destroy these men;  
 " and then, when the business was begun<sup>q</sup>, repent-  
 41 " ing and rescinding thy *former* orders: by reason of which the city is disturbed through expectation;  
 " and, being filled with assembled  
 " groups of people, has been in frequent danger  
 " of being pillaged in various ways."

42 Upon this the king, exactly like *another* Phalaris, filled with absurdity, and counting for nothing those changes of mind which had been wrought in him respecting the visitation<sup>r</sup> of the

<sup>p</sup> Gr. *ὑπεκρέων*, "gradually stealing away, as if ashamed."  
 Compare 2 Sam. xix. 3, "The people gat them by stealth into the city, as people be-

ing ashamed steal away when they flee in battle."

<sup>q</sup> Gr. *ἐπὶ τῶν πραγμάτων*.

<sup>r</sup> Gr. *ἐπισκοπήν*, which may signify either "punishment"

Jews; swore vehemently a most impious oath<sup>s</sup>, determining that without delay he would send these people into the other world, foully trampled to death by the knees<sup>t</sup> and feet of the elephants. And that he would send an army into Judæa and 43 quickly level it with the ground by fire and sword; and speedily would destroy with fire that “temple “of theirs, which (said he) we are not allowed to “enter<sup>u</sup>,” and would make it destitute of those who offer sacrifice for all time to come.

Then his friends and kinsmen departing, over- 44 joyed and with belief in him, disposed the troops in the most proper parts of the city for securing it. But the governor of the elephants, having 45 driven the animals, as I may say, into a state of

or “deliverance.” See the word occurring at Luke xix. 44, also in chap. iii. of the Wisdom of Solomon, ver. 20. (where by the way it is very incorrectly translated) and in several other parts of the same book.

<sup>s</sup> Gr. ἀτελέστατον ἐβεβαίωσεν ὄρκον, an oath which was not likely to be fulfilled.

<sup>t</sup> Gr. ἐν γόνασι καὶ ποσί. Whiston takes no notice of the word *knees*, and Grotius pronounces the phrase a Hebraism. But there is reason to think that each word has an intended and distinct meaning; and that the author was acquainted with the habits of the animals which he is describing. Bochart, (*Hierozoic*. I. p. 261, &c.) commenting on this passage, mentions that it was customary with elephants trained for war to use

both their knees and feet for treading down and crushing their enemies; and refers to Ælian’s *History of Animals* for confirmation of his remark. Ælian observes, *πατουμένων δὲ τῶν ἀλισκομένων, καὶ ἀλωμένων τοῖς γόνασι, ἄραβος πολλὸς τῶν ὀστέων συντριβομένων ἀκούεται καὶ πόρρωθεν*: which fully bears out Bochart in his assertion. *Æl. Hist. Anim.* VIII. 10. And Hirtius, de *Bello Africano*, sect. 72, relating the bravery of a soldier when attacked by an elephant, uses the following words: “*Quum elephantus vulnere ictus—in lixam inermem impetum fecisset, eumque sub pede subditum, deinde genu innixus pondere suo —premeret et enecaret.*”

<sup>u</sup> Gr. τὸν ἄβατον αὐτῶν ἡμῖν ναόν.

madness by highly-scented potions of wine mixed with frankincense, they being decked out in fearful array<sup>x</sup>:—about daybreak, the city being already filled with countless multitudes about the Hippodrome<sup>y</sup>, he entered into the court, and called out the king to the business before him.

47 Then he, having his wicked mind filled with fierce anger, rushed forth with all his retinue<sup>z</sup> and with the beasts: resolving to behold, with an untouched heart and with his own eyes, the painful and miserable destruction of the aforementioned *Jews*.

48 But the Jews, when they saw the dust raised by the elephants going out of the gate, and by the armed force which followed, and by the march of the multitude; and heard the tumultuous noise:

49 thinking that moment to be the last of their lives, the conclusion of their most woeful expectation, they betook themselves to lamentations and wailings; they kissed one another, embracing their relatives and falling about their necks, fathers on their sons, and mothers upon young girls, and other women who had new-born babes at their breasts drawing their last milk.

50 Nevertheless, having regard to those former assistances which they had received from heaven, throwing themselves flat down with one accord, and removing the infants from their breasts, they cried out with an exceeding great cry, beseeching the Lord of all power to shew pity on them, by

<sup>x</sup> Gr. φαβεραῖς κατεσκευασμένα σκευαῖς. Thus Diodorus Siculus (lib. XVII.) speaks of elephants, καταπληκτικῶς κεκοσμημένους.

<sup>y</sup> See above, chap. iv. 11.

<sup>z</sup> Gr. βάρει: or the word may signify "in all his might, "in all the weight of his anger," τῆς ὀργῆς βαρείας.

the manifestation *of his presence*, who were now at the gates of the other world.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Eleazar's prayer. The Jews are wonderfully delivered.*

Now one Eleazar, a man eminent among the 1  
priests of the country, a man already stricken in  
age, and adorned through life with every kind  
of virtue, bidding the elders who were about  
him to call upon the holy God, offered up the fol-  
lowing prayer :

“ O King <sup>a</sup>, most powerful, most high, almighty 2  
“ God, who governest the whole creation in mer-  
“ cies : Look, O Father, upon the seed of Abra- 3  
“ ham, upon the children of Jacob sanctified to  
“ *thee*, the people of thy sanctified portion, strang-  
“ ers in a strange land, *and* perishing unjustly.  
“ Thou didst destroy with all his host, by drown- 4  
“ ing, Pharaoh the former ruler of this Egypt,  
“ when he abounded with chariots and was elated  
“ with lawless confidence, and with a tongue speak-  
“ ing great things ; having caused the light of  
“ thy mercy to shine upon Israel's race. Thou, 5  
“ Lord, didst break in pieces Sennacherim, the  
“ cruel king of Assyria, who was puffed up with  
“ his innumerable armies ; who had already sub-  
“ dued the whole earth with his spear <sup>b</sup>, and being

<sup>a</sup> Undoubtedly the language of this prayer is poetry, as will appear to any one who inspects the original, which is printed at the end of the introduction ; although it is neither divided nor stopped in the proper manner, and the

commentators are silent on the point : both the sentiments and language are very fine.

<sup>b</sup> Gr. *δόρατι την πᾶσαν ὑποχείριον ἤδη λαβόντα γῆν*. The expression is common among the classic authors ; in whom

- “ lifted up with pride against thy holy city, spake  
 “ harsh things in insolence and boasting ; making  
 6 “ thy power conspicuous to many nations. Thou  
 “ didst deliver, unhurt even to a hair of their  
 “ head, the three companions in the land of Baby-  
 “ lon, who voluntarily exposed their lives to the  
 “ fire that they might not worship vain *gods*, by  
 “ shedding a dew <sup>c</sup> throughout the fiery furnace,  
 “ whilst thou sentest the flame <sup>d</sup> upon all their ad-  
 “ versaries.
- 7 “ Thou didst restore to the light *of day*, unhurt,  
 “ Daniel, who through spiteful calumnies had been  
 “ cast for a prey to the fierce lions under ground.
- 8 “ Thou, Father, didst shew again to all his house-  
 “ hold unharmed <sup>e</sup>, Jonas, who was pining away <sup>f</sup>

we meet with *δορυάλωτος, δο-  
 ριθήρατος, δορικήτος, δορικήπτος,*  
 &c.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *διάπυρον δροσίσας κά-  
 μινον*. Can any idea, or any  
 expression, be more beautiful?  
 In the prayer of Azarias (in  
 the apocryphal additions to  
 the third chapter of Daniel,  
 ver. 25, 26,) we read, *ὁ δὲ  
 ἄγγελος Κυρίου—ἐποίησε τὸ  
 μέσον τῆς καμίνου ὡς πνεῦμα  
 δρόσον διασυρίζον*.

<sup>d</sup> “ Because the king’s com-  
 “ mandment was urgent, and  
 “ the furnace exceeding hot,  
 “ the flame of the fire slew  
 “ those men that took up  
 “ Shadrach, Meshach, and A-  
 “ bednego.” Daniel iii. 22.

<sup>e</sup> In the apocryphal epistle  
 of St. Paul to the Corinthians,  
 which is preserved in the Ar-  
 menian church, and was trans-  
 lated into English from that  
 language by lord Byron, is

the following apposite and ex-  
 pressive phrase upon this sub-  
 ject of Jonah’s complete pre-  
 servation : “ Neither was any  
 “ part of his body corrupted ;  
 “ *neither was his eyebrow*  
 “ *bent down.*”

<sup>f</sup> Gr. *τηκόμενον* : namely in  
 mind, not in body. The rea-  
 der will readily call to mind  
 the expressions of the pro-  
 phet, as recorded in his se-  
 cond chapter : “ Then Jonah  
 “ prayed unto the Lord his  
 “ God, out of the fish’s belly,  
 “ and said ; ‘ I cried by rea-  
 “ son of my affliction unto  
 “ the Lord :—the waters com-  
 “ passed me about, even to  
 “ the soul : the depth closed  
 “ me round about, the weeds  
 “ were wrapped about my  
 “ head.—When my soul faint-  
 “ ed within me, thou heardest  
 “ me,’ ” &c.

“ unpitied<sup>g</sup> in the belly of the whale bred in the  
“ depths of the sea.

“ And now, O thou who hatest insolence, plen- 9  
“ teous in mercy, Protector of the Universe, shew  
“ thyself quickly to them of the race of Israel, who  
“ now are injuriously treated by abominable, law-  
“ less heathens. And if our life has been guilty 10  
“ of impieties during our captivity, deliver us  
“ from the hand of our enemies, and do thou, O  
“ Lord, destroy us<sup>h</sup> by whatever death<sup>i</sup> thou dost  
“ chuse. Let not these followers of vanity bless 11  
“ their vain *idols* over the destruction of thy be-  
“ loved, saying, ‘ Even their God has not delivered  
“ them<sup>k</sup>.’ But do thou, O eternal One, who hast 12  
“ all might and all dominion, now look upon us ;  
“ pity us, who through the causeless insolence of  
“ wicked men are to be deprived of life like trai-  
“ tors. O God, whom we honour, who hast all 13  
“ power, let the heathens dread thy invincible  
“ might this day, on the deliverance of the race of  
“ Jacob. The whole multitude of infants and 14  
“ their parents supplicate to thee with tears. Let 15  
“ it be shewn to all nations that thou, O Lord, art  
“ with us, and hast not turned away thy face from  
“ us : but even, as thou hast said<sup>l</sup> that not even  
“ when they were in the land of their enemies  
“ thou wouldest overlook them, so bring it to pass,  
“ O Lord.”

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἀφειδῶς. There is a various reading, ἀφιδῶν.

<sup>h</sup> Compare David's prayer, at 2 Samuel xxiv. 14. and see above, ch. ii. 17.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. μόρω, which more particularly denotes, in Scripture, death *by pestilence*.

<sup>k</sup> See the words of Rabshakeh, the general of Sennacherib, to this effect, in 2 Kings xviii. and Isaiah xxxvi. Also Psalm lxxix. 10.

<sup>l</sup> Compare Levit. xxvi. 42. Deuteron. xxx. 3, 9, 10.

- 16 Now as soon as Eleazar had ceased praying, the king with the beasts and the whole marching array<sup>m</sup> of his army arrived at the Hippodrome.
- 17 And the Jews beholding it cried aloud to heaven; insomuch that even the adjoining valleys, echoing back the sound, created an uncontrollable wailing throughout the whole army.
- 18 Then the most glorious, almighty, and true God, manifesting his holy countenance, opened the doors of heaven; from whence two glorious and terrific angels descended, visible to all except
- 19 the Jews: and stood against them, and filled the enemies' army with confusion and fear, and bound
- 20 them in bonds which could not be loosed. The king's own person also became horror struck<sup>n</sup>, and oblivion seized on his violent and angry boldness.
- 21 And they turned back the elephants<sup>o</sup> upon the

<sup>m</sup> Gr. *φρονάγματι*, expressing the noise and bustle necessarily attendant on such movements.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. *ὑπόφρικτον τὸ σῶμα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐγενήθη*.

<sup>o</sup> Josephus relates a similar act of violence attempted against the Jews, with similar success and several corresponding circumstances, in his second book against Apion. But this is said to have occurred under the reign of Ptolemy Physcon, sixty or seventy years later than the event described in our text. Yet from the general similarity appearing in the two accounts, it has been judged, not unreasonably, that in reality the thing occurred only once, but has been differently related by historians. The

Greek of Josephus, in this passage, is lost: the Latin version runs thus: "Physcon  
" Ptolemæus cum adversum  
" exercitum quidem Oniæ pug-  
" nare præsumeret, omnes ve-  
" ro Judæos in civitate posi-  
" tos cum filiis et uxoribus  
" capiens nudos atque vinctos  
" elephantis subjecisset, ut ab  
" eis conculcati deficerent; et  
" ad hoc etiam bestias ipsas  
" inebriasset, in contrarium  
" quæ præparaverat evenere.  
" Elephanti enim relinquentes  
" sibi appositos Judæos, im-  
" petu facto super amicos  
" ejus, multos ex ipsis intere-  
" mere. Et post hæc Ptole-  
" mæus quidem aspectum ter-  
" ribilem contemplatus est,  
" prohibentem se ut illis noceret hominibus." Joseph. c. Apion. II. 5.

armed troops which were following, and they trampled upon them and destroyed them.

And the king's anger was turned into pity and 22 tears, on account of what he formerly had devised. For when he heard the cry, and saw them 23 all prostrate *ready* for destruction, shedding tears, he angrily threatened his friends, saying: "You 24  
" abuse<sup>p</sup> the royal authority, and have outdone  
" tyrants in barbarity; and even me your bene-  
" factor you are now endeavouring to remove both  
" from my authority and my life, by secretly de-  
" vising measures disadvantageous to my king-  
" dom. Who has brought away, each from his 25  
" home, and absurdly collected together here,  
" these men who were faithfully guarding the  
" fortresses<sup>q</sup> of our country? Who has encom- 26  
" passed with such lawless indignities these men  
" who from the beginning have in all things sur-

<sup>p</sup> Gr. *παραβασιλεύετε*, a very expressive word: "you assume a power to which you have no claim." Grotius well observes, that the Greeks often use the preposition *παρά* in this sense in compound words, such as *παρασοφίζω*, *παρασυνάγω*, &c.; also that an equivalent expression occurs in Terence, "*quandoquidem solus regnas.*"

<sup>q</sup> Josephus, c. Apion. lib. II. says, "Ὁμοία δὲ Ἀλεξάνδρου καὶ Πτολεμαίου ὁ Λάγον περὶ τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ κατοικούντων ἐφρόνησεν" καὶ γὰρ τὰ κατὰ τὴν Αἴγυπτον αὐτοῖς ἐνεχείρισε φρούρια, πιστῶς ἀμὰ καὶ γενναίως φυλάξειν ὑπολαμβάνων. The same is asserted by him, in similar terms, in the twelfth book of

his Antiquities, ch. 1, and 3. where he states that Ptolemy Lagus, finding that the inhabitants of Jerusalem were especially to be depended on for honourable keeping of their oaths and engagements, intrusted many of his fortresses to their hands, and bestowed on several of them the freedom of Alexandria, so that they were placed on a par with his Macedonians; exacting from them an oath that they would continue faithful to his descendants for his sake. And well indeed they appear to have fulfilled the trust reposed in them. Compare ch. iii. 21, *supra*.

“ passed all nations in good-will towards us, and  
 “ frequently have undertaken the greatest dangers  
 27 “ of all men *for our sake*? Loose, loose utterly,  
 “ the unjust bonds: send them away in peace to  
 “ their own homes, having asked their forgiveness  
 28 “ of what has been already done. Set free the  
 “ sons of the almighty, heavenly, living God, who  
 “ from the days of our ancestors until this pre-  
 “ sent time has vouchsafed to our affairs an unin-  
 “ terrupted prosperous stability.”

29 Thus he spake; and the Jews being released in  
 a moment blessed the holy God their deliverer,  
 30 having that instant escaped from death. Then  
 the king returning to the city called for him who  
 was over his revenues, and commanded him to  
 supply the Jews with wines and other things re-  
 quisite for a feast during seven days: resolving  
 that in the place wherein they had expected to  
 meet destruction, in that they should keep a festi-  
 val of deliverance with all joyfulness.

31 Then those who before were reviled and were  
 near to death, or rather were entering into it; in-  
 stead of a bitter and most lamentable fate, formed  
 together a festive party<sup>r</sup> to celebrate their preser-  
 vation; and parted the place<sup>s</sup>, which had been pre-

<sup>r</sup> Gr. *κώθωνα σωτήριον*, which strictly may denote “ the cup of salvation,” equivalent to the expression *ποτήριον σωτήριον*, in Psalm cxvi. 13; and to *πότον σωτήριον* occurring below, ch. vii. 18. The verb *κωθωνίζομαι*, “ to drink or feast,” occurs in Polybius, and is also used by the seventy interpreters.

<sup>s</sup> Gr. *τόπον κλισίας κατεμέ-*

*ρισαν*, they fixed up tents in various places, in imitation of the feast of tabernacles. The old translation of 1550 renders the passage, “ they pointed out with their stoles the place where they were appointed to be slain.” But see Luke ix. 14; where the expression *κατακλίνατε αὐτοὺς κλισίας ἀνὰ πενήκοντα*, is rendered in our version, “ make

pared for their fall and funeral, into several tents, (or companies,) being filled with gladness. And 32 leaving off their doleful strain of lamentation, they again took up the hymn<sup>t</sup> of their fathers, praising the Saviour and wonder-working God: and having put away from them all groaning and wailing, they formed themselves into dances as a sign of peaceful joy. In like manner also the king made 33 a great feast on this occasion, and without ceasing made acknowledgments to Heaven in a magnificent way, on account of the unexpected deliverance which had befallen them.

And they, who before gave them up as lost and 34 about to be devoured by birds<sup>n</sup>, and had joyfully registered them; now groaned for that they had clothed themselves in shame, and their fire-breathing<sup>x</sup> boldness was ingloriously quenched.

But the Jews, as we have said already, having 35 formed the aforementioned dance, passed the time in feasting, with joyful thanksgivings and psalms. And made a common decree on this occasion 36 through all the dwellings of their pilgrimage<sup>y</sup> for after generations; and appointed to celebrate the above-named days as days of gladness: not for the sake of drinking and gluttony<sup>z</sup>, but by reason of

“ them sit down by fifties in  
“ a company.”

<sup>t</sup> Probably, as Grotius remarks, the 136th Psalm; which, we learn from 1 Chronicles xvi. 41, 2 Chron. v. 13, vii. 3, Ezra iii. 11, &c., was their usual hymn of thanksgiving.

<sup>u</sup> Compare 3 Macc. ix. 15. See also Genesis xl. 19; Ezech. xxxix. 4, and other

passages of Scripture.

<sup>x</sup> Gr. καὶ τὴν πυρπινοῦν τὸλμαν ἀκλεῶς ἐσβεσμένοι. Πυρίπνοος, πύρπνοος, and πυρπιπέουσα, are expressions occurring in the classic authors.

<sup>y</sup> Gr. ἐπὶ πάσαν τὴν παροικίαν αὐτῶν. Compare chap. vii. 19; or the words may mean, “ for all the time of their sojourning.”

<sup>z</sup> The old translation of

that deliverance which they had received through  
37 God. And they addressed themselves to the king,  
desiring their dismissal to their own homes.

38 Now they *had* registered them from the five  
and twentieth day of Pachon<sup>a</sup>, to the fourth day  
of Epiphi, during forty days: and they deter-  
39 phi<sup>b</sup> until the seventh, for three days. In which  
the Lord of the universe did most gloriously ma-  
nifest his mercy, and delivered them all together  
without hurt.

40 And they feasted, being supplied with all things  
by the king, until the fourteenth day, wherein  
41 they made address for their dismissal. And when  
the king had acceded to<sup>c</sup> their request, he wrote  
for them to his commanders in every city the sub-  
joined epistle, to the following generous purport<sup>d</sup>.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Ptolemy's letter in favour of the Jews. Their happy re-  
turn home.*

1 “ KING Ptolemy Philopator to the commanders  
“ in Egypt, and all who are set over our affairs,  
2 “ joy and health. We ourselves are well, as also

1550 renders it, “ not to bib  
“ and bowl in, for gluttony ;”  
thus incidentally illustrating  
the English habits and games  
of the age of king Edward  
VI.

<sup>a</sup> This Egyptian month  
answers nearly to our April  
and May.

<sup>b</sup> Answering nearly to our  
June and July, and to the  
Macedonian Panemus. Arch-  
bishop Ussher reckons these

forty days of registering to  
have included from the 20th  
of May to the 29th of June.

<sup>c</sup> Or, “ had commanded  
“ them :” Gr. *συναίνεσας αὐ-  
τούς*. Compare ch. vii. 12.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *μεγαλοφύχως τὴν ἐκτε-  
ρίαν ἔχουσιν*. Josephus, on a  
similar occasion, uses the  
phrase, *προσθεῖναι γράμματα  
ὑπέσχετο μεγαλοπρεπῶς ἔχοντα*.  
Antiq. xii. c. 2.

“ are our children, the great God having directed  
 “ our affairs according as we wish.

“ Certain of our friends, out of ill-nature, did 3  
 “ frequently press hard upon us, and persuade us  
 “ to collect in a body the Jews who were in our  
 “ kingdom, and to punish them with the strange  
 “ punishments<sup>a</sup> of traitors. Alleging that our af- 4  
 “ fairs would never be firmly settled, by reason of  
 “ that disaffection<sup>b</sup> which these men have towards  
 “ all other nations, until this were done. Who also, 5  
 “ having brought them in bonds with vexation, as  
 “ slaves, or rather as traitors, attempted to put  
 “ them to death without any examination or in-  
 “ quiry, having cloked themselves<sup>c</sup> in a more than  
 “ Scythian barbarity. But we upon this most 6  
 “ severely threatened them, out of that equity  
 “ which we bear towards all men, and with diffi-  
 “ culty granted them their lives; and acknow-  
 “ ledging that God of heaven, who has protected  
 “ the Jews in safety; and constantly has fought  
 “ for them as a father for his children: and call- 7  
 “ ing to mind that firm, friendly affection, which  
 “ they have had for us and our ancestors;—  
 “ we have in justice released them from all blame,  
 “ on any account whatsoever. And have enjoined 8  
 “ them every one to return to their own homes,  
 “ no person in any place doing them harm, or re-  
 “ proaching them with the things which have  
 “ been done to them without all reason. For 9  
 “ know ye, that if we shall maliciously devise evil

<sup>a</sup> Compare chapter iv. 4,  
 and the note there: also  
 3 Macc. ix. 6.

<sup>b</sup> See, above, the note on  
 chapter iii. 7.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. νόμον σκυθῶν ἀγριοτέρων  
 ἐμπεπορημένοι ὀμότητα. The  
 expression is remarkable, sig-  
 nifying literally “fastening  
 “ around them as a cloak.”

“ against these men, or at all grieve them, we shall  
 “ ever inevitably have not man, but the Most High  
 “ God, the Lord of all power, opposed to us, for  
 “ the avenging of such deeds. Fare ye well.”

- 10 But the Jews having received this epistle, did not immediately hasten to begin their journey: but petitioned the king that those of the Jewish race who had voluntarily transgressed against the holy God and the law of God, might meet through them such punishment as they had deserved<sup>d</sup>.
- 11 Alleging that they who had transgressed the Divine commands for their belly's sake, would never be well affected<sup>e</sup> even to the king's affairs.
- 12 He then, admitting what they said to be true, and approving it, gave them full liberty to destroy those who had transgressed the law of God, in every place within his kingdom: and this with all freedom, without any *further* authority or inspection<sup>f</sup> from the king. Hereupon, having paid him

<sup>d</sup> See Denteron. xiii. 6—10. In subsequent times the Jews were compelled to ask permission from their foreign rulers to execute this law: as at Esther vi. 8—11, and here. So likewise the Jews hypocritically reply to Pontius Pilate, “ It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.” John xviii. 31.

<sup>e</sup> Grotius, in a note on this passage, cites the act of Constantius Chlorus, father of the emperor Constantine; who, wishing to put to a proof the fidelity and principle of his officers, threatened all of them with the loss of their dignities unless they renounced Christianity. And when some

surrendered their religious belief, and others still held it under every prospect of disadvantage, Constantius retained the latter in his service, and dismissed all the former; remarking, that those men were never likely to be faithful to the king, who so readily had consented to renounce their God. By precisely similar reasoning, Antiochus the Great assured himself of the Jews' fidelity towards him: *πέπεισμαι γὰρ εὖνους αὐτοὺς ἔσεσθαι τῶν ἡμετέρων φύλακας, διὰ τὴν πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν αὐτῶν εὐσέβειαν.* Joseph. Antiq. xii. 3.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. *ἀνευ πάσης βασιλικῆς ἐξουσίας ἢ ἐπισκέψεως.*

their acknowledgments as was fit, their priests and all the multitude, singing aloud the halleluia, departed with joy. And whenever they met with 14 any one of their countrymen who had been polluted, they punished him upon the spot, and slew him with marks of public ignominy. And on that 15 very day they slew above three hundred men; and passed it as a festival with joy, having mastered and punished the profane. But they 16 themselves, who had adhered to God unto death, having had full enjoyment of their deliverance, departed from the city crowned with garlands of all sorts of most fragrant flowers, with joy and shouting; giving thanks in praises and most melodious hymns to the eternal God of their fathers, the Saviour of Israel.

And having reached Ptolemis<sup>g</sup>, which, on ac- 17 count of the peculiar product of the place, is called “the rose-bearing,” where the fleet waited for them according to their common decree, seven days; there they made a feast of deliverance<sup>h</sup>, the 18 king having generously supplied them with all things which each might want for his journey even to his own home.

And having arrived in peace with becoming 19 thanksgivings, they resolved to celebrate there also these days as days of joy for the time<sup>i</sup> of

<sup>g</sup> A city of Egypt, which Calmet, not without reason, supposes to be *Rosetta*; which is situate on the coast, between Alexandria and Damietta. Some commentators differ; but the situation on the sea, and the modern name expressing the produce of the

soil, plead very forcibly in favour of the opinion which Calmet has advanced.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. *πέρον σωήριον*, which compare with the note above, at ch. vi. 31.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. *ἐπὶ τὸν χρόνον*, “in remembrance of the time.” Compare ch. vi. 36.

- 20 their sojourning. Which also having consecrated  
*to that use* by setting up a pillar and an oratory<sup>k</sup>  
 in the place of their festive solemnity, they de-  
 parted unhurt, free, overflowing with joy, secured  
 by the king's command from all harm by land,  
 21 sea, or river, each to his own home. And having  
 now greater authority than before among their  
 enemies, with glory and fear; not being despoiled  
 of their goods by any one throughout the journey.  
 22 And all of them recovered all their goods accord-  
 ing to the registry<sup>l</sup>; so that those who held any  
 thing *belonging to them*, restored it to them with  
 the utmost fear<sup>m</sup>, the Most High God having  
 worked wonders throughout for their deliverance.  
 23 Blessed be the Deliverer of Israel, for endless  
 ages. Amen.

<sup>k</sup> Gr. *προσευχή*, (the same as *οἶκος προσευχῆς*) a word well known both from the New Testament and Josephus.

<sup>l</sup> Or, "inventory," Gr. *ἀπογραφῆς*; which, in the old

translation of 1550, is rendered by, "bill of attainder."

<sup>m</sup> Compare the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, in Exodus, chap. xii.; also Psalm cv. 38.



THE  
SECOND BOOK  
OF  
MACCABEES:

CONTAINING  
THE HISTORY OF ABOUT FORTY YEARS, VIZ. FROM  
175 TO 135 BEFORE CHRIST.

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CHAPTER I.

*The cruelties of Antiochus Epiphanes to the Jews.*

1 **AND** it happened, after that Alexander, *son of*  
Philip the Macedonian, who came out of the B. C.  
land of Chittim<sup>a</sup>, had smitten<sup>b</sup> Darius king 323.  
of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his  
2 stead, the first over Greece<sup>c</sup>: and made many wars,  
and won many strong holds, and slew the kings  
3 of the earth: and went through to the ends of the  
earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch  
that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon

<sup>a</sup> “Wherever the ‘land of ed out. See Numbers xxiv.  
“Chittim’ or ‘the isles of 24; Isaiah xxiii. 1. 12; Jer.  
“Chittim’ are mentioned in ii. 10; Ezek. xxvii. 6; Dan.  
“scripture, there are evi- xi. 29, 30.

“dently meant some coun- <sup>b</sup> Namely, at the decisive  
“tries or islands in the Me- battle of Arbela in Persia,  
“diterranean.” Bishop New- fought in the year 331 B. C.

ton on the Prophecies, I. 5. <sup>c</sup> Meaning Syria and Egypt,  
Here Macedonia seems to be which were so called by the  
the country particularly point- Jews.

he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up. And 4 he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings<sup>d</sup>, and they became tributaries unto him. And after these things he fell 5 sick, and perceived that he should die. Wherefore he 6 called his servants; such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive<sup>e</sup>. So Alexander reigned twelve 7 years, and *then* died. And his servants bear rule 8 every one in his place. And after his death, they 9 all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and they multiplied evils<sup>f</sup> in the earth.

And there came out of them a wicked root<sup>g</sup>, 10

<sup>d</sup> Or "kingdoms;" for the Alexandrian manuscript reads *τυραννῶν*, not *τυράνων*.

<sup>e</sup> The generality of historians give a different account. See Justin, ch. 13, and Quintus Curtius, book X. ch. 5 and 10. Quintus, however, admits the prevalence of a report that Alexander during his lifetime had arranged the succession to his dominions, but he gives no credit to the story: "Credidere quidam "testamento Alexandri dis- "tributas esse provincias; sed "famam ejus rei, quanquam "ab auctoribus tradita est, "vanam fuisse comperimus." I may here observe, once for all, that this and other deviations of our author from commonly received accounts, are discussed and partly explained by Albericus Gentilis, in a Dissertation appended to the

First Book of Maccabees, which is printed in the fifth volume of the "Critici Sa- "cri."

<sup>f</sup> Josephus explains this, by saying of these successors, *στασιαζόντων δὲ τούτων, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους φιλοτιμουμένων, ὑπὲρ τῆς ἰδίας ἀρχῆς, πολέμους τε συνεχεῖς καὶ μακροὺς συνέβαυε γίνεσθαι, καὶ τὰς πόλεις κακοπαθεῖν, καὶ πολλοὺς ἐν τοῖς ἀγῶσιν ἀποβάλλειν τῶν οἰκητόρων, ὡς καὶ τὴν Συρίαν ἀπάσαν ὑπὸ Πτολεμαίου τοῦ Λάγου, Σωτήρος τότε χρηματίζοντος, τὰ ἐναντία παθεῖν αὐτοῦ τῇ ἐπικλήσει.* Ant. XII. l.

<sup>g</sup> The Greek word *ρίζα*, which properly signifies a *root*, and metaphorically an *origin*, is also used to denote the *branches*, or *offspring* from that root. Thus Jesus Christ is called *the root of Jesse*, (Isai. i. 10,) *the root of David*: (Apoc. v. 5; xxii. 16):

Antiochus, *surnamed* Epiphanes<sup>h</sup>, son of Antiochus the king<sup>i</sup>, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year<sup>k</sup> of the kingdom of the Greeks. In those days went there out of Israel wicked men<sup>l</sup>, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathen who are round about us: for since we departed from them, many evils have befallen us. And the word seemed good in their eyes. Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, and he gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathen: whereupon they built a place of

B. C.  
176.B. C.  
175.B. C.  
174.

and such is the signification of the word in the present passage.

<sup>h</sup> Appian relates, that he obtained this name of Epiphanes, (signifying not only *illustrious*, but also *one who appears unexpectedly*,) because, when his brother Seleucus had been dethroned and put to death by Heliodorus, a conspirator, who seized his kingdom, Antiochus then on his way from Rome where he had been detained as a hostage, was generously assisted by Eumenes and Attalus kings of Pergamus, who deposed the usurper, and placed *him* on the throne of Syria, to the joy of his subjects. Appian. de rebus Syriacis, c. 45. But Polybius (cited by Athenæus) calls him *Epimanes* (madman) instead of Epiphanes, from the wildness and inconsistency of his behaviour, several instances

of which he gives. Polyb. Fragm. XXVI. 10. Compare Diodorus Siculus, de Virtutibus et Vitiis excerpt. lib. XXVI. and XXXI.

<sup>i</sup> Commonly called, Antiochus the Great.

<sup>k</sup> Viz. of the æra of the Seleucidæ, which began from the capture of Babylon by Seleucus Nicator, B. C. 312. This is the reckoning of time used throughout the books of Maccabees. The Syromacedonian (or Greek) year really commenced in the autumn: but, as the author of the *first* book of Maccabees usually reckons according to the Jewish mode, of beginning the year in the spring, a difference of six months is sometimes observable between the accounts given of the same transaction in the *first* and in the *second* book.

<sup>l</sup> Namely, Menelaus the brother of Jesus (or Jason)

exercise<sup>m</sup> at Jerusalem, according to the customs of the heathen: and made themselves uncircum- 15  
cised<sup>n</sup>, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do evil<sup>o</sup>.

Now when the kingdom was established before 16  
B. C. Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt<sup>p</sup>,  
170. that he might have the dominion of the two  
realms. Wherefore he entered into Egypt with 17  
a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants,  
and horsemen, and a great navy<sup>q</sup>, and made war 18  
against Ptolemy<sup>r</sup> king of Egypt: but Ptolemy  
was afraid of him, and fled; and many fell down  
slain. Thus they won the strong cities in the 19  
land of Egypt, and he took the spoils of the land  
of Egypt.

And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt<sup>s</sup>, 20  
he returned again in the hundred forty and third  
year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem  
with a great multitude: and entered proudly into 21  
the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar,

the high priest, and his party; who found the majority of their countrymen adverse to their political views. Joseph. Antiq. XII. 6.

<sup>m</sup> Gr. *γυμνάσιον*, a Gymnasium.

<sup>n</sup> A thing expressly forbidden by St. Paul. See 1 Cor. vii. 18.

<sup>o</sup> The phrase is Hebrew, and occurs frequently in the Old Testament. The very words of this passage, *καὶ ἐπράθησαν τοῦ ποιῆσαι τὸ πονηρὸν*, are found at 2 Kings, xvii. 17. (Sept. version.)

<sup>p</sup> See Daniel xi. 25, &c.

<sup>q</sup> Gr. *στολὰ*, which indeed may also signify a *land-force*.

<sup>r</sup> Surnamed Philometor, the sixth king of that race.

<sup>s</sup> See Daniel xi. 28. Josephus relates, that although Antiochus met with success in the beginning of his campaign against Egypt, he was compelled to abandon all thoughts of possessing himself of that kingdom, the Romans having sent to him a peremptory message to depart home.

and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels  
 22 thereof. And the table of the shew-bread, and  
 the pouring-vessels, and the vials, and the censers  
 of gold, and the vail, and the crowns<sup>t</sup>, and the  
 golden ornaments which were on the front of the  
 23 temple, all which he pulled off. He took also the  
 silver and the gold, and the precious<sup>u</sup> vessels:  
 also he took the hidden treasures which he found.  
 24 And when he had taken all away, he went into  
 his own land, having made a great massacre, and  
 25 spoken very proudly. Therefore there was great  
 mourning in Israel, in every place where they  
 26 were; so that the princes and elders mourned,  
 the virgins and young men were made feeble, and  
 27 the beauty of women was changed. Every bride-  
 groom took up lamentation, and she who sat in  
 28 the marriage-chamber was in heaviness. The  
 land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof,  
 and all the house of Jacob was covered with con-  
 fusion.

29 And after two years fully expired<sup>x</sup>, the king  
 sent his chief collector<sup>y</sup> of tribute unto the B. C.  
 cities of Judah; and he came unto Jerusa- 168.  
 30 lem with a great multitude, and spake peaceable  
 words unto them in deceit: and they believed  
 him, and he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote  
 it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.  
 31 And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he  
 set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and

<sup>t</sup> See Zechariah vi. 14.

<sup>u</sup> Gr. ἐπιθυμητὰ, "vessels  
 "of desire:" the same ex-  
 pression occurs at Daniel xi.  
 8, and Hosea xiii. 15.

<sup>x</sup> Gr. δύο ἔτη ἡμερῶν, "two

"years of days;" a manifest  
 Hebraism.

<sup>y</sup> Namely, Apollonius, who  
 is mentioned again at 3 Macc.  
 v. 24—27.

walls thereof on every side. But the women and 32 children took they captive, and possessed themselves of the cattle. Then builded they the city 33 of David with a great and strong wall, *and* with mighty towers, and it became a strong hold <sup>z</sup> for them. And they put therein a sinful nation <sup>a</sup>, 34 wicked men, and they fortified *themselves* therein. They stored it also with armour and victuals, and 35 when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare: for it became a place to lie in 36 wait against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel altogether. Thus they shed innocent 37 blood on every side of the sanctuary<sup>b</sup>, and defiled the sanctuary: insomuch that the inhabitants of 38 Jerusalem fled because of them: whereupon *the city* was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those who were born in her, and her own children left her. Her sanctuary was 39 laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach, her honour into contempt. As had been her glory, so 40 was her dishonour increased, and her high estate was turned into mourning.

Moreover, king Antiochus wrote to his whole 41 kingdom, that all should be one people, and every one should leave his own laws: so all the heathen 42

<sup>z</sup> Called *Acra*, or "the Tower," or citadel.

<sup>a</sup> "He placed therein a Macedonian garrison." Josephus. It may be well to remark here, once for all, that in these apocryphal books, no less than in those of the New Testament, the words *ἀμαρτω-*

*λοι*, *ἄνομοι*, *ἀσεβείς*, are used to denote the *Gentiles* as contradistinguished from the *Jews*. Particular instances may be referred to in Schlessner and other writers on the New Testament.

<sup>b</sup> See Psalm lxxix. 1—3.

agreed, according to the commandment of the  
 43 king. Yea, many also of the Israelites consented  
 to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and pro-  
 44 faned the sabbath. For the king had sent letters  
 by the hand of messengers unto Jerusalem, and  
 the cities of Judah, that they should follow laws  
 45 strange to the land: and forbid burnt-offerings,  
 and sacrifice, and drink-offerings in the sanctuary;  
 and that they should profane the sabbaths and  
 46 festival days: and pollute the sanctuary and holy  
 47 people: set up altars, and temples, and chapels  
 of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh and unclean<sup>c</sup>  
 48 beasts: that they should also leave their children  
 uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable  
 with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:  
 49 to the end they might forget the law, and change  
 50 all the ordinances. And whosoever would not do  
 according to commandment of the king, *he said*,  
 51 he should die. According to all these words wrote  
 he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers  
 over all the people, commanding the cities of  
 52 Judah to sacrifice, city by city. Then many of  
 the people were gathered unto them, to wit, every  
 one who forsook the law, and so they committed  
 53 evils in the land: and drove Israel into secret  
 places, even wheresoever they could flee for suc-  
 cour.

54 Now on the fifteenth day of *the month* Casleu<sup>d</sup>,  
 in the hundred forty and fifth year, they <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 set up the abomination<sup>e</sup> of desolation upon <sup>167.</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Gr. κοινὰ, "common," as expressed in St. Peter's vision at Acts x.

<sup>d</sup> The ninth Jewish month, answering to our November

and December.

<sup>e</sup> Namely, the statue of Jupiter Olympius. Compare 3 Mac. vi. 2. See also Daniel xi. 31.

the altar, and builded *idol*-altars throughout the cities of Judah on every side; and burnt incense 55 at the doors of the houses, and in the streets. And when they had rent in pieces the books of 56 the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. And wheresoever was found with any the 57 book of the testament, or if any consented to the law, the king's commandment *was, that they should* put him to death. Thus did they by their 58 might unto Israel every month, to as many as were found in the cities. Now on the five and 59 twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the *idol*-altar, which was upon the altar of burnt-offerings. At which time, according to the com- 60 mandment, they put to death the women who had caused<sup>f</sup> their children to be circumcised. And they 61 hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them which had circumcised them. Howbeit, many in Israel were fully 62 resolved and confirmed in themselves, not to eat unclean things. Wherefore they chose rather to 63 die, that they might not be defiled with the meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. And there was very 64 great wrath upon Israel.

## CHAP. II.

### *The firmness of Mattathias.*

IN those days arose Mattathias *the son* of John, 1 *the son* of Simeon<sup>a</sup>, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modin<sup>b</sup>. And he 2

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὰς περιετομίας, "who had circumcised;" for we learn that this operation was sometimes performed by women.

<sup>a</sup> Josephus adds, "*the son of Asamonæus*:" whence this family bore afterwards the title of Asmonæan princes.

<sup>b</sup> Wells, in his Geography

had five sons, Joannan, who was called Caddis :  
 3 Simon, who was called Thassi : Judas, who was  
 4 called Maccabæus : Eleazar, who was called Ava-  
 5 ran, and Jonathan, who was called Apphus. And  
 6 when he saw the blasphemies<sup>c</sup> which were com-  
 7 mitted in Judah and Jerusalem, he said, Wo is  
 me ! wherefore was I born to see this overthrow  
 of my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell  
 there when it was delivered into the hand of the  
 enemies, and the sanctuary into the hand of  
 8 strangers ? Her temple is become as a man with-  
 9 out glory. Her glorious vessels are carried away  
 into captivity, her infants are slain in the streets,  
 her young men with the sword of the enemy.  
 10 What nation hath not had a part in *her* kingdom,  
 11 and gotten of her spoils ? All her ornaments are  
 taken away, of a free-woman she is become a  
 12 bond-slave. And behold, our sanctuary<sup>d</sup>, even  
 our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the  
 13 Gentiles have profaned it. To what end there-  
 14 fore shall we live any longer ? Then Mattathias  
 and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sack-  
 cloth, and mourned very sore.  
 15 In the mean while the king's officers, such as  
 compelled *the people to revolt*, came into the city

of the Old Testament, states, that " the situation of this place (where was the sepulchre of the Maccabees) is not well agreed on : some placing it not very far from Jerusalem, while others will have Modin to lie much farther westward, namely, on the coast, or not far from the coast, of the Mediterranean sea." He inclines

to the latter opinion, which indeed seems to be well supported.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *βλασφημίας*, which here denotes not merely wicked words, but also deeds, such as idolatry and the like.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *τὰ ἅγια*, literally, *holy things*; the expression used for the sanctuary throughout this book.

Modin, to make them sacrifice. And when many 16 of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together. Then answered the king's 17 officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise; Thou art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren. Now therefore come thou first, and fulfil 18 the king's commandment, like as all the heathen have done, yea, and the men of Judah also, and such as remain at Jerusalem: so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards<sup>e</sup>. Then Mat- 19 tathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations which are under the king's dominion<sup>f</sup> obey him, to fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments: yet will I and my sons and 20 my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers. *God* forbid, that we should forsake the law and 21 the ordinances. We will not hearken to the king's 22 words, to go aside from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left.

Now when he had left speaking these words, 23 there came one of the Jews in the sight of all, to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment. Which thing 24 when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he<sup>g</sup> forbear

<sup>e</sup> Gr. ἀποστολαίς; which Grotius declares to mean properly *viaticum quo abeuntem prosequimur*.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὰ ἐν οἰκαστῆς βασιλείας τοῦ βασιλέως.

<sup>g</sup> The rendering is unsatisfactory; and there is here a remarkable variety of reading in the Greek text. The Vatican MS. reads ἀήνεγκε θυμὸν κατὰ τὸ κρίμα, which our trans-

to shew his anger according to judgment: where-  
 25 fore he ran, and slew him upon the altar. Also  
 the king's commissioner<sup>h</sup>, who compelled men to  
 sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he  
 26 pulled down. Thus dealt he zealously for the  
 law of God, like as Phinees<sup>i</sup> did unto Zambri the  
 27 son of Salom. And Mattathias cried throughout  
 the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is  
 zealous of the law, and maintaineth the covenant,  
 28 let him follow me. So he and his sons fled into  
 the mountains, and left all which ever they had  
 29 in the city. Then many who sought after right-  
 eousness<sup>k</sup> and judgment, went down into the wil-  
 30 derness to dwell there: both they and their chil-  
 dren, and their wives, and their cattle, because  
 evils were multiplied upon them.

31 Now when it was told the king's servants, and  
 the host which was at Jerusalem, in the city of  
 David, that certain men, who had broken the  
 king's commandment, were gone down into the  
 32 secret places in the wilderness: they pursued after  
 them a great number, and having overtaken them,  
 they camped against them and made war against  
 33 them on the sabbath-day. And they said unto  
 them, Let that which ye have done hitherto suf-

lation appears to follow: but the Alexandrian MS. reads *ἀνήνεγκε θυμὸν κατὰ τὴν ῥίνα*, "he breathed forth wrath through his nostrils," which seems more accordant with the rest of the imagery. This latter also is approved by Schleusner, (*Lex. Vet. Test.* III. 384,) who refers to Michaelis on the passage, and to Valckenaer on Theocritus,

Idyll. I. 17.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. *ἄνδρα*.

<sup>i</sup> See Numbers xxxv. 7.

<sup>k</sup> Gr. *ζητούντες δικαιοσύνην*, i. e. seeking liberty to observe the law of Moses. So our Saviour, when desiring baptism at the hand of John, alleged, "thus it becometh us to fulfil *all righteousness*." [Schleusner.]

fice; come forth, and do according to the com-  
 mandment of the king, and ye shall live. But 34  
 they said, We will not come forth, neither will we  
 do the king's commandment, to profane the sab-  
 bath-day. So then they gave them the battle 35  
 with all speed. Howbeit, they answered them 36  
 not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped  
 the places where they lay hid; but said, Let us 37  
 die all in our innocency: heaven and earth shall  
 testify for us, that ye put us to death wrongfully.  
 So they rose up against them in battle on the sab- 38  
 bath, and they died with their wives and children,  
 and their cattle, to the number of a thousand  
 souls<sup>1</sup>. Now when Mattathias and his friends 39  
 understood hereof, they mourned for them right  
 sore. And one of them said to another, If we all 40  
 do as our brethren have done, and fight not for  
 our lives and laws against the heathen, they will  
 now quickly root us out of the earth. At that 41  
 time therefore they decreed, saying, Whosoever  
 shall come to make battle with us on the sab-  
 bath-day, we will fight against him; neither will  
 we die all, as our brethren died in the secret  
 places. Then came there unto him a company of 42  
 Assidæans<sup>m</sup>, who were mighty men of Israel, even  
 all such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law.  
 Also all they who fled from persecution, joined 43

<sup>1</sup> Literally, "souls of men,"  
 a phrase familiar in scripture:  
 see (in the Hebrew) Numb.  
 xxxi. 35, 1 Chron. v. 21; and  
 in the Apocalypse, chap. xviii.  
 13, the merchants are said to  
 offer for sale "slaves, and  
 "souls of men."

<sup>m</sup> These appear to have

been men who went even be-  
 yond the Mosaic Law in the  
 strictness of their observances:  
 as the Rechabites mentioned  
 by Jeremiah did, and as the  
 Pharisees in our Saviour's  
 time boasted to do. See them  
 mentioned again at chap. vii.  
 13. and 3 Maccab. xiv. 6.

themselves unto them, and were a stay unto them.  
 44 So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men  
 in their anger and wicked men in their wrath;  
 45 but the rest fled to the heathen for succour. Then  
 Mattathias and his friends went round about, and  
 46 pulled down the altars. And what children soever  
 they found within the coast of Israel uncircum-  
 47 cised, those they circumcised by force<sup>n</sup>. They  
 pursued also after the sons of pride, and the work  
 48 prospered in their hand. So they recovered the  
 law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the  
 hand of kings, and yielded not the horn<sup>o</sup> of  
*triumph* to the sinner.

49 Now when the time drew near that Mattathias  
 should die, he said unto his sons, “ Now B. C.  
 “ hath pride and rebuke gotten strength, 166.  
 “ and the time of destruction, and the wrath of in-  
 50 “ dignation. Now therefore, my sons, be ye zeal-  
 “ ous for the law, and give your lives for the co-  
 51 “ venant of our fathers. Call to remembrance  
 “ what acts our fathers did in their generations,  
 “ so shall ye receive great honour, and an ever-  
 52 “ lasting name. Was not Abraham found faith-  
 “ ful in temptation, and it was imputed unto him  
 53 “ for righteousness<sup>p</sup>? Joseph in the time of his  
 “ distress, kept the commandment, and was made  
 54 “ lord of Egypt<sup>q</sup>. Phinees our father, in being  
 “ zealous and fervent, obtained the covenant of an  
 55 “ everlasting priesthood<sup>r</sup>. Jesus, for fulfilling the

<sup>n</sup> Josephus adds, “ and he  
 “ drove away those who were  
 “ appointed to hinder such  
 “ their circumcision.” Antiq.  
 XII. 6.

<sup>o</sup> Gr. καὶ οὐκ ἔδωκαν κέρας τῷ

ἀμαρτωλῷ. It is a Hebrew  
 phrase, abundantly to be found  
 in Scripture.

<sup>p</sup> See Gen. xxii.

<sup>q</sup> See Gen. xli.

<sup>r</sup> See Numb. xxv.

“ word, was made a judge in Israel<sup>s</sup>. Caleb, for 56  
 “ bearing witness before the congregation, received  
 “ an heritage of the land<sup>t</sup>. David, for being mer- 57  
 “ ciful<sup>u</sup>, gained to himself the throne of an ever-  
 “ lasting kingdom<sup>x</sup>. Elias, for being zealous and 58  
 “ fervent for the law, was taken up into hea-  
 “ ven<sup>y</sup>. Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, by believ- 59  
 “ ing, were saved out of the flame<sup>z</sup>. Daniel, for 60  
 “ his innocency, was delivered from the mouth of  
 “ lions<sup>a</sup>. And thus consider ye throughout all 61  
 “ generations, that none who put their trust in  
 “ Him, shall fail. Fear not then the words of a 62  
 “ sinful man; for his glory shall be dung and  
 “ worms. To-day he shall be lifted up, and to- 63  
 “ morrow he shall not be found, because he is re-  
 “ turned into his dust<sup>b</sup>, and his thought is come to  
 “ nothing. Wherefore, ye my sons, be valiant, and 64  
 “ shew yourselves men in the behalf of the law,  
 “ for by it shall ye obtain glory. And behold, I 65  
 “ know that your brother Simon is a man of coun-  
 “ sel, give ear unto him alway: he shall be a  
 “ father unto you. As for Judas Maccabæus, he 66  
 “ hath been mighty, and strong, even from his  
 “ youth up: let him be your captain, and fight  
 “ the battle of the people. Take also unto you 67  
 “ all those who observe the law, and avenge ye  
 “ the wrong of your people. Recompense fully 68  
 “ the heathen, and take heed to the command-  
 “ ments of the law.” So he blessed them, and 69

<sup>s</sup> See Josh. i.

<sup>t</sup> See Numb. xiv.

<sup>u</sup> Or, *for his piety*: see  
Schleusner in v. ἔλεος.

<sup>x</sup> See 2 Sam. ii.

<sup>y</sup> See 2 Kings ii.

<sup>z</sup> See Dan. iii.

<sup>a</sup> See Dan. vi.

<sup>b</sup> See Psalm cxlv. 4.

70 was gathered to his fathers. And he died in the hundred forty and sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers, at Modin, and all Israel made great lamentation for him.

## CHAPTER III.

*The valiant acts of Judas Maccabæus.*

1 THEN his son Judas called Maccabæus rose up  
2 in his stead. And all his brethren helped him, and  
so did all they who were joined with his father, and  
they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel.  
3 So he gat his people great honour, and put on a  
breast-plate as a giant, and girt his warlike ar-  
mour about him, and he fought battles, protecting  
4 the host with his sword. In his acts he was like  
a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his  
5 prey. For he pursued the wicked, and sought  
them out, and burnt up those who vexed his  
6 people. Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of  
him, and all the workers of iniquity were con-  
founded together, and deliverance was made to  
7 prosper in his hand. He grieved also many kings,  
and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his me-  
8 morial is blessed for ever. Moreover, he went  
through the cities of Judah, and destroyed the  
ungodly out of them, and turned away wrath  
9 from Israel: so that he was renowned unto the  
utmost part of the earth, and he received unto him  
such as were ready to perish.  
10 Then Apollonius<sup>a</sup> gathered together the Gen-  
tiles, and a great host out of Samaria, to fight  
11 against Israel. Which thing when Judas per-

<sup>a</sup> The governor of Samaria. See above, chap. ii. 29.

ceived, he went forth to meet him, and so he smote him, and slew him: many also fell down slain, but the rest fled. Wherefore Judas took 12 their spoils, and Apollonius' sword also, and there-with he fought all his life long.

Now when Seron, the captain<sup>b</sup> of the army of 13 Syria, heard say, that Judas had gathered unto him a multitude and company of the faithful to go out with him to war; he said, I will get me a 14 name and will be honoured in the kingdom; for I will go fight with Judas, and them that are with him, who despise the king's commandment. So 15 he made him ready to go up, and there went with him a mighty host of the ungodly to help him, and to be avenged of the children of Israel. And 16 when he came near to the going up of Bethoron<sup>c</sup> Judas went forth to meet him with a small company. Who, when they saw the host coming to 17 meet them, said unto Judas, How shall we be able, being so few, to fight against so great a multitude *and* so strong, seeing we are ready to faint with fasting all this day? Unto whom Judas answered, 18 It is no hard matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with the God of heaven it is all one to deliver with many<sup>d</sup> or with few; for the victory of battle standeth not in the multi- 19 tude of an host, but strength cometh from heaven. They come to us in the abundance of pride and 20 iniquity, to destroy us and our wives and children, and to spoil us: but we fight for our lives and our 21

<sup>b</sup> Gr. ὁ ἀρχων. Josephus calls him governor of Cœlo-syria.

<sup>c</sup> A town lying within the borders of the tribe of E-

phraim, north-west from Jerusalem. See Josh. x. 10, 11. 1 Chron. vii. 24.

<sup>d</sup> See 1 Sam. ch. xiv. 6, 2 Chron. xiv. 11.

22 laws. Wherefore *the Lord* himself will overthrow  
 them before our face : and as for you, be ye not  
 23 afraid of them. Now as soon as he had left off  
 speaking, he leapt suddenly upon them, and so  
 Seron and his host was overthrown<sup>e</sup> before him.  
 24 And they pursued them in the going down of  
 Bethoron, unto the plain, where were slain about  
 eight hundred men of them ; and the residue fled  
 25 into the land of the Philistines. Then began the  
 fear of Judas and his brethren, and great dread to  
 26 fall upon the nations round about them ; insomuch  
 that his fame came unto the king, and all nations  
 talked of the battles of Judas.

27 Now when king Antiochus heard these things,  
 he was full of indignation : wherefore he sent and  
 gathered together all the forces of his realm, *even*  
 28 a very strong army. He opened also his treasure<sup>f</sup>,  
 and gave his soldiers pay for a year, commanding  
 29 them to be ready for every need. Nevertheless,  
 when he saw that the money of his treasures  
 failed, and that the tributes<sup>g</sup> in the country were  
 small, because of the dissension, and plague which  
 he had brought upon the land by taking away the  
 30 laws which had been of old time ; he feared that  
 he should not, as in former times, have sufficient  
 for his charges, and for the gifts, which before  
 he had given with a liberal hand : for he had  
 abounded above the kings<sup>h</sup> that were before him.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus informs us, that Seron himself was slain in this battle.

<sup>f</sup> See Daniel xi. 24.

<sup>g</sup> Or, " the collectors of tributes were few :". for the Greek MSS. vary between

*φόροι* and *φορολόγοι*.

<sup>h</sup> Thus it had been prophesied of him by Daniel, that " he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers : he shall scatter among them the

Wherefore, being greatly perplexed in his mind, 31 he determined to go into Persia, there to take the tributes of the countries, and to gather much money. So he left Lysias, an honourable man, 32 and one of the blood royal, to oversee the affairs of the king, from the river Euphrates, unto the borders of Egypt; and to bring up his son An- 33 tiochus, until he came again. Moreover, he deli- 34 vered unto him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all things that he would have done, as also concerning them which dwelt in Judæa and Jerusalem: *to wit*, that he 35 should send an army against them, to destroy and root out the strength of Israel and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away their memorial from that place; and that he should place strange chil- 36 dren in all their quarters, and divide their land by lot. So the king took the half of the forces which 37 remained, and departed from Antioch<sup>i</sup> his royal city, the hundred forty and seventh year; and having passed the river Euphrates, he went through the high countries<sup>j</sup>.

Then Lysias chose Ptolemee the *son* of Dory- 38 menes, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's friends: and with them he sent forty 39 thousand *foot*-men, and seven thousand horse-men, to go into the land of Judah, and to destroy it, as

“prey, and spoil, and riches.” Dan. xi. 24. Compare Joseph. Antiq. XII. 11.

<sup>i</sup> A celebrated city of Syria, on the river Orontes: near it was the grove called Daphne. See a description of it in the XVIth book of Strabo.

<sup>j</sup> Gr. τὰς ἐπάνω χώρας, i. e.

the parts adjoining the Euphrates, and remote from the sea. So Polybins calls the governments of Upper Asia τὰς ἄνω σατραπείας. Lib. III. et V. So also we read in Josephus οἱ ἄνω τόποι—οἱ ἄνω βάρβαροι—ἢ ἄνω χώρα.—and τὰ ἀνωτερικὰ μέρη, in Acts xix. 1.

40 the king commanded. So they went forth with  
all their power, and came and pitched by Em-  
41 maus<sup>k</sup>, in the plain country. And the merchants  
of the country hearing the fame of them, took  
silver and gold very much, and servants, and came  
into the camp to buy the children of Israel for  
slaves; a power also of Syria, and of the land of  
the Philistines<sup>l</sup>, joined themselves unto them.

42 Now when Judas and his brethren saw that  
miseries were multiplied, and that the forces did  
encamp themselves in their borders, (for they  
knew how the king had given commandment to  
destroy the people, and utterly abolish them;)   
43 they said one to another, Let us restore the de-  
cayed estate of our people, and let us fight for  
44 our people, and the sanctuary. Then was the  
congregation gathered together, that they might  
be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and  
45 ask mercy and compassion. Now Jerusalem was  
uninhabited as a wilderness, there was none of  
her children that went in, or out: the sanctuary  
also was trodden down, and aliens kept the strong  
hold: the heathen had their habitation in that  
place, and joy was taken away from Jacob, and

<sup>k</sup> A village situate seven miles and a half from Jerusalem, Luke xxiv. 13.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. ἀλλοφύλων. This word in its primary signification denotes any person who is not of the same country with the writer, an alien; and in this sense it is used by Thucydides and other classic authors. To the Greeks all

other nations were ἀλλόφυλοι, which was equivalent to βάρβαροι; and to the Romans, on the contrary, the Greeks were ἀλλόφυλοι. Among the Jews the word was used to express all Gentiles generally; but more particularly the race of Philistines. In both these senses the expression occurs in the books of Maccabees.

the pipe and the harp ceased. Wherefore *the* 46  
*Israelites* assembled themselves together, and  
 came to Maspha<sup>m</sup>, over against Jerusalem; for in  
 Maspha was the place where they prayed afore-  
 time in Israel. Then they fasted that day, and 47  
 put on sackcloth, and cast ashes upon their heads,  
 and rent their clothes; and laid open the book of 48  
 the law, for which the heathen had sought dili-  
 gently to paint in them the pictures<sup>n</sup> of their  
 idols. They brought also the priests' garments, 49  
 and the first-fruits, and the tithes; and the Naza-  
 rites<sup>o</sup> they stirred up<sup>p</sup>, who had accomplished their  
 days. Then cried they with a loud voice toward 50  
 heaven, saying, What shall we do with these, and  
 whither shall we carry them away? For thy 51  
 sanctuary is trodden down and profaned, and thy  
 priests are in heaviness and brought low. And 52  
 lo, the heathen are assembled together against us  
 to destroy us: what things they imagine against  
 us, thou knowest. How shall we be able to stand 53  
 against them, except thou, *O God*, be our help?  
 Then sounded they with trumpets, and cried with 54  
 a loud voice. And after this, Judas ordained cap- 55  
 tains over the people, *even* captains over thou-  
 sands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and  
 over tens. But as for such as were building 56

<sup>m</sup> See Judges ch. xx. 1,  
 1 Sam. vii. 5, 2 Kings xxv.

<sup>n</sup> And by these means to  
 render them useless and abo-  
 minable to the Jews, who by  
 their law were expressly for-  
 bidden to use any such repre-  
 sentations. See Levit. xxvi. 1,

Numb. xxxiii. 52.

<sup>o</sup> For the particulars of the  
 Nazarites and their vows, con-  
 sult Numb. vi. 2—21.

<sup>p</sup> Gr. *ἤγειραν*, "put for-  
 ward," Grotius. Compare  
 Amos ii. 11.

houses, or had betrothed wives, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful<sup>q</sup>, those he commanded that they should return every man to his own  
57 house, according to the law. So the camp re-  
moved, and pitched upon the south side of Em-  
58 maus. And Judas said, Arm yourselves, and be  
valiant men, and see that ye be in readiness  
against the morning, that ye may fight with these  
nations which are assembled together against us,  
59 to destroy us and our sanctuary. For it is better  
for us to die in battle, than to behold the calami-  
60 ties of our nation and our sanctuary. Neverthe-  
less, as the will *of God* is in heaven, so let him  
do.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The wars of Judas. The sanctuary cleansed.*

1 THEN took Gorgias five thousand *foot*-men and  
a thousand chosen horse-men, and the army re-  
2 moved by night; to the end that he might rush in  
upon the camp of the Jews, and smite them sud-  
denly. And the men of the fortress were his  
3 guides. Now when Judas heard thereof, he him-  
self removed, and the valiant men with him, that  
he might smite the king's army which was at  
4 Emmaus, while as yet the forces were dispersed  
5 from the camp. In the mean season came Gorgias  
by night into the camp of Judas: and when he  
found no man there, he sought them in the moun-  
tains: for said he, These fellows flee from us.  
6 But as soon as it was day, Judas appeared in  
the plain with three thousand men, who, never-

<sup>q</sup> See Deuteron. xx. 5—8. Judges vii. 3.

theless had neither armour<sup>a</sup> nor swords to their minds. And they saw the host of the heathen, 7 that it was strong, and well armed, and the horsemen compassing it round about; and these were expert of war. Then said Judas to the men who 8 were with him, Fear ye not the multitude, neither be ye afraid of their assault. Remember how our 9 fathers were delivered in the Red sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army. Now therefore 10 let us cry unto heaven, if peradventure *the Lord* will have mercy upon us, and remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this host before our face this day: that so all the heathen may 11 know that there is one, who delivereth and saveth Israel. Then the strangers lifted up their eyes, 12 and saw them coming over against them. Where- 13 fore, they went out of the camp to battle; and they which were with Judas sounded their trumpets.

So they joined battle, and the heathen were 14 discomfited, and fled into the plain. Howbeit, all 15 the hindmost of them were slain with the sword: for they pursued them unto Gazera<sup>b</sup>, and unto the plains of Idumæa<sup>c</sup>, and Azotus, and Jamnia,

<sup>a</sup> Gr. *καλύμματα*, "body-armour." Compare ch. vi. 2.

<sup>b</sup> Gazara is a town not far from Azotus, or Ashdod, which is a considerable city on the sea-coast. Herodotus speaks of its great size, and mentions the circumstance of its having endured a siege of no less than twenty-nine years, the longest on record in any his-

tory. *Jamnia* also is a town on the coast of the Mediterranean, situate in the tribe of Dan, near to Joppa.

<sup>c</sup> Throughout these books the word *Idumæa* is to be understood as denoting that southern district of Judæa, which, when unoccupied during the captivity of Judah, was entered upon and possessed by the Edomites, who

so that there were slain of them about three thousand  
16 sand men. And Judas and his host returned  
17 again from pursuing them: and said to the people,  
Be not greedy of the spoils, inasmuch as there  
18 is a battle before us. And Gorgias and his host  
are here by us in the mountain: but stand ye now  
against our enemies, and overcome them, and after  
19 this ye shall freely take the spoils. As Judas was  
yet speaking these words, there appeared a part of  
20 them, shewing itself out of the mountain. And  
they perceived that their host had been put to  
flight, and that *the Jews* were burning the tents;  
(for the smoke which was seen declared what was  
21 done:) when therefore they perceived these things,  
they were sore afraid, and seeing also the host of  
22 Judas in the plain ready to fight, they fled every  
23 one into the land of strangers. Then Judas re-  
turned to spoil the tents, where they got much  
gold and silver, and blue *silk*, and purple of the  
24 sea, and great riches. After this they went home,  
and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praised the  
Lord in heaven: because it is good, because his  
25 mercy *endureth* for ever. Thus Israel had a great  
deliverance that day.

26 Now as many of the strangers as had escaped,  
came and told Lysias all which had happened.  
27 Who, when he heard thereof, was confounded and  
discouraged, because neither such things as he  
would were done unto Israel, nor such things as  
the king commanded him were come to pass.  
28 The next year therefore following, Lysias B. C.  
165.  
gathered together threescore thousand choice

quitted their own land for they became almost incorpo-  
this purpose. Subsequently, rated with the Jews.

men *of foot*, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them. So they came into Idumæa, 29 and pitched their tents at Bethsura<sup>d</sup>, and Judas met them with ten thousand men. And when he 30 saw that mighty army, he prayed, and said, Blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst quell the violence of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and gavest the host of Philistines into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armour-bearer. Shut up this army 31 in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and their horsemen; give to them cowardice, and melt away the bold- 32 ness of their strength, and let them be overwhelmed in their destruction; cast them down 33 with the sword of them which love thee, and let all those who know thy name, praise thee in hymns. So they joined battle; and there were 34 slain of the host of Lysias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain. Now 35 when Lysias saw his army put to flight, and the manliness of Judas' soldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die valiantly, he went to Antiochia, and gathered together a company of strangers, and having made his army greater than it was, he purposed to come again into Judæa.

Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our 36 enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary. Upon this all the 37

<sup>d</sup> This appears to have been the name of a small *district* of Judæa, as well as of its chief town. The fortress of Bethsura was originally built by king Rehoboam, being one

of his "cities for defence" towards Idumæa. See 2 Chron. xi. 5, 7. It stood on a high rock (as its name imports) within a short distance from Jerusalem.

host assembled themselves together, and went up  
38 into mount Sion. And they saw the sanctuary  
desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates  
burnt down, and shrubs growing in the courts as  
in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and  
39 the priests' chambers pulled down. And they rent  
their clothes, and made great lamentation, and  
40 cast ashes upon their heads, and fell down flat  
to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm  
with the trumpets, and cried towards heaven.  
41 Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against  
those who were in the fortress, until he had  
42 cleansed the sanctuary. So he chose priests of  
blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in  
43 the law: and they cleansed the sanctuary, and  
bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.  
44 And as they consulted what to do with the altar  
45 of burnt-offerings which was profaned; a good  
counsel came into their minds to pull it down,  
lest it should be a reproach to them, because the  
heathen had defiled it; wherefore they pulled it  
46 down. And laid up the stones in the mountain of  
the house in a convenient place, until there should  
come a prophet to shew what should be done with  
47 them. Then they took whole stones according to  
the law, and built a new altar, according to the  
48 former. And built up the sanctuary, and the  
inner parts of the house, and hallowed the courts.  
49 They made also new holy vessels, and into the  
temple they brought the candlestick, and the  
50 altar<sup>e</sup> of incense and the table. And upon the

<sup>e</sup> In our common translation here follow the words, "of burnt offerings and"—; but these are manifestly an interpolation. Judas had already (see ver. 47.) built up

altar they burnt incense, and the lamps which were upon the candlestick they lighted, and they gave light in the temple. Furthermore, they set 51 the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils<sup>f</sup>, and finished all the works which they had begun to make. Now on the five and twentieth 52 day of the ninth month, (which is *called* the month Casleu<sup>g</sup>), in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning. And 53 offered sacrifice according to the law, upon the new altar of burnt-offerings, which they had made. At what time<sup>h</sup>, and what day the heathen had pro- 54 faned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals. Then all 55 the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising *the God of* heaven, who had given them good success. And so they kept the dedication of 56 the altar eight days, and offered burnt-offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decked also the fore- 57 front of the temple with crowns of gold, and with small shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them. Thus 58 was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. Moreover, Judas and his brethren, with 59 the whole congregation of Israel, ordained that

a new altar of burnt offerings, which was made of stone, and did not stand within the temple itself, but in the court: the altar of incense was of gold, small and portable.—Josephus agrees with this latter statement.

<sup>f</sup> Or “hangings,” Gr. *καταπέτασμα*.

<sup>g</sup> Answering to our November and December.

<sup>h</sup> The profanation of the temple had continued exactly for three years. See chapter i. 59.

the days of the dedication<sup>i</sup> of the altar should be kept in the season from year to year, by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

60 At that time also they builded up the mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should come and tread  
61 it down, as they had done before. And they set there a garrison to keep it: and fortified Bethsura to preserve it, that the people might have a defence against the face of Idumæa.

## CHAPTER V.

*The wars of Judas. The expedition of Simon.*

1 Now it came to pass when the nations round about heard that the altar was built, and B.C.  
the sanctuary renewed as before, they were <sup>164</sup>  
2 very wroth. Wherefore they took counsel to destroy the generation of Jacob which was in the midst of them, and thereupon they began to slay  
3 and destroy among the people. Then Judas fought against the children of Esau, in Idumæa, at Acrabattine<sup>a</sup>, because they besieged Israel; and he gave them a great overthrow, and brought  
4 them down, and took their spoils. Also he re-

<sup>i</sup> Josephus declares that the observance of this feast continued unto his days. "And from that time to this we celebrate this festival, and call it *lights*. I suppose the reason was, because this liberty shone forth to us

"beyond our hopes, and that thence was the name given to that festival." Antiq. XII. 7.

<sup>a</sup> A district of Idumæa, which in the books of Numbers and Joshua is called Ak-rabbim.

membered the injury of the children of Bæan<sup>b</sup>, who had been a snare and a stumblingblock unto the people, in that they lay in wait for them in the ways. And they were shut up by him in the 5 towers, and he encamped against them, and destroyed<sup>c</sup> them utterly, and burnt the towers of that *place* with fire, with all those who were therein. Afterwards he passed over to the children 6 of Ammon, where he found a mighty power, and much people, with Timotheus their captain. So 7 he fought many battles with them, and they were discomfited before his face; and he smote them. And when he had taken Jazer<sup>d</sup>, and the towns<sup>e</sup> 8 belonging thereto, he returned into Judæa. Then 9 the heathen who were in Galaad<sup>f</sup> assembled themselves together against the Israelites who were in their quarters, to destroy them; but they fled to the fortress of Dathema<sup>g</sup>; and sent letters unto 10 Judas and his brethren, “The heathen who are  
 “ round about us are assembled together against  
 “ us, to destroy us. And they are preparing to 11  
 “ come and take the fortress whereunto we are  
 “ fled, Timotheus being captain of their host.  
 “ Come now therefore and deliver us from their 12

<sup>b</sup> Bæan, or Baanas, appears from Josephus to have been the name of an Idumæan chief.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. ἀνεθεμάτισεν αὐτούς: which may also mean, “he took an oath to destroy them.”

<sup>d</sup> A considerable city in the eastern part of the Holy Land, north of Aroer: it is mentioned in the books of Numbers and Joshua.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. τὰς θυγατέρας αὐτῆς: an elegant metaphor. Compare Numbers, ch. xxi. 25; Ezech. xvi. 44—61.

<sup>f</sup> Galaad, or Gilead, is often put for the whole country eastward of the river Jordan.

<sup>g</sup> A fortress in the land of Gilead, the exact situation of which is unknown to us. Possibly it may be the same place with that which is mentioned at Numbers xxxiii. 18, 19.

13 “ hands, for many of us are slain. Yea, all our  
“ brethren who were in the places of Tobie<sup>h</sup>, are  
“ put to death: their wives and their children  
“ also they have carried away captives, and *borne*  
“ *away* their stuff, and they have destroyed there  
14 “ about a thousand men.” While these letters  
were yet reading, behold, there came other mes-  
sengers from Galilee, with their clothes rent, who  
15 reported according to these words, and said, “ They  
“ of Ptolemais, and of Tyrus, and Sidon, and all  
“ Galilee of the Gentiles, are assembled together  
16 “ against us to consume us.” Now when Judas  
and the people heard these words, there assembled  
a great congregation together, to consult what  
they should do for their brethren who were in  
17 trouble, and assaulted by them. Then said Judas  
unto Simon his brother, Chuse thee out men, and  
go and deliver thy brethren who are in Galilee;  
but I and Jonathan my brother will go into the  
18 country of Galaad. So he left Joseph the *son* of  
Zacharias and Azarias, captains of the people,  
with the remnant of the host in Judæa, to keep it.  
19 And he gave them commandment, saying, Take  
ye the charge of this people, and make no war  
against the heathen, until the time that we come  
20 again. Now unto Simon were given three thou-  
sand men to go into Galilee, and unto Judas eight  
21 thousand men for the country of Galaad. Then  
went Simon into Galilee, where he fought many  
battles with the heathen, and the heathen were  
22 discomfited before his face. And he pursued them  
unto the gate of Ptolemais<sup>i</sup>; and there were slain

<sup>h</sup> Compare Judges xi. 3.  
also 3 Macc. xii. 17.

<sup>i</sup> A seaport town belong-  
ing to the Phœnicians, lying

of the heathen about three thousand men, whose spoils he took. And those who were in Galilee, 23 and in Arbattaj, with their wives and their children, and all which they had, took he away *with him*, and brought them into Judæa with great joy.

Judas Maccabæus also and his brother Jonathan 24 went over Jordan, and travelled three days' journey in the wilderness; where they met with the Naba- 25 thæans<sup>k</sup>, who came unto them in peaceable manner, and told them every thing which had happened to their brethren in the land of Galaad: and how 26 that many of them were shut up in Bosora<sup>l</sup>, and Bosor<sup>m</sup>, and Alema<sup>n</sup>, Casphor<sup>o</sup>, Maked<sup>p</sup>, and Carnaim<sup>q</sup>, (all these cities are strong and great :) and 27 that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the country of Galaad, and that against to-morrow they had appointed to bring their host against the forts, and to take them, and to destroy them all in

to the north of mount Carmel. In ancient times it was called Acca; and now, Acre.

<sup>j</sup> Or Arbattis, a city of Galilee.

<sup>k</sup> These were Arabians, some of the ancient Edomites, descended from Nebaioth, the eldest son of Ishmael; see Genesis xxv. 13. According to Diodorus Siculus, (lib. II. 48,) they possessed the country eastward of the Jordan, as far north as mount Libanus. Their capital city was Petra, concerning which, and the manners and habits of the Nabathæans, see more in Diodorus Siculus, XIX. c. 94  
—97.

<sup>l</sup> A city of Idumæa, mentioned by Isaiah, who calls it Bozrah.

<sup>m</sup> A town of the country of Moab, named by Jeremiah at chap. xlviii. 24.

<sup>n</sup> Another town of the Moabites. Grotius judges it to be that which Josephus calls *Malle*.

<sup>o</sup> Or Casphon, as at ver. 36: Calmet thinks it to be the same as Heshbon.

<sup>p</sup> Called Maachathi, or Maacah, in Deuteronomy and 2 Samuel.

<sup>q</sup> A town lying between Abila and Edrai, about eight miles from Maspha.

28 one day. Hereupon Judas and his host turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bosor; and he won the city, and slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all  
 29 their spoils, and burnt the city with fire. From whence he removed by night, and went till he  
 30 came to the fortress<sup>r</sup>. And betimes in the morning they lifted up their eyes, and behold, *there was* an innumerable people bearing ladders, and other engines of war to take the fortress, and they  
 31 assaulted them. When Judas therefore saw that the battle was begun, and that the cry of the city went up to heaven, with trumpets, and a great  
 32 sound; he said unto his host, Fight this day for  
 33 your brethren. So he went forth behind them in three companies, who sounded their trumpets,  
 34 and cried with prayer. Then the host of Timotheus perceived that it was Maccabæus, and fled from his face: wherefore he smote them with a great slaughter; so that there fell of them that  
 35 day about eight thousand men. This done, *Judas* turned aside to Maspha<sup>s</sup>; and he assaulted it, and took it, and slew all the males therein, and gathered the spoils thereof, and burnt it with  
 36 fire. From thence went he and took Casphon, Maged, Bosor, and the other cities of the country  
 37 of Galaad. After these things gathered Timotheus another host, and encamped before Raphon<sup>t</sup>  
 38 beyond the brook. So Judas sent *men* to espy the host, who brought him word, saying, All the

<sup>r</sup> Namely, of Dathema.

named.

<sup>s</sup> Called Mizpeh in the books of Judges and Samuel. The same with Malle above-

<sup>t</sup> Perhaps the town of Syria, called Raphana by Pliny.

heathen which are round about us are assembled unto them, even a very great host. He hath also 39 hired the Arabians to help them, and they have pitched their tents beyond the brook, ready to come and fight against thee. Upon this Judas went to meet them. Then Timotheus said unto 40 the captains of his host, When Judas and his host come near the water-brook, if he pass over first unto us, we shall not be able to withstand him: for he will mightily prevail against us. But if 41 he be afraid, and camp beyond the river, we shall go over unto him, and prevail against him. Now 42 when Judas came near the water-brook, he caused the scribes of the people to remain by the brook: and he charged them all, saying, Suffer no man to pitch his tent, but let all come to the battle. So 43 he went over first unto them, and all the people after him; then all the heathen being discomfited before him, cast away their weapons, and fled unto the temple<sup>u</sup> which was at Carnaim: but they 44 took the city, and burnt the temple, with all who were therein. Thus was Carnaim subdued, neither could they stand any longer before Judas. Then Judas gathered together all the Israelites 45 who were in the country of Galaad, from the least unto the greatest, even their wives and their children, and their stuff, a very great host, to the end they might come into the land of Judah.

Now when they came unto Ephron, (this was 46 a great city in the way as they should go, very well fortified,) they could not turn from it, either on the right hand or the left, but must needs pass

<sup>u</sup> Viz. of the goddess Atargatis. See 3 Macc. xii. 26, and the note there.

- 47 through the midst of it. Then they of the city  
shut them out, and stopped up the gates with  
48 stones. Whereupon Judas sent unto them with  
peaceable words, saying, We will pass through  
your land to go into our own country, and none  
shall do you any hurt; we will only pass through  
on foot: howbeit, they would not open unto him.
- 49 Wherefore Judas commanded a proclamation to  
be made throughout the host, that every man  
should pitch his tent in the place where he was.
- 50 So the soldiers pitched, and assaulted the city all  
that day and all that night, till at the length the  
51 city was delivered into his hands: and he slew all  
the males with the edge of the sword, and rased  
the city, and took the spoils thereof, and passed  
through the city, over them which were slain.
- 52 And they passed over Jordan, into the great  
53 plain before Bethsan<sup>x</sup>. And Judas was gathering  
together those who were hindmost, and exhorting  
the people all the way through, till they came  
54 into the land of Judah. So they went up to  
mount Zion with joy and gladness, where they  
offered burnt offerings, because not one of them  
were slain until they had returned in peace.
- 55 Now what time as Judas and Jonathan were in  
the land of Galaad, and Simon his brother in

<sup>x</sup> Or Bethshean, a considerable city, situate in the tribe of Manasseh, about two miles east of Gilboah, in the neighbourhood of the river Jordan: it is often mentioned in the books of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel. The Greeks called it Scythopolis; under which name also it appears in the

3d book of Maccabees, chap. xii. 29. See Josephus, XII. 12: and Herodotus, who in his first book relates that irruption of the Scythians into Egypt and Palestine, from which it is thought by most authors to have derived its name.

Galilee before Ptolemais; Joseph, the *son* of Zecha- 56  
 rias, and Azarias, captains of the army, heard of  
 the valiant acts and warlike deeds which they  
 had done. Wherefore they said, Let us also get 57  
 us a name, and go fight against the heathen who  
 are round about us. So when they had given 58  
 charge unto the army which was with them, they  
 went towards Jamnia. Then came Gorgias and 59  
 his men out of the city to meet them in battle.  
 And so it was that Joseph and Azarias were put 60  
 to flight, and pursued unto the borders of Judæa :  
 and there were slain that day of the people of  
 Israel, about two thousand men. Thus was there 61  
 a great overthrow among the children of Israel,  
 because they were not obedient unto Judas and his  
 brethren, but thought to do some valiant act.  
 Moreover, these men came not of the seed of those 62  
 by whose hand deliverance was given unto Israel.  
 And the man Judas and his brethren were greatly 63  
 renowned in the sight of all Israel, and of all the  
 heathen wheresoever their name was heard. In- 64  
 somuch that the people assembled unto them with  
 joyful acclamations.

Afterward went Judas forth with his brethren, 65  
 and fought against the children of Esau in the  
 land toward the south; where he smote Hebron<sup>y</sup>,  
 and the towns thereof, and pulled down the for-  
 tress of it, and burnt the towers thereof round  
 about. From thence he removed to go into the 66  
 land of the Philistines, and passed through Sama-

<sup>y</sup> This had formerly been the southern portion of Judæa,  
 one of the towns of Judah: during the captivity of Baby-  
 but after that the Idumæans lon, they made Hebron their  
 had possessed themselves of principal city.

67 ria. At that time certain priests, desirous to  
shew their valour, were slain in battle, for that  
68 they went out to fight unadvisedly. So Judas  
turned aside to Azotus in the land of the Philis-  
tines; and when he had pulled down their altars,  
and burnt the carved images of their gods with  
fire, and spoiled their cities, he returned into the  
land of Judah.

## CHAPTER VI.

*The death of Antiochus Epiphanes. The wars of Judas.  
The heroic act of Eleazar.*

1 *ABOUT that time*, king Antiochus travelling  
through the high countries<sup>a</sup>, heard say, that Ely-  
mais<sup>b</sup> in the country of Persia, was a city greatly  
2 renowned for riches, silver and gold: and that the  
temple<sup>c</sup> which was in it was very rich, wherein  
were coverings of gold, and breast-plates, and  
shields, which Alexander *son* of Philip the Mace-  
donian king, who reigned first among the Gre-  
3 cians, had left there. Wherefore he came and  
sought to take the city, and to spoil it; but he  
was not able, because the design was made known  
4 to them of the city. And they rose up against  
him in battle: so he fled, and departed thence  
5 with great heaviness, to return to Babylon. More-  
over, there came one who brought him tidings

<sup>a</sup> Namely, on the Euphra-  
tes. See the note at chap. iii.  
37.

<sup>b</sup> The Greek varies between  
Ἐλυμαῖς and ἐν Ἐλύμαῖς; and  
it is disputed whether this be  
the name of a region or of a city.  
In the third book of Macca-  
bees, Persepolis is said to be

the city meant. See chap. ix.  
1.

<sup>c</sup> Viz. of *Diana*, according  
to Josephus and Polybius:  
but Appian alleges that it  
was of *Venus*. In the third  
book, chap. i. 13, the Deity is  
called Nannæa, or Nanea.

into Persia, that the armies which went against the land of Judah were put to flight: and that 6 Lysias, who went forth first with a great power, was driven away by the Jews; and that they were made strong by the armour, and power, and store of spoils, which they had gotten from the armies, whom they had destroyed: also that they had 7 pulled down the abomination which he had set up upon the altar in Jerusalem, and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls as before, and his city Bethsura. And it came 8 to pass when the king heard these words, he was astonished, and sore moved: whereupon he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for. And there he continued many days: 9 for his grief was constantly renewed upon him, and he made account that he should die. Where- 10 fore he called for all his friends, and said unto them, The sleep is gone from mine eyes, and my heart faileth for very care. And I thought with 11 myself, Into what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood *of misery* is it wherein now I am! for I was thought bountiful, and was beloved in my power: but now I remember the evils which 12 I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver which were therein, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judæa without a cause. I perceive therefore that for this cause these 13 troubles are come upon me, and behold I perish through great grief in a strange land. Then 14 called he for Philip, one of his friends, whom he made ruler over all his realm. And gave him the 15 crown, and his robe, and his signet-ring, to the

end he should bring up his son Antiochus, and  
 16 nourish him up for the kingdom. So king An-  
 tiochus died there<sup>d</sup> in the hundred forty and ninth  
 17 year. Now when Lysias knew that the king was  
 dead, he set up Antiochus his son (whom he had  
 brought up, being young) to reign in his stead,  
 and his name he called Eupator.

18 About this time they which were in the tower,  
 were shutting up the Israelites round about <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 the sanctuary, and seeking always their <sup>163.</sup>  
 19 hurt, and the strengthening of the heathen. Where-  
 fore Judas purposed to destroy them, and called  
 20 all the people together, to besiege them. So they  
 came together, and besieged them in the hundred  
 and fiftieth year, and he made mounts for shot<sup>e</sup>  
 21 against them, and *other* engines. Howbeit, cer-  
 tain of them escaped from the siege, and to them  
 some ungodly men of Israel joined themselves.  
 22 And they went unto the king, and said, How long  
 will it be ere thou execute judgment, and avenge  
 23 our brethren? We have been willing to serve thy  
 father, and to walk after his decrees, and to obey  
 24 his commandments; *for which cause* they of our  
 nation besiege the tower, and are alienated from  
 us; moreover, as many of us as were found were  
 put to death, and our inheritances were plundered.  
 25 Neither have they stretched out their hand against

<sup>d</sup> Viz. at Babylon, or near it. Polybius relates that he died at Tabæ, a town of Persia, near to Babylon; and that he shewed symptoms of madness shortly before his death. Polyb. XXXI. 11.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. βελοστάσεις, which is a word used by Polybius in

describing the siege of Echinum, and signifies "spots chosen for planting the Ba-  
 "listæ." His words are, Καὶ  
 τρεῖς ἦσαν βελοστάσεις λιθοβό-  
 λους ὧν ὁ μὲν εἰς ταλαντιαῖος, οἱ  
 δὲ δύο τριακονταμναίους ἐξέβαλλον  
 λίθους. Lib. IX. 41. See Je-  
 remiah xxxii. 24.

us only, but also against all their borders. And <sup>26</sup> behold, this day are they besieging the tower at Jerusalem, to take it: the sanctuary also, and Bethsura have they fortified. Wherefore, if thou dost <sup>27</sup> not prevent them quickly, they will do greater things than these, neither shalt thou be able to rule them.

Now when the king heard this, he was angry, <sup>28</sup> and gathered together all his friends, and the captains of his army, and those who had charge of the horse. There came also unto him from other <sup>29</sup> kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired soldiers. So that the number of his army was an <sup>30</sup> hundred thousand foot-men, and twenty thousand horsemen, and two and thirty elephants exercised in battle. These went through Idumæa, and <sup>31</sup> pitched against Bethsura, which they assaulted many days, making engines of war; but they *of Bethsura* came out and burnt them with fire, and fought valiantly. Upon this Judas removed from <sup>32</sup> the tower, and pitched in Bathzacharias<sup>f</sup>, over against the king's camp. Then the king rising <sup>33</sup> very early marched fiercely with his host toward Bathzacharias, where his armies made them ready to battle, and sounded the trumpets. And to the <sup>34</sup> end they might provoke the elephants to fight, they shewed<sup>g</sup> them the blood of grapes and mul-

<sup>f</sup> This seems to have been a place of small note, not elsewhere mentioned. Josephus describes it as being seventy stadia distant from Bethsura.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἔδειξαν. Schleusner contends, that this liquid was not merely exhibited, but also

given to the elephants; referring, for the fact, to 3 Macc. v. 10: and he believes that this sense of the verb δεικνύω can be supported by instances drawn from the New Testament. I can scarcely agree with him on the point.

35 berries. Moreover they divided the beasts among  
 the companies; and for every elephant they ap-  
 pointed a thousand men armed with coats of mail,  
 and with helmets of brass on their heads; and for  
 every beast were ordained five hundred horsemen  
 36 of the best. These were ready at every occasion :  
 wheresoever the beast was they were, and whither-  
 soever the beast went, they went also, neither de-  
 37 parted they from him. And upon the beasts there  
 were strong towers of wood, which covered every  
 one of them, and were girt fast unto them with  
 devices : there were also upon every one, two and  
 thirty<sup>h</sup> strong men<sup>i</sup> who fought upon them, be-  
 38 sides the Indian who ruled him. As for the rem-  
 nant of the horsemen, they set them on this side  
 and that side, at the two parts of the host, stirring  
 them up<sup>k</sup> and covering their flanks with them.  
 39 Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold  
 and brass, the mountains glittered therewith, and  
 40 shined like lamps of fire. So part of the king's  
 army was spread upon the high mountains, and  
 part on the valleys below, and they marched on

<sup>h</sup> Bochart (Hierozoicon, tom. I. p. 261, &c.) objects strongly to this number, so much larger than that which approved authors assign to one elephant, namely, two, three, six, rarely ten or twelve. He adduces an ingenious conjectural emendation, viz. that instead of *ἄνδρες δυνάμεως δύο καὶ τριάκοντα οἱ πολεμοῦντες ἐπ' αὐτοῖς*, we should read *ἄνδρες δυνάμεως δύο ἢ τρεῖς ἀκοντίους πολεμοῦντες*. I fear that the MSS. do not confirm this reading. Bochart himself

thinks that the author omitted the number altogether, and that the words *δύο καὶ τριάκοντα* are merely an interpolation from verse 30, where that number of elephants is mentioned. See however Pliny, VIII. 7, as cited by Grotius.

<sup>i</sup> Josephus says, "archers."

<sup>k</sup> The Greek text of the latter portion of this verse is obscure : *κατασείοντες καὶ καταφρασσόμενοι ἐν ταῖς φάλαγξι*. And there is a various reading, *ἐν ταῖς φάραγξι*.

safely, and in order. Wherefore all who heard 41  
the noise of their multitude, and the marching of  
the company, and the rattling of the armour,  
were moved: for the army was very great and  
mighty.

Then Judas and his host drew near, and entered 42  
into battle, and there were slain of the king's  
army six hundred men. Eleazar also, *surnamed* 43  
Avaran<sup>1</sup>, perceived that one of the beasts, armed  
with a royal breast-plate, was higher than all the  
rest; and supposing that the king was upon him,  
he devoted himself, to the end he might de- 44  
liver his people, and get him a perpetual name:  
wherefore he ran upon him courageously into the 45  
midst of the battle, slaying on the right hand and  
on the left, so that they were divided from him on  
both sides. *Which done*, he crept under the ele- 46  
phant, and thrust him under, and slew him:  
whereupon the elephant fell down upon him, and  
there he died. Howbeit, *the rest of the Jews* see- 47  
ing the strength of the king, and the spirit of his  
forces, turned away from them.

Then the king's army went up to Jerusalem to 48  
meet them, and the king pitched his tents against  
Judæa, and against mount Sion. But with them 49  
which were in Bethsura he made peace: and they  
came out of the city, because they had no victuals  
there to endure the siege, it being a year of rest to  
the land. So the king took Bethsura, and set a 50  
garrison there to keep it. And he encamped 51  
against the sanctuary many days: and set there  
mounts for shot, and engines, and instruments to

<sup>1</sup> Namely, the son of Mattathias and brother of Judas,  
mentioned at chapter ii. 5.

cast fire and stones, and scorpions<sup>m</sup> to cast darts,  
 52 and slings. Whereupon they also made engines  
 against their engines, and held them battle a long  
 53 season. But *at the last* there were no victuals in  
 the vessels<sup>n</sup>, because it was the seventh year, and  
 those who fled from the Gentiles into Judæa to  
 save themselves, had eaten up the residue of the  
 54 store. And there were but a few left in the sanc-  
 tuary, because the famine did so prevail against  
 them, that they were scattered, every man to his  
 own place.

55 At that time Lysias heard say, that Philip  
 (whom Antiochus the king, whiles he lived, had  
 appointed<sup>o</sup> to bring up his son Antiochus, that he  
 56 might be king) was returned out of Persia and  
 Media, and the king's host also which went with  
 him, and that he sought to take unto him the rul-  
 57 ing of affairs. Wherefore he went in all haste,  
 and said to the king, and the captains of the host,  
 and the company, We decay daily, and our victuals  
 are but small, and the place we lay siege unto is  
 strong, and the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us.  
 58 Now therefore let us be friends with these men, and  
 make peace with them and with all their nation ;  
 59 and covenant with them, that they shall live after  
 their laws, as *they did* before : for on account of  
 their laws which we abolished, they have been an-  
 60 gered, and have done all these things. And the say-

<sup>m</sup> Gr. σκορπίδια, for which see Vegetius de Re Militari, IV. 22; also Ammianus Marcellinus, who describes their construction at book XXIII. 5.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. ἀγγείους. But the

Alexandrian manuscript reads Ἄγυις, *the Sanctuary*, which indeed may be thought to derive some countenance from the following verse.

<sup>o</sup> See chapter vi. 15.

ing pleased the king and the princes : wherefore he sent unto them to make peace, and they accepted thereof. Also the king and the princes made an oath unto them : whereupon they went out of the strong hold. Then the king entered into mount Sion : but when he saw the strength of the place, he brake his oath which he had made, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about. Afterward departed he in all haste, and returned unto Antiochia, where he found Philip to be master of the city : so he fought against him, and took the city by force<sup>p</sup>.

## CHAPTER VII.

*The wars of Judas with Bacchides, Alcimus, and Nicanor. Nicanor's death.*

IN the hundred and one and fiftieth year, De-  
 B.C. metrius<sup>a</sup> *the son* of Seleucus departed<sup>b</sup> from  
 162. Rome, and came up with a few men unto a  
 city<sup>c</sup> of the sea-coast, and reigned there. And as  
 he entered into the palace<sup>d</sup> of his ancestors, so it

<sup>p</sup> Josephus adds, that he took Philip prisoner, and put him to death.

<sup>a</sup> He was son of Seleucus, the elder brother of Antiochus Epiphanes, and therefore rightful owner of the kingdom.

<sup>b</sup> Where he had been detained a hostage, through the policy of the Roman senate. Finding after two applications that his departure never would be permitted, he concerted with some friends the means of escape, and by their assistance was enabled to quit Rome

by night, accompanied by Apollonius and a few others. Polybius, the historian, who was his friend and counsellor in this affair, has given us an interesting detail of the particulars, in book XXXI. 19—23.

<sup>c</sup> Namely, Tripolis, as mentioned in 3 Macc. xiv. 1; and Josephus agrees.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, at Antioch ἐπι Δάφνης, the regal seat of the kings of Syria: for an account of which city see Strabo, lib. XVI.

was that his forces had taken Antiochus and Ly-  
3 sias to bring them unto him. And the thing was  
made known to him, and he said, "Shew me not  
4 "their faces." So his host slew them: and De-  
metrius was set upon the throne of his kingdom.  
5 And there came unto him all the wicked and un-  
godly men of Israel, having Alcimus (who was  
6 desirous to be high priest) for their captain. And  
they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas  
and his brethren have slain all thy friends and  
7 have driven us out of our own land. Now there-  
fore send some man whom thou trustest, and let  
him go and see the entire destruction which he  
hath made amongst us, and in the king's land,  
and let him punish them and all them who aid  
them.

8 Then the king chose Bacchides a friend of the  
king, who ruled<sup>e</sup> in the country beyond the river,  
and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful  
9 to the king. And him he sent with that wicked  
Alcimus, whom he made high priest, and com-  
manded him that he should take vengeance on  
10 the children of Israel. So they departed, and  
came with a great power into the land of Judah;  
and he sent messengers to Judas and his brethren  
11 with peaceable words deceitfully. But they gave  
no heed to their words; for they saw that they  
12 were come with a great power. Then did there  
assemble unto Alcimus and Bacchides, a company  
13 of scribes to require justice. Now the Assidæans  
were the first among the children of Israel who  
14 sought peace of them. For said they, One who

<sup>e</sup> Josephus styles him "Governor of Mesopotamia."

is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with this army, and he will do us no wrong. So he spake 15 unto them peaceably, and sware unto them, saying, We will procure the harm neither of you nor your friends. Whereupon they believed him: 16 howbeit, he took of them threescore men, and slew them in one day, according to the words which he wrote<sup>f</sup>, “The flesh of thy saints *have* 17 “*they cast out*, and their blood have they shed “round about Jerusalem, and there was none to “bury them.” Wherefore the fear and dread of 18 them fell upon all the people, who said, There is neither truth nor justice in them; for they have broken the covenant and oath which they made. After this removed Bacchides from Jerusalem, 19 and pitched his tents in Bezeth<sup>g</sup>, where he sent and took many of the men who had forsaken him, and certain of the people also; and when he had slain them, *he cast them* into the great pit.

Then committed he the country to Alcimus, 20 and left with him a power to aid him: so Bacchides went to the king. And Alcimus contended 21 for the high-priesthood. And unto him resorted 22 all such as troubled the people, who, after they had gotten the land of Judah into their power, did much hurt in Israel. Now when Judas saw 23 all the mischief which Alcimus and his company had done among the Israelites, even above the heathen; he went out into all the coasts of Judæa 24 round about, and took vengeance on those who had deserted from him, so that they were restrained from going forth into the country. But 25

<sup>f</sup> Namely, the author of Psalm lxxix.

<sup>g</sup> Or Bethzetho, a village.

when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company had grown strong, and knew that he was not able to withstand them, he went again to the king, and said all the evil of them that he could.

26 Then the king sent Nicanor<sup>h</sup>, one of his honourable princes, a man who bare deadly hate unto Israel, with commandment to destroy the people.

27 So Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great force; and sent unto Judas and his brethren deceitfully

28 with peaceable words, saying, Let there be no battle between me and you: I will come with a

29 few men that I may see your faces in peace. He came therefore to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. Howbeit, the enemies were

30 prepared to take away Judas by violence. Which thing, after it was known to Judas, *to wit*, that

31 he came unto him with deceit, he was sore afraid of him, and would see his face no more. Nicanor

also, when he saw that his counsel was discovered, went out to meet Judas in battle beside

32 Capharsalama<sup>i</sup>: where there were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand men, and *the rest* fled into the city of David.

33 After this went Nicanor up to mount Sion, and there came out of the sanctuary certain of the

priests, and certain of the elders of the people, to salute him peaceably, and to shew him the burnt-

34 sacrifice which was offered for the king<sup>k</sup>. But he mocked them, and laughed at them, and abused<sup>l</sup>

<sup>h</sup> Called by Josephus, "his most intimate and faithful friend, who had fled from Rome with him."

<sup>i</sup> A village in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

<sup>k</sup> Concerning the sacrifice and prayers customarily offered up for the king by the Jews, see Ezra vi. 10.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. ἐμίανεν, *he defiled*; either by spitting upon them,

them shamefully, and spake proudly : and swore 35  
in his wrath, saying, Unless Judas and his host  
be now delivered into my hands, if ever I come  
again in peace, I will burn up this house : and  
with that he went out in a great rage.

Then the priests entered in, and stood before 36  
the altar and the temple, weeping, and saying,  
Thou, *O Lord*, didst choose<sup>m</sup> this house to be 37  
called by thy name, and to be a house of prayer  
and petition for thy people : be avenged on this 38  
man and his host, and let them fall by the  
sword : remember their blasphemies, and suffer  
them not to continue any longer. So Nicanor 39  
went out of Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in  
Beth-horon, where an host out of Syria met him.  
But Judas pitched in Adasa<sup>n</sup>, with three thousand 40  
men, and there he prayed, saying, *O Lord*, when 41  
they which were sent from the king of the Assy-  
rians<sup>o</sup> blasphemed, thine angel went out and smote  
an hundred fourscore and five thousand of them :  
even so destroy thou this host before us this day, 42  
that the rest may know that he hath spoken wick-  
edly against thy sanctuary, and judge thou him  
according to his wickedness.

So the thirteenth day of the month Adar<sup>p</sup> the 43  
host joined battle : and Nicanor's host was dis-  
comfited, and he himself was first slain in the  
battle. Now when Nicanor's host saw that he 44  
was slain, they cast away their weapons, and fled.

or by using contumelious and  
blasphemous expressions.

<sup>m</sup> See Deuteron. xii. 5. 11.  
14 ; Isaiah lvi. 7, &c. &c.

<sup>n</sup> A village, which Jose-  
phus says is distant thirty

stadia from Beth-horon.

<sup>o</sup> See 2 Kings xix, Isaiah  
xxxvii.

<sup>p</sup> Answering to our Feb-  
ruary and March.

45 Then they pursued after them a day's journey,  
 from Adasa until thou come to Gazera, sounding  
 46 an alarm after them with their trumpets. Where-  
 upon, they came forth out of the towns of Judæa,  
 round about, and outflanked them; so that they,  
 turning back upon those who pursued them, were  
 all slain with the sword, and not one of them was  
 47 left. Afterwards they took the spoils, and the  
 prey, and smote off Nicanor's head, and his right  
 hand, which he stretched out so proudly; and  
 brought them away, and hanged them up towards  
 48 Jerusalem. For this cause the people rejoiced  
 greatly, and they kept that day a day of great  
 49 gladness. Moreover, they ordained to keep yearly  
 50 this day, being the thirteenth of Adar. Thus the  
 land of Judah was in rest a little while.

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### *Judas makes a league with the Romans.*

1 Now Judas had heard of the fame of the Ro-  
 mans, that they were mighty in power, and such as would lovingly accept all who joined  
 themselves unto them, and make a league of amity  
 2 with all who came unto them; and that they were  
 men of great valour. It was told him also of  
 their wars and noble acts which they had done  
 among the Galatians<sup>a</sup>, and how they had con-

<sup>a</sup> Namely, the Gauls of Asia, or Gallo-græci; who, migrating from Gaul under Brennus and other chiefs, passed over into Asia, and after some time established themselves in the countries on the river Halys. Becoming allies of Antiochus the

Great, they incurred the resentment of the Romans, who sent Cneius Manlius to punish them; and from this general they experienced two signal defeats, at Ancyra and at mount Olympus, A.C. 189. See Livy, XXXVIII. 12—26.

quered them, and brought them under tribute. And what they had done in the country of Spain <sup>3</sup> for the winning of the mines of the silver and gold which is there: and that by their policy and <sup>4</sup> patience they had conquered all the place, (though it were very far from them,) and the kings also who came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, till they had discomfited them, and given them a great overthrow, so that the rest did give them tribute every year. Besides this, how <sup>5</sup> they had discomfited in battle Philip, and Perseus king of the Citims<sup>b</sup>, with others who lifted up themselves against them, and had overcome them. How also Antiochus<sup>c</sup> the great king of Asia, who <sup>6</sup> came against them in battle, having an hundred and twenty elephants, with horsemen and chariots, and a very great army, was discomfited by them; and how they took him alive, and cove- <sup>7</sup> nanted that he, and such as reigned after him, should pay a great tribute, and give hostages, and an appointed sum<sup>d</sup>. And the country of India, <sup>8</sup> and Media<sup>e</sup>, and Lydia, and of the goodliest coun-

<sup>b</sup> Namely, Macedonians. See chapter I. 1. Philip was conquered by the Romans in the first, and Perseus in the second Macedonic war; by the subjugation of whom an end was put to the Macedonian empire.

<sup>c</sup> See the accounts of these transactions given by Polybius and Livy.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *διαστολήν*; or, "a division of his territory."

<sup>e</sup> Grotius takes notice of these two names, (in which, nevertheless, all the MSS.

agree,) and suggests, that perhaps we ought to read *Ionia* and *Mysia*, which indeed were given to Eumenes by the Romans; whereas neither of the other two had belonged either to them or to Antiochus. In fact, the precise terms imposed by the Roman senate after the defeat of Antiochus, are furnished to us by Livy, XXXVII. 55. "Ut cis Taurum montem quæ intra regni Antiochi fines fuissent Eumeni attribuerentur, præter Ly-

tries, which they took from him and gave to king  
 9 Eumenes<sup>f</sup>: moreover, how the Grecians<sup>g</sup> had de-  
 10 termined to come and destroy them; and that  
 they, having knowledge thereof, sent against them  
 a certain captain, and fighting with them slew  
 many of them, and carried away captives their  
 wives and their children, and spoiled them, and  
 took possession of their lands, and pulled down  
 their strong holds, and brought them to be their  
 11 servants unto this day. *It was told him* besides,  
 how they destroyed and brought under their  
 dominion all other kingdoms and isles, which at  
 12 any time resisted them: but with their friends  
 and such as relied upon them, they kept amity:  
 and that they had conquered kingdoms both far  
 and nigh, insomuch that all who heard of their  
 13 name were afraid of them: also, that whom they  
 chose to help, and that they should reign, those  
 reign; and whom again they would, they displace;  
 14 and that they were greatly exalted: yet for all this,  
 none of them wore a crown, or was clothed in pur-  
 15 ple to walk proudly in it: moreover, how they had  
 made for themselves a senate-house, wherein three  
 hundred and twenty<sup>h</sup> men sat in council daily,  
 consulting alway for the people, to the end they

“ ciam Cariamque, usque ad  
 “ Mæandrum fluvium.” India  
 and Media therefore are  
 wholly out of the question.

<sup>f</sup> The son of Attalus, king  
 of Pergamus.

<sup>g</sup> Probably the allusion is  
 to the Ætolians and other  
 Greek allies of Antiochus.

<sup>h</sup> The Roman senate, about  
 this period, consisted *usually*

of three hundred members:  
 but the number varied from  
 time to time, so that the au-  
 thor of this book may be cor-  
 rect in his statement. It de-  
 serves notice also, that in the  
 Vth book of Maccabees, chap.  
 xii. xiii. xlii., the same precise  
 number is assigned. See the  
 places.

might be well ordered: and that they committed 16 their government to one man<sup>i</sup> every year, who ruled over all their country; and that all were obedient to that one, and that there was neither envy nor emulation amongst them.

And Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, 17 *the son* of Accos, and Jason, the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome, to make a league of amity and confederacy with them; *and to intreat* 18 *them*, that they would take the yoke from them; for they saw that the kingdom of the Grecians did oppress Israel with servitude. They went 19 therefore to Rome, (which was a very great journey,) and came into the senate, where they spake, and said, “Judas Maccabæus and his brethren, 20 “ and the people of the Jews, have sent us unto “ you, to make a confederacy and peace with you, “ and that we might be registered your con- “ federates and friends.” So that matter pleased<sup>k</sup> 21 *the Romans* well.

And this is the copy of the epistle which *the* 22 *senate* wrote back again, in tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem, that there they might have by them a memorial of peace and confederacy: “ Good 23 “ success be to the Romans and to the people of “ the Jews, by sea and by land for ever: the “ sword also and the enemy be far from them. If 24

<sup>i</sup> Though there were uniformly and invariably *two* consuls, yet, inasmuch as *one* of these had the entire management of military and foreign affairs, he alone was likely to be well-known to the Jewish writer of this history.

<sup>k</sup> The historian Justin has

a shrewd remark upon this: “ A Demetrio cum descivissent, [Judæi] amicitia Romanorum petita, primum orientibus libertatem receperunt, facile tunc Romanis de alieno largientibus,” lib. XXXVI. 3.

“ there come first any war upon the Romans, or  
“ any of their confederates throughout all their  
25 “ dominion, the people of the Jews shall help  
“ them, as the time shall be appointed them, with  
26 “ all their heart. Neither shall they give any  
“ thing unto those who make war upon them, or  
“ aid them with victuals, weapons, money, or ships,  
“ as it hath seemed good unto the Romans; but  
“ they shall keep their covenants without taking  
27 “ any thing therefore. In the same manner also  
“ if a war come first upon the nation of the Jews,  
“ the Romans shall help them with all their heart,  
“ according as the time shall be appointed them.  
28 “ Neither shall victuals be given to those who  
“ take part against them, or weapons, or money,  
“ or ships, as it hath seemed good to the Romans:  
“ but they shall keep their covenants, and that  
29 “ without deceit.” “ According to these articles  
“ did the Romans make a covenant with the  
30 “ people of the Jews. Howbeit, if hereafter the  
“ one party or the other shall think meet to add  
“ or diminish any thing, they may do it at their  
“ pleasures; and whatsoever they shall add or  
31 “ take away, shall be ratified. And as touching  
“ the evils which Demetrius doeth to the Jews,  
“ we have written unto him, saying, ‘ Wherefore  
“ hast thou made thy yoke heavy upon our friends  
32 “ and confederates the Jews?’ If therefore they  
“ complain any more against thee, we will do  
“ them justice, and fight with thee by sea and by  
“ land.”

## CHAPTER IX.

*The death of Judas. Also, of John. Jonathan is made captain. The death of Alcimus.*

FURTHERMORE, when Demetrius heard that 1  
Nicanor and his host were slain in battle, he pro-  
ceeded to send Bacchides and Alcimus into the  
land of Judah the second time, and with them  
the chief strength<sup>a</sup> of his host: who went forth 2  
by the way which leadeth to Galgala<sup>b</sup>, and pitched  
their tents before Maseloth, which is in Arbela<sup>c</sup>,  
and they won it, and slew much people. Also 3  
B. C. in the first month of the hundred fifty and  
161. second year, they encamped before Jerusa-  
lem. From whence they removed and went to 4  
Beræa<sup>d</sup>, with twenty thousand *foot*-men, and two  
thousand horse-men.

Now Judas had pitched his tents at Eleasa<sup>e</sup>, 5  
and three thousand chosen men with him: who 6  
seeing the multitude of the other army to be so  
great, were sore afraid; whereupon many conveyed  
themselves out of the host, insomuch that there  
abode of them no more than eight hundred men.  
When Judas therefore saw that his host slipt 7  
away, and that the battle pressed upon him, he  
was sore troubled in mind, for that he had no

<sup>a</sup> Gr. τὸ δεξιὸν κέρας, *the right wing*, which, as the post of honour, usually was occupied by the bravest or most favourite troops.

<sup>b</sup> Or Gilgal, as in Joshua iv. 19. Drusius thinks that we ought to read *Galilee* in this passage.

<sup>c</sup> Perhaps the same as Arbatta, mentioned above, at

chap. v. 23. Josephus calls it "a city of Galilee."

<sup>d</sup> Or Berzetho; perhaps the same as Bezeth, mentioned at chap. vii. 19.

<sup>e</sup> There is a variety of reading here. Possibly it may designate Adasa, named above, at chap. vii. 40. Compare book V. chap. 17. 2.

8 time to gather them together. And he was distressed : but nevertheless, unto them which remained, he said, Let us rise and go up against our enemies, if peradventure we may be able to  
9 fight with them. But they dehorted him, saying, We shall never be able : let us now rather save our lives, and hereafter we will return with our brethren, and fight against them : for we are but  
10 few. Then Judas said, God forbid, that I should do this thing, and flee away from them : if our time be come, let us die manfully for our brethren, and let us not leave behind a stain upon  
11 our honour. With that the host of *Bacchides* removed out of their tents, and stood over against them, their horsemen being divided into two troops, and their slingers and archers going before the host, and they which marched in the  
12 fore-ward were all mighty men. And Bacchides was in the right wing : so the host drew near on  
13 the two parts, and sounded their trumpets. They also of Judas's side, even they sounded their trumpets also, so that the earth shook at the noise of the armies, and the battle was joined from morn-  
14 ing till night. And Judas perceived that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right-side ; and all who were hardy in heart went  
15 with him : and the right wing was discomfited by them, and they pursued after them unto the  
16 mount Azotus. But when they of the left wing saw that they of the right wing were discomfited, they followed upon Judas and those who were  
17 with him, hard at the heels from behind : whereupon there was a sore battle, insomuch that many  
18 were slain on both parts. Judas also was killed,

and the remnant fled. Then Jonathan and Simon 19 took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulchre of his fathers in Modin. Moreover, 20 they bewailed him, and all Israel made great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, saying, "How is the valiant man fallen, who deli- 21  
"vered Israel!" As for the other things<sup>f</sup> con- 22  
cerning Judas and his wars, and the noble acts which he did, and his greatness, they are not written: for they were very many.

Now after the death of Judas, the wicked be- 23  
gan to lift up their heads in all the coasts of Israel, and there rose up all such as wrought iniquity. In those days also was there a very great famine, 24  
*by reason whereof* the country revolted, and went with them. Then Bacchides chose the wicked 25  
men, and made them lords of the country. And 26  
they made inquiry and search for Judas's friends, and brought them unto Bacchides, who took vengeance on them, and used them despitefully<sup>g</sup>. So 27  
there was a great affliction in Israel, the like whereof was not since the time that a prophet<sup>h</sup>  
was not seen amongst them.

For this cause all Judas's friends came together, 28  
and said unto Jonathan, Since thy brother Judas 29  
died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies and Bacchides, and against them of our nation, which are adversaries to us. Now 30  
therefore we have chosen thee this day to be our prince and captain in his stead, that thou mayest

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὰ περισσὰ τῶν λόγων.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἐνέπαιζεν αὐτοῖς, literally, "he mocked them."

<sup>h</sup> That is, since the death

of the prophet Malachi; a period of more than two hundred years.

31 fight our battles. Upon this, Jonathan took the  
governance upon him at that time, and rose up  
32 instead of his brother Judas. But when Bac-  
chides gat knowledge thereof, he sought to slay  
33 him. Then Jonathan and Simon his brother, and  
all who were with him, perceiving that, fled into  
the wilderness of Thecoe<sup>i</sup>, and pitched their tents  
34 by the water of the pool Asphar. Which when  
Bacchides understood, he came over Jordan with  
all his host upon the sabbath-day.

35 Now Jonathan had sent his brother *John*, a  
captain of the people, to pray his friends the Na-  
bathæans<sup>k</sup>, that they might leave with them their  
36 baggage, which was much. But the children of  
Jambri came out of Medaba, and took John<sup>l</sup> and  
all which he had, and went their way with it.  
37 After this came word to Jonathan and Simon his  
brother, that the children of Jambri were mak-  
ing a great marriage, and were bringing the bride  
from Nadabatha with a great train, as being the  
daughter of one of the great princes of Chanaan.  
38 Therefore they remembered John their brother,  
and went up and hid themselves under the covert  
39 of the mountain. Where they lifted up their eyes  
and looked, and behold, there was much ado, and  
great baggage: and the bridegroom came forth,  
and his friends and brethren, to meet them with  
drums and instruments of musick, and many wea-  
40 pons. Then Jonathan and they which were with  
him, rose up against them from the place where

<sup>i</sup> Or Tekoah, as written at  
2 Chron. xx. 20, and Jer. vi. 1.  
It appears to have been situ-  
ate at no great distance from

Bethlehem, towards the south.

<sup>k</sup> See above, chap. v. 25.

<sup>l</sup> And put him to death; as  
appears by verse 42.

they lay in ambush, and made a slaughter of them in such sort, that many<sup>m</sup> fell down dead, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils. Thus was the marriage turned into 41 mourning, and the noise of their melody into lamentation. So when they had avenged fully the 42 blood of their brother, they turned again to the marsh of Jordan.

Now when Bacchides heard hereof, he came on 43 the sabbath-day unto the banks of Jordan with a great power. Then Jonathan said to his company, 44 Let us go up now and fight for our lives, for it standeth not with us to-day, as it was yesterday and the day before: for, behold, the battle is be- 45 fore us and behind us, and the water of Jordan on this side and that side, the marsh likewise and wood, neither is there place for us to turn aside. Wherefore cry ye now unto heaven, that ye may 46 be delivered from the hand of your enemies. With 47 that they joined battle; and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to smite Bacchides, but he turned back from him. Then Jonathan and they which 48 were with him leapt into Jordan, and swam over unto the farther bank: howbeit, the other passed not over Jordan unto them. So there were slain 49 of Bacchides' side that day about a thousand<sup>n</sup> men.

Afterward returned *Bacchides* to Jerusalem, 50 and repaired the strong cities in Judæa, the fort in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Beth-horon, and Beth-el, and Thamnatha Pharathoni, and Taphon, with high walls, with gates, and with

<sup>m</sup> Josephus reckons them at four hundred.

<sup>n</sup> Josephus doubles the number.

51 bars. And in them he set a garrison, that they  
52 might work malice ° upon Israel. He fortified  
also the city Bethsura, and Gazara, and the tower,  
and put forces in them, and provision of victuals.

53 Besides, he took the chief men's sons in the coun-  
try for hostages, and put them into the tower at  
Jerusalem to be kept.

54 Moreover, in the hundred fifty and third year,  
in the second month, Alcimus commanded B. C. 160.  
that the wall of the inner court of the  
sanctuary should be pulled down <sup>p</sup>; he pulled  
55 down also the works of the prophets. And as he  
began to pull down, even at that time was Alci-  
mus plagued, and his enterprises hindered: for  
his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with  
a palsy, so that he could no more speak any thing,  
56 nor give order concerning his house. So Alcimus  
died at that time with great torment.

57 Now when Bacchides saw that Alcimus was  
dead, he returned to the king, whereupon the land  
of Judah was in rest two years.

58 Then all the ungodly men held a council, say-  
ing, Behold, Jonathan and his company are B. C. 158.  
at ease, and dwell without care: now there-  
fore we will bring Bacchides hither, who shall  
59 take them all in one night. So they went and con-  
60 sulted with him. Then removed he, and came  
with a great host, and sent letters privily to his  
adherents in Judæa, that they should take Jona-  
than and those who were with him: howbeit,

° Gr. τοῦ ἐχθραίνεω. it signi-  
fies "to do harm, or mis-  
"chief."

<sup>p</sup> So that thenceforward no  
distinction should be made

between Jew and Gentile, but  
that all should have equal pri-  
vilege of access to the inner  
court, which in former times  
had been open to Jews alone.

they could not, because their counsel was made known unto them. Wherefore they took of the 61 men of the country who were authors of that mischief, about fifty persons, and slew them. After- 62 ward Jonathan and Simon, and they which were with him, got them away to Bethbasi <sup>q</sup>, which is in the wilderness, and they repaired the decays thereof, and made it strong. Which thing when 63 Bacchides knew, he gathered together all his host, and sent word to them which were of Judæa. Then went he and laid siege against Bethbasi; 64 and they fought against it a long season, and made engines of war. But Jonathan left his bro- 65 ther Simon in the city, and went forth himself into the country, and with a certain number went he forth. And he smote Odonarces <sup>r</sup> and his bre- 66 thren, and the children of Phasiron in their tent. And when he began to smite them, and to ad- 67 vance with his forces, Simon and his company went out of the city, and burnt up the engines of war, and fought against Bacchides, who was dis- 68 comfited by them, and they afflicted him sore: for his counsel and travail was in vain. Wherefore, 69 he was very wroth at the wicked men who gave him counsel to come into the country, insomuch that he slew many of them, and purposed to return into his own country. Whereof when Jona- 70 than had knowledge, he sent ambassadors unto him, to the end he should make peace with him, and deliver them the prisoners. Which thing he 71

<sup>q</sup> Josephus calls it "Bethalaga, a village in the wilderness."

<sup>r</sup> Or Odoarres, or Odomera. There is great variety of read-

ing, and no less uncertainty about the person designated. Probably he was one of the captains of Bacchides, or some of his allies.

accepted, and did according to his demands, and sware unto him, that he would never devise evil  
 72 against him all the days of his life. When therefore he had restored unto him the prisoners whom he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judah, he returned and went his way into his own land, neither came he<sup>s</sup> any more into their borders.  
 73 Thus the sword ceased from Israel: and Jonathan dwelt at Machmas<sup>t</sup>, and began to govern the people; and he destroyed the ungodly men out of Israel.

## CHAPTER X.

*The negociations of Alexander and Demetrius with Jonathan. The death of Demetrius.*

1 IN the hundred and sixtieth year, Alexander<sup>a</sup> the son of Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, went up and took Ptolemais: for the  
 B. C. 153.  
 people had received him, by means whereof he

<sup>s</sup> Gr. καὶ οὐ προσέθετο ἐπὶ ἐλθεῖν; the same phrase occurs at verse 1 of this chapter.

<sup>t</sup> Or Michmash, as at 1 Sam. xiii. 2, &c.; a town situate about nine miles north from Jerusalem.

<sup>a</sup> Namely a younger brother of Antiochus Eupator, whom Demetrius had put to death. (ch. vii. 4.) But it is maintained by authors of credit, that in reality this was no son of Antiochus Epiphanes, but an impostor named Balas, who for purposes merely political, was set up and encouraged in his assumption of the Syrian throne. See Appian; and Justin, XXV. As historians are divided on

the subject of Alexander's genuineness, I think that the best evidence on the point is that which is furnished by himself. He took the pains to inscribe himself on his coins, Θεοπάτωρ; which looks very much like the act of one who distrusted his own cause. Several of these coins are yet remaining in cabinets. Three of them are figured by Vailant, in his "Historia Regum Syriæ," folio, p. 138—140: also in "Frœlichii Annales Regum Syriæ," fol. 1754. p. 64, &c. and in Gough's "Coins of the Seleucidæ," 4to, Lond. 1803, Tab. xii. p. 79.

reigned there. Now when king Demetrius heard 2  
thereof, he gathered together an exceeding great  
host, and went forth against him to fight. More- 3  
over, Demetrius sent letters unto Jonathan with  
loving words, so that he magnified him. For said 4  
he, Let us first make peace with him, before he  
join with Alexander against us; else he will re- 5  
member all the evils which we have done against  
him, and against his brethren, and his people.  
Wherefore he gave him authority to gather to- 6  
gether an host, and to provide weapons, that he  
might aid him in battle: he commanded also that  
the hostages which were in the tower should be  
delivered to him.

Then came Jonathan to Jerusalem, and read 7  
the letters in the audience of all the people, and of  
them which were in the tower: who were sore 8  
afraid, when they heard that the king had given  
him authority to gather together an host. Where- 9  
upon they of the tower delivered their hostages  
unto Jonathan, and he delivered them unto their  
parents. And Jonathan settled himself in Jerusa- 10  
lem, and began to build and repair the city. And 11  
he commanded the workmen to build the walls,  
and the mount Sion round about with square  
stones, for fortification: and they did so. Then 12  
the strangers who were in the fortresses which  
Bacchides had built, fled away: insomuch that 13  
every man left his place, and went into his own  
country. Only at Bethsura certain of those who 14  
had forsaken the law and the commandments, re-  
mained still: for it was their place of refuge.

Now when king Alexander had heard what 15  
promises Demetrius had sent unto Jonathan:

when also it was told him of the battles and noble acts which he and his brethren had done, and of  
 16 the pains which they had endured, he said, Shall we find such another man? now therefore we will  
 17 make him our friend and confederate. Upon this he wrote a letter, and sent it unto him, according  
 18 to these words, saying, “King Alexander to his  
 19 “brother Jonathan, sendeth greeting: We have  
 “heard of thee, that thou art a man of great  
 20 “power, and meet to be our friend. Wherefore  
 “now this day we ordain thee to be the high  
 “priest<sup>b</sup> of thy nation, and to be called the king’s  
 “friend, (and therewithal he sent him a purple  
 “robe<sup>c</sup>, and a crown of gold,) and *require thee* to  
 “take our part, and keep friendship with us.”  
 21 So in the seventh month of the hundred and  
 sixtieth year, at the feast of the tabernacles, Jonathan put on the holy robe, and gathered together  
 forces, and provided much armour.

22 Whereof when Demetrius heard, he was very  
 23 sorry, and said; What have we done, that Alexander hath anticipated us, in making amity with the  
 24 Jews to strengthen himself? I also will write unto them words of encouragement, and *promise*  
*them* dignities<sup>d</sup> and gifts, that they may be with  
 25 me to aid me. He sent unto them therefore to this effect: “King Demetrius unto the people of  
 26 “the Jews, sendeth greeting: Whereas ye have  
 “kept covenants with us, and continued in our

<sup>b</sup> This office continued in Jonathan’s family until the days of Herod the Great, from which period it became no longer hereditary.

<sup>c</sup> A mark of high dignity,

which could not be assumed without permission.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. λόγους ὑψους, which perhaps may signify “words of commendation.”

“ friendship, not joining yourselves with our ene-  
 “ mies, we have heard thereof, and are glad.  
 “ Wherefore now continue ye still to be faithful 27  
 “ unto us, and we will well recompense you for  
 “ the things ye do in our behalf; and will grant 28  
 “ you many immunities, and give you rewards.  
 “ And now do I free you, and for your sake I re- 29  
 “ lease all the Jews from tributes, and from the  
 “ customs of salt, and from crown-taxes<sup>e</sup>. And 30  
 “ from that which appertaineth unto me to re-  
 “ ceive for the third part of the grain, and the  
 “ half of the fruit of the trees, I release it from  
 “ this day forth; so that they shall not be taken  
 “ from the land of Judah, nor from the three go-  
 “ vernments which are added thereunto out of the  
 “ country of Samaria, and Galilee<sup>f</sup>, from this day  
 “ forth for evermore. Let Jerusalem also be holy 31  
 “ and free, with the borders thereof, both from  
 “ tenths and tributes. I also yield up my autho- 32  
 “ rity over the tower which is in Jerusalem, and  
 “ give it to the high priest, that he may set in it

<sup>e</sup> Gr. στεφάνων, the golden crowns which the Jews were wont to offer every year to the kings, or a sum of money in lieu of them. Compare chap. xi. 35. xiii. 39. The word is used also by Polybius in this sense, XXII. 17. 4. Josephus, speaking of the same impost, as remitted by Antiochus the Great, calls it στεφανίτης φόρος. Antiq. XII. 3.

<sup>f</sup> Here should be inserted the words “and Peræa.” The names of these three governments, or “toparchies,” as

Josephus calls them, appear at ch. xi. 34. In another place (XII. 8.) he speaks of them as belonging to Samaria, Joppe, and Galilee. It is also recorded by Josephus, that a similar immunity had been granted formerly to the Jews by Alexander the Great: ἐτίμα γὰρ ἡμῶν τὸ ἔθνος (sc. ὁ Ἀλέξανδρος) ὡς καὶ φησὶν Ἐκαταίος περὶ ἡμῶν, ὅτι διὰ τὴν ἐπιείκειαν καὶ πίστιν ἦν αὐτῷ παρέσχον Ἰουδαῖοι τὴν Σαμαριτίνων χάραν προσέθηκεν ἔχειν αὐτοῖς ἀφορολόγητον. Joseph. c. Apion. lib. II.

33 “ such men as he shall choose to keep it. More-  
“ over, I freely set at liberty every one of the  
“ Jews who were carried captives out of the land  
“ of Judah into any part of my kingdom; and *I*  
“ *will*, that all my officers remit their tributes,  
34 “ even of their cattle. Furthermore, *I will*, that  
“ all the feasts, and sabbaths, and new-moons,  
“ and solemn days, and the three days before the  
“ feast, and the three days after the feast, shall  
“ be all days of immunity and freedom for all the  
35 “ Jews in my realm. Also no man shall have au-  
“ thority to meddle *with them*, or to molest any of  
36 “ them in any matter. *I will* further, that there  
“ be enrolled amongst the king’s forces about  
“ thirty thousand men of the Jews, unto whom  
“ pay shall be given, as belongeth to all the king’s  
37 “ forces. And of them *some* shall be placed in the  
“ king’s strong holds, of whom also *some* shall be  
“ set over the affairs of the kingdom, which are  
“ of trust: and *I will*, that their overseers and  
“ governors be of themselves, and that they walk  
“ after their own laws, even as the king hath com-  
38 “ manded in the land of Judah. And concerning  
“ the three governments which are added to Ju-  
“ dæa from the country of Samaria<sup>g</sup>, let them be  
“ joined with Judæa, that they may be reckoned  
“ to be under one, and may not obey other au-  
39 “ thority than the high priest’s. As for Ptole-  
“ mais and the land pertaining thereto, I give it  
“ as a free gift to the sanctuary at Jerusalem, for  
40 “ the necessary expences of the sanctuary. More-  
“ over, I give every year fifteen thousand shekels  
“ of silver out of the king’s accounts, from the

<sup>g</sup> See the note at verse 30, of this chapter.

“ places appertaining. And all the overplus, 41  
 “ which the officers payed not in, as in former  
 “ times, from henceforth they shall give towards  
 “ the works of the temple. And besides this, the 42  
 “ five thousand shekels of silver, which they took  
 “ from the uses of the temple out of the accounts  
 “ year by year, even those things are released, be-  
 “ cause they appertain to the priests who minister.  
 “ And whosoever they be which flee unto the 43  
 “ temple at Jerusalem, or be within the liberties  
 “ thereof, being indebted unto the king, or for any  
 “ other matter, let them be at liberty, and all  
 “ which they have in my realm. For the build- 44  
 “ ing also and repairing of the works of the sanc-  
 “ tuary, expences shall be given out of the king’s  
 “ accounts : yea, and for the building of the walls 45  
 “ of Jerusalem, and the fortifying thereof round  
 “ about, expences shall be given out of the king’s  
 “ accounts, as also for the building of the walls in  
 “ Judæa<sup>h</sup>.”

Now when Jonathan and the people heard these 46  
 B. C. words, they gave no credit unto them, nor  
 152. received them, because they remembered  
 the great evil which he had done in Israel ; for he  
 had afflicted them very sore. But with Alexan- 47  
 der they were well pleased, because he was the  
 first who entreated of peaceable words with them,  
 and they were confederate with him always.

Then gathered king Alexander great forces, and 48  
 B. C. camped over against Demetrius. And after 49  
 151. the two kings had joined battle, Deme-  
 trius’s host fled : but Alexander followed after

<sup>h</sup> That is, in different cities of Judæa, according as they  
 may require such aid.

50 him, and prevailed against them. And he continued the battle very sore until the sun went down: and that day was Demetrius slain.

51 Afterward Alexander sent ambassadors to Ptolemy<sup>i</sup>, king of Egypt, with a message to this effect: “Forasmuch as I am come again to my  
52 “ realm, and am set on the throne of my fathers,  
“ and have gotten the dominion, and overthrown  
53 “ Demetrius, and recovered our country: (For  
“ after I had joined battle with him, both he and  
“ his host was discomfited by us, so that we sit in  
54 “ the throne of his kingdom.) Now therefore let  
“ us make a league of amity together, and give  
“ me now thy daughter to wife: and I will be  
“ thy son-in-law, and will give both thee and her  
55 “ gifts, according to thy dignity.” Then Ptolemy the king gave answer, saying, Happy be the day wherein thou didst return into the land of thy fathers, and satest in the throne of their kingdom. And now will I do to thee, as thou hast  
56 written: meet me therefore at Ptolemais, that we may see one another; and I will marry my  
57 daughter to thee, as thou hast said. So Ptolemy went out of Egypt himself and his daughter Cleopatra, and they came unto Ptolemais in the hundred threescore and second year: where king Alexander meeting him, he gave unto him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great glory, as the manner of kings is.

59 Now king Alexander had written unto Jonathan, that he should come and meet him. Who thereupon went honourably to Ptolemais, where

<sup>i</sup> Surnamed Philometor, the son of Ptolemy Epiphanes.

he met the two kings, and gave them and their friends silver and gold, and many presents, and found favour in their sight. At that time certain 61 pestilent fellows of Israel, men of a wicked life, assembled themselves against him, to complain of him : but the king did not attend to them. And 62 the king commanded, and they stripped Jonathan of his garments, and put on him a purple robe : and they did so. Also he made him sit near him- 63 self, and said unto his princes, Go with him into the midst of the city, and make proclamation, that no man complain against him of any matter, and that no man trouble him for any manner of cause. Now when those who complained of him saw his 64 glory, according to the proclamation, and himself clothed with a purple robe, they fled all away. So the king honoured him, and wrote him amongst 65 his chief friends, and made him a general, and governor of a province<sup>k</sup>. Afterward Jonathan re- 66 turned to Jerusalem with peace and gladness.

Furthermore, in the hundred threescore and 67  
 B. C. fifth year, came Demetrius<sup>l</sup>, son of Deme-  
 148. trius, out of Crete into the land of his fa-  
 thers. Whereof when king Alexander heard tell, 68  
 he was right sorry, and returned into Antioch.  
 Then Demetrius made Apollonius<sup>m</sup> the governor 69

<sup>k</sup> Gr. *μεριδάρχην*. Grotius, however, in a note on this passage, and also on 3 Macc. v. 10, contends that *μεριδάρχης* denotes merely *præpositus mensæ*, a person appointed to sit at the head of a royal table as a post of dignity : but query the correctness of this opinion. See Josephus, Antiq. XII. 7. The substan-

tive *μεριδαρχία* occurs at 3 Esdras i. 5, 10, where it is used to signify the division of office or dignity among the Levites : also again at ch. v. 4 ; viii. 28, &c.

<sup>l</sup> Demetrius Nicator, the son of Demetrius Soter. See Justin.

<sup>m</sup> This name is of very frequent occurrence during this

of Cœlosyria his general, who gathered together a great host, and camped in Jamnia<sup>n</sup>, and sent unto  
 70 Jonathan the high priest, saying, Thou alone lift-  
 est up thyself against us, and I am laughed to  
 scorn for thy sake, and reproached: and why dost  
 thou vaunt thy power against us in the moun-  
 71 tains? Now therefore, if thou trustest in thine  
 own strength, come down to us into the plain  
 field, and there let us try the matter together: for  
 72 with me is the power of the cities. Ask, and  
 learn who I am, and the rest who take our part,  
 and they shall tell thee, that thy foot is not able  
 to stand before our face; for thy fathers have been  
 73 twice<sup>o</sup> put to flight in their own land. Wherefore  
 now thou shalt not be able to abide the horsemen,  
 and so great a power in the plain, where is neither  
 74 stone nor flint<sup>p</sup>, nor place to flee unto. So when  
 Jonathan heard these words of Apollonius, he was  
 moved in his mind; and chusing ten thousand men,  
 he went out of Jerusalem, and Simon his brother  
 75 met him to help him. And he pitched his tents  
 against Joppe: but they of Joppe shut him out of  
 the city, because Apollonius had a garrison there.  
 76 Then Jonathan laid siege unto it: whereupon they  
 of the city let him in for fear: and so Jonathan

period of Jewish history. Pridaux mentions altogether six persons so called. The one here spoken of is judged to be the son of that Apollonius who also was governor of Cœlosyria at the time when Heliodorus attempted to plunder the temple of Jerusalem, (2 Macc. ii. 5.) and to have been the friend and fellow-fugitive

from Rome of Demetrius, who afterwards promoted him to honour.

<sup>n</sup> A town on the coast of the Mediterranean, not far from Joppe.

<sup>o</sup> See above, ch. v. 60, and ix. 6, 18.

<sup>p</sup> This seems to allude to the mode of defence which the Jews had adopted.

won Joppe. Whereof when Apollonius heard, he 77  
 took three thousand horsemen, with a great host  
*of footmen*, and went to Azotus as one who was  
 journeying through it; and therewithal marched  
 forth into the plain, because he had a great num-  
 ber of horsemen, in whom he put his trust. Then 78  
*Jonathan* followed after him to Azotus, where the  
 armies joined battle. Now Apollonius had left a 79  
 thousand horsemen in ambush behind them. And 80  
 Jonathan perceived that there was an ambush-  
 ment behind him; for they had compassed in his  
 host, and cast darts at the people, from morning  
 till evening. But the people stood still, as Jona- 81  
 than had commanded them: and so the enemies'  
 horses were tired<sup>q</sup>. Then brought Simon forth 82  
 his host, and set them against the footmen<sup>r</sup>, (for  
 the horsemen were spent;) who were discomfited  
 by him, and fled; the horsemen also, being scat- 83  
 tered in the field, fled to Azotus, and went into  
 Bethdagon<sup>s</sup>, their idol's temple, for safety. But 84  
 Jonathan set fire on Azotus, and the cities<sup>t</sup> round  
 about it, and took their spoils; and the temple of  
 Dagon, with them which had fled together into it,  
 he burnt with fire. And they which fell by the 85  
 sword, with those who were burnt, were about eight  
 thousand men. And from thence Jonathan re- 86  
 moved his host, and camped against Ascalon, where  
 the men of the city came forth, and met him with

<sup>q</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 8.

<sup>r</sup> The Greek reading varies between *φάλαγγα* and *φάραγγα*, as it did before, in the very same words, at ch. vi. 38.

<sup>s</sup> Or, "the house of Dagon," concerning which see 1 Sam. ch. v.

<sup>t</sup> Perhaps *villages*, or else *towers*, immediately adjoining to the city.

87 great pomp. After this returned Jonathan and his host unto Jerusalem, having many spoils.

88 Now it came to pass when king Alexander heard these things, he honoured Jonathan yet  
89 more; and sent him a buckle<sup>u</sup> of gold, as the use is to be given to such as are of the king's blood: he gave him also Accaron<sup>x</sup>, and all the borders thereof, in possession.

## CHAPTER XI.

*The death of Alexander, and of Ptolemy. The exploits of Jonathan.*

1 AND the king of Egypt<sup>a</sup> gathered together a great host, as the sand which is upon the sea-shore, and many ships, and sought,  
2 through deceit, to get Alexander's kingdom, and join it to his own. Whereupon he took his journey into Syria in peaceable manner, so that they of the cities opened unto him, and met him: for king Alexander had commanded them to meet  
3 him, because he was his father-in-law. Now as Ptolemy entered into the cities, he set in every  
4 one of them a garrison of soldiers to keep it. And when he came near to Azotus, they shewed him the temple of Dagon which was burnt, and Azotus and the suburbs thereof which were destroyed, and the bodies which were cast abroad, and them which he had burnt in the battle; for they had

<sup>u</sup> Gr. *πόρπην*. See Josephus, Ant. XIII. 4. It was a mark of high distinction among the Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

<sup>x</sup> Accaron, or Ekron, was

the most northern of the five cities belonging to the Philistines.

<sup>a</sup> Namely, Ptolemy Philometor.

made heaps of them by the way where he should pass. Also they told the king whatsoever Jonathan had done, to the intent he might blame him: but the king held his peace. Then Jonathan met the king with great pomp at Joppe, where they saluted one another, and slept. Afterward Jonathan, when he had gone with the king to the river called Eleutherus<sup>b</sup>, returned again to Jerusalem. King Ptolemy therefore, having gotten the dominion of the cities by the sea, unto Seleucia<sup>c</sup> upon the sea-coast, imagined wicked counsels against Alexander. Whereupon he sent ambassadors unto king Demetrius, saying; Come, let us make a league betwixt us, and I will give thee my daughter, whom Alexander hath, and thou shalt reign in thy father's kingdom: for I repent that I gave my daughter unto him, for he sought to slay me. Thus did he slander him, because he was desirous of his kingdom. Wherefore he took his daughter from him, and gave her to Demetrius, and was estranged from Alexander, so that their hatred was openly known.

Then Ptolemy entered into Antioch, where he set two crowns upon his head, the crown of Asia, and of Egypt. In the mean season was king Alexander in Cilicia, because those who dwelt in those parts had revolted from him. But when Alexan-

<sup>b</sup> This river runs into the Mediterranean sea, to the north of Tripolis. See Wells's Geography, and the authors there cited.

<sup>c</sup> Situate near the coast, upon the river Orontes. This is accounted by Appian the

most celebrated among the numerous cities built by Seleucus, to nine of which he gave the same name (Seleucia). See Appian. de Rebus Syriacis, c. 57. For its situation and military importance, consult Polybius, V. 58, 59.

der heard of this, he came to war against him : whereupon Ptolemy brought forth *his host*, and met him with a mighty power, and put him to  
 16 flight. So Alexander fled into Arabia, there to be  
 17 sheltered ; but king Ptolemy was exalted : for  
 Zabdiel<sup>d</sup> the Arabian took off Alexander's head,  
 18 and sent it unto Ptolemy. King Ptolemy also  
 died<sup>e</sup> the third day after, and they which were in  
 19 the strong holds were slain one of another. *By  
 this means* Demetrius reigned<sup>f</sup>, in the hundred  
 threescore and seventh year.

20 In those days Jonathan gathered together them  
 which were in Judæa, to take the tower <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 which was in Jerusalem : and he made <sup>145.</sup>  
 21 many engines of war against it. Then certain  
 ungodly persons, who hated their own people, went  
 unto the king, and told him that Jonathan be-  
 22 sieged the tower. Whereof when he heard, he  
 was angry ; and immediately removing, he came  
 to Ptolemais, and wrote unto Jonathan, that he  
 should not lay siege to the tower, but come and  
 23 speak with him at Ptolemais in great haste. Ne-  
 vertheless, Jonathan, when he heard this, com-  
 manded to besiege it *still* : and he chose certain  
 of the elders of Israel, and the priests, and put  
 24 himself in peril ; and taking silver and gold, and  
 raiment, and divers presents besides, he went to

<sup>d</sup> Josephus calls him Zabdelus : [and in Polybius we read of an Arabian chief named Zabdibelus, who headed the Arabian allies of Antiochus Magnus against Ptolemy Philopator. Polyb. V. 71.] Stephanus Byzantinus

calls him Rhabilus ; and Diodorus Siculus, Diocles !

<sup>e</sup> Of wounds received in the battle mentioned at verse 15. (Josephus.)

<sup>f</sup> And thenceforward took the surname of Nicator, "the Conqueror."

Ptolemais, unto the king, where he found favour in his sight. And though certain ungodly men of 25 the people had made complaints against him, yet 26 the king entreated him as his predecessors had done before, and promoted him in the sight of all his friends; and confirmed to him the high-priest- 27 hood, and all the honours which he had before, and gave him preeminence among his chief friends. Then Jonathan desired the king, that he 28 would make Judæa free from tribute, as also the three governments, with the country of Samaria<sup>g</sup>; and he promised him three hundred talents. So 29 the king consented, and wrote letters unto Jonathan of all these things, after this manner: “ King 30 “ Demetrius unto his brother Jonathan, and unto “ the nation of the Jews, sendeth greeting: The 31 “ copy of a letter, which we wrote to our cousin “ Lasthenes concerning you, we have written also “ to you, that you may know it. King Demetrius 32 “ unto his father Lasthenes<sup>h</sup>, sendeth greeting: “ We are determined to do good to the people of 33 “ the Jews, who are our friends, and keep cove- “ nants with us, because of their good-will to- “ wards us. Wherefore we have ratified unto 34 “ them the borders of Judæa, with the three go- “ vernments of Apherema, and Lydda, and Ra- “ mathem, which are added unto Judæa from the “ country of Samaria<sup>i</sup>, and all things appertaining

<sup>g</sup> Gr. *καὶ τὴν Σαμαρείαν*. But probably *καὶ* is an error for *κατὰ*, these three governments being *in* and near Samaria, (Grotius). Compare v. 34.

<sup>h</sup> The general of the Cre-

tan forces, who had assisted Demetrius to regain his kingdom. See above, ch. x. 67.

<sup>i</sup> That is, Samaria, Galilee, and Peræa. See also Josephus, Ant. XIII. 8.

“ unto them, for all such as do sacrifice in Jerusa-  
 “ lem, instead of the royal dues which the king  
 “ received of them yearly aforetime out of the  
 35 “ fruits of the earth, and of trees. And as for  
 “ other things which belong unto us, of the tithes  
 “ and customs pertaining unto us, as also the salt-  
 “ pits, and the crown-taxes<sup>k</sup>, which are due unto  
 “ us, we discharge them of them all for their re-  
 36 “ lief<sup>l</sup>. And nothing hereof shall be revoked from  
 37 “ this time forth for ever. Now therefore, see  
 “ that you make a copy of these things; and let  
 “ it be delivered unto Jonathan, and set upon the  
 “ holy mount in a conspicuous place.”

38 *After this*, when king Demetrius saw that the  
 land was quiet before him, and that no resistance  
 was made against him, he sent away all his forces,  
 every one to his own place, except the bands of  
 strangers, whom he had gathered from the isles of  
 the heathen: wherefore all the forces of his fa-  
 39 thers hated him. Moreover, there was one Try-  
 phon<sup>m</sup>, who had been of Alexander's part afore,  
 who, seeing that all the host murmured against  
 Demetrius, went to Simalcue<sup>n</sup> the Arabian, who  
 brought up Antiochus<sup>o</sup> the young son of Alexan-  
 40 der. And earnestly entreated him to deliver him  
*this young Antiochus*, that he might reign in his  
 father's stead: he told him therefore all which

<sup>k</sup> See above, at ch. x. 29.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. *ἐπαρκῶς*: which also may signify “liberally,” or “sufficiently.”

<sup>m</sup> His name was Diodotus, an Apamæan: he subsequently assumed that of Tryphon.

<sup>n</sup> The readings of this name vary greatly. Josephus calls

him Malchus. Possibly the same person is meant who at ver. 17. is called Zabdiel.

<sup>o</sup> Namely, the son of Alexander Balas, by Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy: on coming to the throne, he took the surname of Theos.

Demetrius had done, and how his forces were at enmity with him ; and there he remained a long season. In the mean time Jonathan sent unto 41 king Demetrius, that he would cast those of the tower out of Jerusalem, and those also in the fortresses : for they continually fought against Israel. And Demetrius sent unto Jonathan, saying, 42 I will not only do this for thee and thy people, but I will greatly honour thee and thy nation, if opportunity serve. Now therefore thou shalt do 43 well, if thou send me men to help me ; for all my forces are gone from me. Upon this, Jonathan 44 sent him three thousand strong men unto Antioch : and when they came to the king, the king was very glad of their coming. Howbeit, they 45 which were of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of an hundred and twenty thousand men, and would have slain the king. Wherefore the king fled into 46 the court, but they of the city kept the passages of the city, and began to fight. Then the king 47 called to the Jews for help ; who came unto him all at once, and dispersing themselves through the city, slew that day in the city to the number of an hundred thousand. Also they set fire on the 48 city, and took many spoils that day, and delivered the king. So when they of the city saw that the 49 Jews had got the city as they would, their courage was abated ; wherefore they made supplication to the king, and cried, saying, Grant us peace, 50 and let the Jews cease from assaulting us and the city. With that they cast away their weapons, 51 and made peace : and the Jews were honoured in the sight of the king, and in the sight of all who

were in his realm, and they returned to Jerusa-  
 52 lem, having great spoils. So king Demetrius sat  
 on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was  
 53 quiet before him. Nevertheless, he dissembled in  
 all which ever he spake, and estranged himself  
 from Jonathan, neither rewarded he him accord-  
 ing to the benefits which he had received of him,  
 but troubled him very sore.

54 After this returned Tryphon, and with him the  
 young child Antiochus, who reigned and B. C.  
 55 was crowned. Then there gathered unto 144.  
 him all the forces which Demetrius had put away,  
 and they fought against Demetrius, who turned  
 56 his back and fled. Moreover, Tryphon took the  
 57 elephants, and won Antioch. At that time young  
 Antiochus wrote unto Jonathan, saying, I confirm  
 to thee the high-priesthood, and appoint thee ruler  
 over the four governments<sup>p</sup>, and to be one of the  
 58 king's friends. Upon this he sent him golden  
 vessels to be served<sup>q</sup> in; and gave him leave to  
 drink in gold, and to be clothed in purple, and to  
 59 wear a golden buckle. His brother Simon also he  
 made captain from *the place, called* the ladder<sup>r</sup> of  
 60 Tyrus, unto the borders of Egypt. Then Jona-  
 than went forth, and passed over the river, and  
 through the cities *there*; and all the forces of Sy-  
 ria gathered themselves unto him to help him:  
 and when he came to Ascalon, they of the city

<sup>p</sup> Namely, the three named above, at verse 34, and Ptolemais, mentioned at chap. x. 39.

<sup>q</sup> Gr. χρυσώματα καὶ διακο-  
 νίαν; literally, "a service of  
 "gold."

<sup>r</sup> Gr. Κλίμαξ, a high moun-  
 tain so called, lying between  
 Tyre and Ptolemais. See a  
 short description of it in Jo-  
 seph. Bell. II. 17. The name  
 was applied to other places  
 also. See Polybius V. 72.

met him honourably. From whence he went to 61  
 Gaza, but they of Gaza shut him out; wherefore  
 he laid siege unto it, and burned the suburbs  
 thereof with fire, and spoiled them. Afterward, 62  
 when they of Gaza made supplication unto Jona-  
 than, he made peace with them, and took the sons  
 of their chief men for hostages, and sent them to  
 Jerusalem, and passed through the country unto  
 Damascus. Now when Jonathan heard that De- 63  
 metrius' princes were come to Cades which is in  
 Galilee, with a great power, purposing to remove  
 him out of the country<sup>s</sup>;—He went to meet them, 64  
 and left Simon his brother in the country. Then 65  
 Simon encamped against Bethsura, and fought  
 against it a long season, and shut it up. But they 66  
 desired to have peace with him, which he granted  
 them, and then put them out from thence, and  
 took the city, and set a garrison in it. As for Jo- 67  
 nathan and his host, they pitched at the water of  
 Gennesar<sup>t</sup>, from whence betimes in the morning  
 they gat them to the plain of Nasor. And behold, 68  
 the host of strangers met them in the plain; who  
 having laid men in ambush for him in the moun-  
 tains, came themselves over against him. So 69  
 when they which lay in ambush rose out of their  
 places, and joined battle, all who were of Jona-  
 than's side fled; insomuch that there was not one 70  
 of them left, except Mattathias *the son* of Absa-  
 lom, and Judas *the son* of Calphi, the captains of  
 the host. Then Jonathan rent his clothes, and 71  
 cast earth upon his head, and prayed. Afterwards 72

<sup>s</sup> Or, "from his office:"  
 the Vatican MS. reads, ἀπὸ  
 τῆς χρείας: but the Alexan-

drian, ἀπὸ τῆς χόρας.

<sup>t</sup> The lake of Gennesareth.

turning again to battle, he put them to flight, and  
 73 so they ran away. Now when his own men who  
 had fled saw this, they turned again unto him,  
 and with him pursued them to Cades, even unto  
 74 their own tents, and there they camped. So there  
 were slain of the heathen that day, about three  
 thousand men: and Jonathan returned to Jeru-  
 salem.

## CHAPTER XII.

*Jonathan renews the league with the Romans and Lacedæmonians. He is made prisoner by Tryphon.*

1 Now when Jonathan saw that the time served  
 him, he chose certain men, and sent them to Rome,  
 to confirm and renew the friendship which they  
 2 had with them. He sent letters also to the Lacedæmonians<sup>a</sup>, and to other places for the same pur-  
 3 pose. So they went unto Rome, and entered  
 into the senate-house, and said, "Jonathan the  
 " high priest, and the people of the Jews, sent us  
 " unto you, to the end ye should renew the friend-  
 " ship which ye had with them, and league, as in  
 4 " former time." Upon this *the Romans* gave them  
 letters unto the governors of every place, that they  
 should bring them into the land of Judah in peace.  
 5 And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan  
 6 wrote unto the Lacedæmonians: "Jonathan the  
 " high priest, and the elders of the nation, and the  
 " priests, and the other people of the Jews, unto  
 " the Lacedæmonians their brethren, send greet-  
 7 " ing: There were letters sent in times past unto

<sup>a</sup> The Greek text here and in other passages has *Σπαρτιάταις*, but there is no ground

for supposing that only the inhabitants of Sparta itself are intended.

“ Onias<sup>b</sup> the high priest from Darius<sup>c</sup>, who  
 “ reigned then among you, to signify that ye are  
 “ our brethren, as the copy here underwritten  
 “ doth specify. At which time Onias entreated 8  
 “ honourably the ambassador who was sent, and  
 “ received the letters, wherein declaration was  
 “ made of the league and friendship. Therefore 9  
 “ we also, albeit we need none of these things, for  
 “ that we have the holy books of Scripture in our  
 “ hands to comfort us, have nevertheless attempted 10  
 “ to send unto you, for the renewing of brother-  
 “ hood and friendship, lest we should become  
 “ strangers unto you altogether: for there is a  
 “ long time passed since ye sent unto us. We 11  
 “ therefore, at all times, without ceasing, both in  
 “ our feasts and other convenient days, do re-  
 “ member you in the sacrifices which we offer,  
 “ and in our prayers; as is right, and as it becometh  
 “ us to think upon our brethren: and we are right 12  
 “ glad of your glory. But *as for us*, many troubles 13  
 “ and many wars have environed us; forsomuch as  
 “ the kings who are round about us, have fought

<sup>b</sup> Probably he was the second of that name, the son of Simon the Just.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus (Antiq. XIII. 8.) contends and justly, that the word ought to be *Arius*, not Darius, a name unknown among the Lacedæmonians. In the Greek, as in the English, there is merely the difference of a single letter; and the mistake may have arisen from the similarity of form between Δ and Α. Grotius decides *Arius* to be the true reading. A Spartan king of

that name is mentioned by Pausanias and Livy: and the chronologers make Arius contemporary with the high priest Onias; namely, the *second* of that name; for, although some writers have attributed the transaction to Onias III, the son of Simon, we must remember that Jonathan's letter speaks of it as of a thing long past; and also, that before Onias III. succeeded to the high-priesthood, the regal government had ceased to exist at Sparta.

14 “ against us. Howbeit, we would not be trouble-  
 “ some unto you, nor to others of our confederates  
 15 “ and friends in these wars: for we have help from  
 “ heaven which succoureth us, so that we are de-  
 “ livered from our enemies, and our enemies are  
 16 “ humbled. For this cause we have chosen Nu-  
 “ menius *the son* of Antiochus, and Antipater *the*  
 “ *son* of Jason, and sent them unto the Romans,  
 “ to renew the amity which we had with them,  
 17 “ and the former league. We commanded them  
 “ also to go unto you, and to salute you, and to  
 “ deliver you our letters concerning the renewing  
 18 “ of our brotherhood. Wherefore now ye shall  
 19 “ do well to give us an answer thereto.” And  
 this is the copy of the letters which Arius sent<sup>d</sup>  
 20 to Onias. “ Arius king of the Lacedæmonians,  
 21 “ to Onias the high priest, greeting: It is found  
 “ in writing, that the Lacedæmonians and Jews  
 “ are brethren<sup>e</sup>, and that they are of the stock of  
 22 “ Abraham: now therefore, since this is come to  
 “ our knowledge, ye shall do well to write unto us  
 23 “ of your welfare. We do write back again to  
 “ you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and  
 “ ours are yours. We do command therefore *our*

<sup>d</sup>The old translation, “ which Oniases sent,” was unintelligible, and had arisen from a faulty reading, ἣν ἀπέστειλεν Ὀνιάρης, instead of Ὀνιάριος. Josephus recites this epistle, with some slight difference, (more in words than matter,) in his Antiquities, XII. 5.

<sup>e</sup> See Shuckford’s Connection of Sacred and Profane History, book X. The Lacedæmonians were Dorians, derived from the Pelasgi, who sprung from the descendants of Abraham and Keturah, mentioned in Genesis xxv. The Cretans have been supposed to form the connecting link. See Tacit. Hist. V. 2: and consult a long dissertation on the subject by Calmet, in his “ Literal Comment on the “ Bible.”

dæmonians were Dorians, derived from the Pelasgi, who sprung from the descendants of Abraham and Keturah, mentioned in Genesis xxv. The Cretans have been supposed to form the connecting link. See Tacit. Hist. V. 2: and consult a long dissertation on the subject by Calmet, in his “ Literal Comment on the “ Bible.”

“ *ambassadors* to make report unto you on this  
“ wise.”

Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius' 24  
princes were come to fight against him with a  
greater host than afore, he removed from Jerusa- 25  
lem, and met them in the land of Amathis<sup>f</sup>: for  
he gave them no respite to invade his country.  
He sent spies also unto their tents, who came again, 26  
and told him, that they had appointed to come  
upon them in the night-season. Wherefore so 27  
soon as the sun was down, Jonathan commanded  
his men to watch, and to be in arms, that all the  
night long they might be ready to fight: also he  
sent forth sentinels round about the host. But 28  
when the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his  
men were ready for battle, they feared and trem-  
bled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their  
camp<sup>g</sup>. Howbeit, Jonathan and his company 29  
knew it not till the morning: for they saw the  
lights burning. Then Jonathan pursued after 30  
them, but overtook them not: for they were gone  
over the river Eleutherus. Wherefore Jonathan 31  
turned aside to the Arabians, who were called Za-  
badæans<sup>h</sup>, and smote them, and took their spoils.  
And removing thence, he came to Damascus, and 32  
so passed through all the country. Simon also 33  
went forth, and passed through the country unto  
Ascalon, and the strong holds there adjoining;

<sup>f</sup> Or, Hamath, on the north-  
ern border of the Holy Land,  
called in Scripture “ the en-  
tering into Hamath.”

<sup>g</sup> Add, “ and fled.” See in  
Xenophon's Anabasis, and  
other instances of this strata-

gem recorded in Grecian and  
Roman history. Compare Jo-  
seph. Antiq. XIII. 9.

<sup>h</sup> Probably the word ought  
to be *Nabathæans*, as Jose-  
phus writes it. See ch. v. 25.

from whence he turned aside to Joppe, and won  
 34 it. For he had heard that they would deliver the  
 fortress unto them which took Demetrius' part;  
 wherefore he set a garrison there to keep it.

35 After this came Jonathan home again, and call-  
 ing the elders of the people together, he consulted  
 with them about building strong holds in Judæa;  
 36 and making the walls of Jerusalem higher, and  
 raising a great mount between the tower and the  
 city, to separate it from the city, that so it might  
 be alone, that men might neither sell nor buy<sup>i</sup> in  
 37 it. Upon this they came together, to build up the  
 city; and *part of* the wall toward the brook on the  
 east side was fallen down<sup>k</sup>; and they repaired that  
 38 which was called Capphenatha. Simon also set up  
 Adida, in Sephela<sup>l</sup>, and made it strong with gates  
 and bars.

39 Now Tryphon sought to get the kingdom of  
 Asia, to put the crown on himself, and to stretch  
 forth his hand against Antiochus<sup>m</sup> the king.  
 40 Howbeit he was afraid that Jonathan would not  
 suffer him, and that he would fight against him;  
 wherefore he sought a way how to take Jonathan,

<sup>i</sup> And thus might be com-  
 pelled to surrender the ob-  
 noxious tower through want  
 of provisions. See the result  
 of this manœuvre at ch. xiii.  
 49, 50, 51.

<sup>k</sup> There is a variety of read-  
 ing on this passage; *Καὶ ἤγγισε*  
*τοῦ τείχους τοῦ χειμάρρου*, and  
*καὶ ἐπέσεν τοῦ τείχους τ. χ.* If  
 the former be adopted, we  
 must translate it, "and their  
 "work approached to the  
 "wall toward the brook."

<sup>l</sup> This word appears to mean  
*generally*, "a plain." Here  
 it seems to be taken for the  
 southern part of the great  
 plain of Esdraelon mentioned  
 at Judith i. 8, and particu-  
 larly to denote the open coun-  
 try round Eleutheropolis, a  
 city of eminence in later times,  
 situate to the west of Jerusa-  
 lem.

<sup>m</sup> See the successful issue  
 of this treachery at ch. xiii.  
 31.

that he might kill him. So he removed, and came to Bethsan. Then Jonathan went out to meet 41 him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and came to Bethsan. Now when Tryphon saw 42 that Jonathan came with so great a force, he durst not stretch his hand against him: but received 43 him honourably, and commended him unto all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his armies to be as obedient unto him as to himself. Unto Jonathan also he said, Why hast thou put 44 all this people to so great trouble, seeing there is no war betwixt us? therefore send them now 45 home again, and choose a few men to wait on thee, and come thou with me to Ptolemais, and I will give it thee, and the rest of the strong holds and forces, and all who have any charge: as for me, I will return and depart: for this is the cause of my coming. So Jonathan believing him, did 46 as he bade him, and sent away his host, who went into the land of Judah. And with himself he re- 47 tained but three thousand men, of whom he left two thousand in Galilee, and one thousand went with him.

Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptole- 48 mais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and took him, and all them which came with him they slew with the sword. Then sent Tryphon an host of 49 footmen and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's company. But when they knew that Jonathan and they 50 which were with him were taken and slain, they encouraged one another, and went close together prepared to fight. They therefore which followed 51 upon them, perceiving that they were ready to

52 fight for their lives, turned back again. Where-  
upon they all came into the land of Judah peace-  
ably, and there they bewailed Jonathan, and them  
which were with him, and they were sore afraid ;  
53 wherefore all Israel made great lamentation. Then  
all the heathen who were round about them sought  
to destroy them : for, said they, They have no  
captain, nor any to help them : now therefore let  
us make war upon them, and take away their me-  
morial from amongst men.

## CHAPTER XIII.

*Simon made captain. His acts. Jonathan's death, bu-  
rial, and monument. Tryphon seizes the kingdom.*

1 Now when Simon<sup>a</sup> heard that Tryphon had  
gathered together a great host, to invade the land  
2 of Judah and destroy it ; and saw that the people  
was in great trembling and fear, he went up to  
3 Jerusalem, and gathered the people together ; and  
gave them exhortation, saying, Ye yourselves  
know what great things I and my brethren, and  
my father's house, have done for the laws and the  
sanctuary, the battles also and troubles which we  
4 have seen. By reason whereof all my brethren  
are slain for Israel's sake, and I am left alone.  
5 Now therefore be it far from me that I should  
spare mine own life in any time of trouble : for I  
6 am no better than my brethren. Doubtless I  
will avenge my nation and the sanctuary, and  
our wives and our children : for all the heathen  
7 are gathered to destroy us of very malice. And  
he rekindled the spirit of the people, as soon as

<sup>a</sup> The second son of Mattathias, and elder brother of Judas.

they heard these words. And they answered with 8  
a loud voice, saying, Thou art our leader instead  
of Judas and Jonathan thy brother. Fight thou 9  
our battles, and whatsoever thou commandest us,  
that will we do. So then he gathered together 10  
all the men of war, and made haste to finish the  
walls of Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about.  
Also he sent Jonathan the *son* of Absalom, and 11  
with him a great power, to Joppe: who casting  
out them which were therein, remained there in  
it.

So Tryphon removed from Ptolemais with a 12  
great power to invade the land of Judah, and  
Jonathan was with him in ward. But Simon 13  
pitched his tents at Adida, over against the plain<sup>b</sup>.  
Now when Tryphon knew that Simon was risen 14  
up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to  
join battle with him, he sent messengers unto him,  
saying, Whereas we have Jonathan thy brother 15  
in hold, it is for money which Jonathan thy bro-  
ther owed to the king's treasure from the office  
which he held, that we detain him. Wherefore 16  
now send an hundred talents of silver, and two  
of his sons for hostages, that when he is at liberty  
he may not revolt from us, and we will let him  
go. Hereupon Simon, albeit he perceived that 17  
they spake deceitfully unto him, yet sent he the  
money and the children, lest peradventure he  
should procure to himself great hatred of the peo-  
ple: who might have said, Because I sent him 18  
not the money and the children, therefore is  
*Jonathan* dead. So he sent the children and the 19  
hundred talents: howbeit *Tryphon* dissembled,

<sup>b</sup> Namely, of Sephela, mentioned above at ch. xii. 38.

20 neither would he let Jonathan go. And after this came Tryphon to invade the land, and destroy it, going round about by the way which leadeth unto Adora<sup>c</sup>: but Simon and his host marched against  
 21 him in every place wheresoever he went. Now they which were in the tower, sent messengers unto Tryphon, to the end that he should hasten his coming unto them by the wilderness, and send  
 22 them victuals. Wherefore Tryphon made ready all his horsemen to come that night: but there fell a very great snow, by reason whereof he came not. So he departed, and came into the country  
 23 of Galaad. And when he came near to Bascama<sup>d</sup>,  
 24 he slew Jonathan, who was buried there. Afterward Tryphon returned, and went into his own land.

25 Then sent Simon, and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried them in Mo-  
 26 din the city of his fathers. And all Israel <sup>B. C. 143.</sup> made great lamentation for him, and bewailed him many days.

27 Simon also built a monument upon the sepulchre of his father and his brethren, and raised it aloft to the sight, with polished stone behind and  
 28 before. Moreover, he set up seven pyramids one against another, for his father and his mother,  
 29 and his four brethren. And on these he made cunning devices, about the which he set great pillars, and upon the pillars he made all their armour for a perpetual memory, and by the armour

<sup>c</sup> Or Dorah, a town lying in the southern part of Judæa, near the borders of Idumæa.

<sup>d</sup> Calmet judges this to be Bezek, a town not far from Bethsan.

hips carved, that they might be seen by all who sail on the sea. This is the sepulchre which he so made at Modin, *and it standeth yet<sup>e</sup>* unto this day.

Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young king Antiochus, and slew him<sup>f</sup>. And he reigned on his stead, and crowned himself king of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land.

Then Simon built up the strong holds in Judæa; and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars; and laid up victuals in the strong holds. Moreover, Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end he should give the land an immunity, because of which Tryphon did was to spoil<sup>g</sup>. And king Demetrius sent to him according to these words: and answered him, and wrote him a letter, to this effect: “King Demetrius unto Simon the high 36

<sup>e</sup> So said Josephus: and so reported Eusebius, in the fourth century after Christ. See Eusebius *περὶ τῶν τοπικῶν νομάτων τῶν ἐν τῇ θείᾳ γραφῇ*, published (together with a Latin version of it, by St. Jerome) by Vallarsius, from a Greek MS. of the tenth century in the Vatican Library, 1 vol. III. of the works of St. Jerome, p. 248. *Μηδεεῖμ λεγε Μωδεεῖμ) κωμῆ πλησίον Αισσπόλεως, ὅθεν ἦσαν οἱ Μακκααῖοι, ὧν καὶ τὰ μνήματα εἰς ἔτι ὄν δεικνυται.* On which Jerome observes; “Satis itaque miror quomodo Antiochiæ reorum reliquias ostendant, aut quo hoc certo autore sit creditum.” But his editor

rightly corrects this slip of the author’s memory, by remarking that the brothers, whose sepulchres were at Modin, were the true Maccabees, the sons of Mattathias: but that the martyrs, whose relics were exhibited at Antioch, were the seven brethren tortured to death by Antiochus, to whom the name of *Maccabees* was commonly, though improperly, attributed.

<sup>f</sup> In what manner the death of this young prince was effected, may be seen in Josephus, and in the Epitome of book LV. of Livy.

<sup>g</sup> Literally, “all Tryphon’s doings were robberies.”

“ priest, and friend of kings, as also unto the  
 “ elders and nation of the Jews, sendeth greet-  
 37 “ ing : The golden crown and the *golden* palm-  
 “ branch<sup>h</sup>, which ye sent unto us, we have re-  
 “ ceived; and we are ready to make a steadfast  
 “ peace with you; yea, and to write unto our  
 38 “ officers, to grant you immunities. And what-  
 “ soever covenants we have made with you, still  
 “ stand; and the strong holds which ye have  
 39 “ builded, let them be your own. As for any  
 “ oversights or faults committed unto this day, we  
 “ forgive them, and the crown-tax also which ye  
 “ owe us; and if there were any other tribute  
 40 “ paid in Jerusalem, let it be paid no more. And  
 “ if there be any among you meet to be enrolled  
 “ in our court, let them be enrolled, and let there  
 41 “ be peace betwixt us.” Thus the yoke of the  
 heathen was taken away from Israel, in the hun-  
 42 dred and seventieth year. Then the people of Is-  
 rael began to write in their instruments and con-  
 tracts, “ In the first year of Simon the great high  
 “ priest, the governor and leader of the Jews.”  
 43 In those days Simon camped against Gaza<sup>i</sup>,  
 and besieged it round about; he made also en-  
 gines of war<sup>j</sup>, and set them by the city, and bat-

<sup>h</sup> Gr. βαϊνήν. But some in-  
 terpreters think this word sig-  
 nifies “ a robe embroidered  
 “ with palms.” Compare  
 3 Macc. xiv. 4.

<sup>i</sup> Probably we ought to read  
 “ Gazara.” Compare verses  
 48 and 53; also ch. xiv. 7.

<sup>j</sup> Gr. ἐλεπόλεις. The hele-  
 polis appears to have been a  
 machine of vast size and most  
 formidable power: it was a

great favourite with Deme-  
 trius, the son of Antigonus;  
 who from its frequent and  
 successful use in sieges took  
 the name of *Poliorcetes*. It  
 is mentioned by several Greek  
 and Latin writers: but the  
 most minute account of its  
 construction is furnished to  
 us by Ammianus Marcellin-  
 us, XXIII. 5, in the fol-  
 lowing terms: “ Pro his ari-

tered a certain tower, and took it. And they 44  
 which were in the engines leapt into the city;  
 whereupon there was a great uproar in the city:  
 insomuch that the people of the city rent their 45  
 clothes, and climbed upon the walls with their

“ etum meditantis jam cre-  
 “ britate despectis, conditur  
 “ machina scriptoribus histo-  
 “ ricis nota, quam helepolim  
 “ Græci cognominamus: cu-  
 “ jus opera diuturna Deme-  
 “ trius Antigoni filius regis,  
 “ Rhodo aliisque urbibus op-  
 “ pugnatis, Poliorcetes est ap-  
 “ pellatus. Ædificatur autem  
 “ hoc modo. Testudo com-  
 “ paginatur immanis, axibus  
 “ roborata longissimis, ferre-  
 “ isque clavis aptata: et con-  
 “ tegitur coriis bubulis virga-  
 “ rumque recenti textura,  
 “ atque limo asperguntur e-  
 “ jus suprema, ut flammeos  
 “ detrectet et missiles casus.  
 “ Conseruntur autem ejus  
 “ frontalibus trisulcæ cuspi-  
 “ des præacutæ, ponderibus  
 “ ferreis graves, qualia nobis  
 “ pictores ostendunt fulmina  
 “ vel fictores, ut quidquid pe-  
 “ tierit aculeis exertis abrum-  
 “ pat. Hanc ita validam mo-  
 “ lem rotis et funibus re-  
 “ gens numerosus intrinsecus  
 “ miles, languidiori murorum  
 “ parti viribus admovet con-  
 “ citis: et nisi depropugnans  
 “ tium valuerint vires, collisis  
 “ parietibus aditus patefacit  
 “ ingentes.” Vitruvius, at  
 book X. chap. 22, describes,  
 somewhat differently, the one  
 used by Demetrius at Rhodes,  
 which he says was 125 feet  
 high, and 60 in width. It

was so strongly secured by  
 hair-cloths and raw hides, as  
 to withstand the blow of a  
 stone of 360 pounds weight  
 hurled from a balista. This  
 formidable engine having been  
 rendered useless by the be-  
 sieged, through a stratagem,  
 was subsequently captured by  
 them and drawn into their  
 city in triumph. Diodorus  
 Siculus, lib. XX. (p. 785,  
 edit. 1607,) mentions another  
 constructed by Demetrius,  
 which was in height 90 cu-  
 bits, and 45 cubits in width,  
 [nearly the same admeasure-  
 ments as those given by Vi-  
 truvius.] It consisted of nine  
 stories; stood upon four  
 wheels of eight cubits in  
 height: in the several stories  
 were balistæ, catapultæ, and  
 all sorts of instruments of an-  
 noyance, with more than two  
 hundred men to make use of  
 these. This machine was  
 burnt by the besieged, at Sa-  
 lamis. Plutarch, in the Life  
 of Demetrius, (tom. V. p. 26,  
 ed. Bryan,) states its height  
 at 66 cubits, and its breadth  
 at 48. The immense weight  
 of the helepolis is also  
 mentioned by Athenæus, X.  
 3. (p. 415, ed. Casaub.)  
 where he speaks of one being  
 gotten out of a slough, through  
 the powerful music of a piper!

wives and children, and cried with a loud voice,  
 46 beseeching Simon to grant them peace. And they  
 said, Deal not with us according to our wicked-  
 47 nesses, but according to thy mercy. So Simon  
 was appeased towards them, and fought no more  
 against them; but put them out of the city, and  
 cleansed the houses wherein the idols were: and  
 so entered into it with songs and thanksgivings.  
 48 Yea, he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed  
 such men there, as would keep the law; and made  
 it stronger than it was before, and built therein  
 a dwelling-place for himself.

49 They also of the tower in Jerusalem were kept  
 so strait, that they could neither come forth, B. C.  
 nor go into the country, nor buy, nor sell: 142.  
 wherefore they were in great distress for want of  
 victuals, and a great number of them perished  
 50 through famine. Then cried they to Simon, be-  
 seeching him that they might have peace: which  
 thing he granted them; and when he had put  
 them out from thence, he cleansed the tower from  
 51 pollutions: and entered into it the three and  
 twentieth day of the second month, in the hun-  
 dred seventy and first year, with thanksgiving  
 and branches of palm-trees, and with harps, and  
 cymbals, and with viols, and hymns, and songs:  
 because there was destroyed a great enemy<sup>k</sup> out  
 52 of Israel. He ordained also, that they should keep  
 that day every year with gladness. Moreover,  
 the hill of the temple, which was by the tower, he

<sup>k</sup> From the time when this tower was erected and gar-  
 risoned by Antiochus Épi-  
 phanes, (see ch. i. 33—36,)

it had been ever “ a sore  
 “ snare” and “ an evil adver-  
 “ sary to Israel.”

made stronger<sup>1</sup> than it was, and there he dwelt himself with his company. And when Simon saw 53 that John his son was a valiant man, he made him captain of all the hosts; and he dwelt in Gazara.

#### CHAPTER XIV.

*The good deeds of Simon. His fame. Renewal of the league by the Romans and Lacedæmonians.*

NOW in the hundred threescore and twelfth 1  
 B. C. year, king Demetrius gathered his forces  
 141. together, and went into Media<sup>a</sup>, to get him help to fight against Tryphon. But when Arsaces, the king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrius was entered within his borders, he sent one of his princes, to take him alive: who went 3 and smote the host of Demetrius, and took him, and brought him to Arsaces, and he put him in ward.

As for the land *of Judah*, that was quiet all 4 the days of Simon; for he sought the good of his nation in such wise, as that evermore his authority and honour pleased them well. And in addition 5 to all his glory, he took Joppe for an haven, and made it an entrance to the isles of the sea, and 6 enlarged the bounds of his nation, and recovered the country. And gathered together a great num- 7 ber of captives, and had the dominion of Gazara, and Bethsura, and the tower, out of the which he

<sup>1</sup> Namely, by lowering the adjoining hill, on which the obnoxious tower had stood. This great undertaking he accomplished by the unceasing labour of his people by day

and night during three years. (Josephus.)

<sup>a</sup> By which is meant the countries subject to the Parthians, under Arsaces, (or more properly Mithridates.)

took all impurities ; neither was there any who  
8 resisted him. Then did they till their ground in  
peace, and the earth gave her increase, and the  
9 trees of the field their fruit. The ancient men sat  
also in the streets, communing together of good  
things, and the young men put on glorious and  
10 warlike apparel. He provided victuals for the  
cities, and set in them all manner of munition <sup>b</sup>,  
so that his honourable name was renowned unto  
11 the end of the world. He made peace in the  
12 lands, and Israel rejoiced with great joy: for every  
man sat under his vine and his fig-tree, and there  
13 was none to fray them: neither was there any  
left in the land to fight against them: yea, the  
kings themselves were overthrown in those days.  
14 Moreover, he strengthened all those of his people  
who were brought low: the law he searched out,  
and every contemner of the law and wicked per-  
15 son he took away. He beautified the sanctuary,  
and multiplied the vessels of the sanctuary.  
16 Now it was heard at Rome, and as far as  
Sparta, that Jonathan was dead; and they were  
17 very sorry. But as soon as they heard that his  
brother Simon was made high priest in his stead,  
18 and ruled the country, and the cities therein: they  
wrote unto him in tables of brass, to renew the  
friendship and league which they had made with  
19 Judas and Jonathan his brethren: which writings  
were read before the congregation at Jerusalem.  
20 And this is the copy of the letters which the Lacedæ-  
monians sent: "The rulers of the Lacedæmonians,  
" and the city, unto Simon the high priest, and  
" the elders and priests, and residue of the people

<sup>b</sup> Gr. σκεύεσιν ὀχυρώσεως.

“ of the Jews, our brethren, *send* greeting: The 21  
 “ ambassadors who were sent unto our people,  
 “ certified us of your glory and honour: wherefore  
 “ we were glad of their coming: and did register 22  
 “ the things which they spake in the council of  
 “ the people, in this manner: Numenius<sup>c</sup> *son* of  
 “ Antiochus, and Antipater *son* of Jason, the Jews’  
 “ ambassadors, came unto us to renew the friend-  
 “ ship which they had with us. And it pleased 23  
 “ the people to entertain the men honourably,  
 “ and to put the copy of their ambassage in the  
 “ appointed records of the people: to the end the  
 “ people of the Lacedæmonians might have a me-  
 “ morial thereof: furthermore, we have written  
 “ a copy thereof unto Simon the high priest.”

After this, Simon sent Numenius to Rome, with 24  
 a great shield of gold of a thousand minæ<sup>d</sup>, to con-  
 firm the league with them. Whereof when the 25  
 people heard, they said, What thanks shall we  
 give to Simon and his sons? For he and his 26  
 brethren, and the house of his father, have esta-  
 blished Israel, and chased away in fight their ene-  
 mies from them, and confirmed their liberty. So 27  
 then they wrote *it* in the tables of brass, which  
 they set upon pillars in mount Sion: and this is  
 the copy of the writing: “The eighteenth day of  
 “ *the month* Elul<sup>e</sup>, in the hundred threescore and  
 “ twelfth year, being the third year of Simon the  
 “ high priest: at Saramel<sup>f</sup> in the great congre- 28

<sup>c</sup> See ch. xii. 16.

<sup>d</sup> Or pounds. If the Attic mina be the weight here meant, it is considered equal to twenty-five Jewish shekels. A shekel *of gold* is one quar-

ter of an ounce; of silver, half an ounce.

<sup>e</sup> Nearly answering to our August.

<sup>f</sup> Or, Asaramel. It is not clear what place is intended

“gation of the priests and people, and rulers of  
 “the nation, and elders of the country, were these  
 29 “things notified unto us. Forasmuch as often-  
 “times there have been wars in the country; and  
 “Simon the son of Mattathias, the son of the sons  
 “of Jarib, and his brethren, have put themselves  
 “in jeopardy; and have resisted the enemies of  
 “their nation, that their sanctuary and law might  
 “be maintained; and have honoured their nation  
 30 “with great honour:—(For after that Jonathan,  
 “having gathered his nation together, and been  
 31 “their high priest, was added to his people; their  
 “enemies purposed to invade their country, that  
 “they might destroy it, and lay hands on the  
 32 “sanctuary: at which time Simon rose up, and  
 “fought for his nation, and spent much of his  
 “own substance, and armed the mighty men of  
 33 “his nation, and gave them wages, and forti-  
 “fied the cities of Judæa, together with Bethsura  
 “which lieth upon the borders of Judæa, where  
 “the armour of the enemies had been before; and  
 34 “set a garrison of Jews there. Moreover, he for-  
 “tified Joppe which lieth upon the sea, and Ga-  
 “zara which bordereth upon Azotus, where the  
 “enemies had dwelt before: and placed Jews  
 “there, and furnished them with all things conve-  
 35 “nient for the reparation thereof.) The people  
 “therefore, seeing the acts of Simon, and unto  
 “what glory he thought to bring his nation,

by this expression. Grotius thinks, “the hall of Millo,” mentioned at 1 Kings ix. 24, in which D. Kimchi, a rabbinical commentator, asserts that the public assemblies were formerly holden. It has

been conjectured also, that possibly the word is a corrupt reading of “Jerusalem,” by a careless transposition of letters. More light is yet wanted on the subject.

“ made him their governor, and chief priest ; be-  
 “ cause he had done all these things, and for the  
 “ justice and faith which he kept to his nation,  
 “ and for that he sought by all means to exalt his  
 “ people. For in his days things prospered in his 36  
 “ hands, so that the heathen were taken out of  
 “ their country, and they also which were in the  
 “ city of David in Jerusalem, who had made  
 “ themselves a tower, out of which they issued,  
 “ and polluted all about the sanctuary, and did  
 “ much hurt in the holy places<sup>g</sup> : but he placed 37  
 “ Jews therein, and fortified it for the safety of  
 “ the country, and the city, and raised up the  
 “ walls of Jerusalem. King Demetrius also con- 38  
 “ firmed to him the high-priesthood, according to  
 “ those things. And made him one of his friends, 39  
 “ and honoured him with great honour. For he 40  
 “ had heard say, that the Jews were called by the  
 “ Romans their friends, and confederates, and  
 “ brethren ; and that they had entertained the  
 “ ambassadors of Simon honourably : also, that 41  
 “ the Jews and priests were well pleased that Si-  
 “ mon should be their governor and high priest  
 “ for ever, until there should arise a faithful  
 “ prophet<sup>h</sup>. Moreover, that he should be their 42  
 “ captain, and should take charge of the sanctuary,  
 “ to set them over their works, and over the coun-  
 “ try, and over the armour, and over the for-  
 “ tresses ; that (*I say*) he should take charge of

<sup>g</sup> The Greek reads *ἐν τῇ ἀγνείᾳ*, which is obscure : possibly it may mean, “ did much harm to the purity of worship.”

<sup>h</sup> The same expectation is admitted at chap. iv. 46 ; and

deserves to be borne in mind. It seems akin to the idea expressed at Ezra ii. 63, where mention is made of the possible return of a priest with the power of Urim and Thummim.

- 43 “ the sanctuary; besides this, that he should be  
 “ obeyed by every man, and that all the writings  
 “ in the country should be made in his name, and  
 “ that he should be clothed in purple, and wear  
 44 “ gold ; also, that it should be lawful for none of  
 “ the people or priests to break any of these  
 “ things, or to gainsay his words, or to gather an  
 “ assembly in the country without him, or to be  
 “ clothed in purple, or to wear a buckle of gold ;  
 45 “ and whosoever should do otherwise, or break  
 “ any of these things, he should be punished<sup>i</sup>.  
 46 “ Thus it pleased all the people to deal with Si-  
 “ mon, and to do as hath been said.”
- 47 Then Simon accepted hereof, and was well  
 pleased to be high priest, and captain, and gover-  
 nor of the Jews and priests, and to defend them  
 48 all. So they commanded to put this writing in  
 tables of brass, and to set them up within the  
 compass of the sanctuary in a conspicuous place;  
 49 also to lay up the copies thereof in the treasury,  
 to the end that Simon and his sons might have  
 them.

## CHAPTER XV.

*The acts and honours of Simon. Antiochus defeats  
 Tryphon : and sends Cendebæus into Judæa.*

- 1 MOREOVER, Antiochus son of Demetrius the  
 king, sent letters from the isles<sup>b</sup> of the B. C.  
 sea, unto Simon the priest, and prince of 140.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. *ἐνοχος ἔσται*, “ he shall  
 “ be holden guilty of a crime.”  
 Compare Matt. v. 21, 22.

<sup>a</sup> Surnamed Pius, and Side-  
 tes : he was the son of Deme-  
 trius Soter, and younger bro-  
 ther of Demetrius Nicator,

who had been taken prisoner  
 by Arsaces, as stated above,  
 at ch. xiv. 3.

<sup>b</sup> Probably meaning Crete,  
 to which his brother Deme-  
 trius had fled upon the death  
 of his father.

the Jews, and to all the people. The contents 2  
 whereof were these : “ King Antiochus to Simon  
 “ the high priest, and prince of his nation, and to  
 “ the people of the Jews, greeting : Forasmuch as 3  
 “ certain pestilent men<sup>c</sup> have usurped the king-  
 “ dom of our fathers, and my purpose is to chal-  
 “ lenge it again, that I may restore it to the old  
 “ estate, and to that end have gathered a multi-  
 “ tude of foreign soldiers together, and prepared  
 “ ships of war ; my intention also being to go 4  
 “ through the country, that I may punish them  
 “ which have destroyed our country, and made  
 “ many cities in the kingdom desolate : now there- 5  
 “ fore I confirm unto thee all the immunities  
 “ which the kings before me granted thee, and  
 “ whatsoever gifts besides they granted. I give 6  
 “ thee leave also to coin money<sup>d</sup> for thy coun-

<sup>c</sup> Meaning Tryphon and his supporters.

<sup>d</sup> That the Jews immediately availed themselves of this privilege, we have evidence, in coins both of brass and silver, struck by direction of Simon, which are still remaining in many public and private cabinets. They are of various size, metal, type, and inscription ; but, I believe, all agree in bearing the date of their execution, anno 1, 2, 3, or 4 : that is, of Simon's government. Two of them, one a silver shekel, the other a small brass piece, are engraved in Wise's "Nummi " Bodleiani," fol. 1750 : tab. xv. pp. 93, 215 : and these, together with several others, are still preserved in the Bod-

leian collection. Many are delineated in the " Nummi " Pembrochiani," 4to, 1746. part 2, tab. 85. See also " Relandus de Nummis Sa- " maritanis," 8vo, 1709. Dr. Kennicot has figured and described a brassen piece of the fourth year, at p. 47, 48, 49, of his tract, entitled, " Ob- " servations on the First " Book of Samuel, ch. vi. " 19." 8vo, Oxford, 1768. But this, together with many others, of every year of Simon, and also several attributed to Jonathan, Simon's brother, to John Hyrcanus, to Aristobulus, &c. may be found beautifully engraved, and most elaborately described and discussed, in " Bayerius de Num- " mis Hebræo-Samaritanis,"

- 7 “ try, with thine own stamp. And as concerning  
 “ Jerusalem, and the sanctuary, let them be free<sup>e</sup>;  
 “ and all the armour which thou hast made, and  
 “ fortresses which thou hast built, and keepest in  
 8 “ thine hands, let them remain unto thee. And  
 “ if any thing be, or shall be owing to the king,  
 “ let it be forgiven thee from this time forth for  
 9 “ evermore. Furthermore, when we have ob-  
 “ tained our kingdom, we will honour thee, and  
 “ thy nation, and thy temple, with great honour,  
 “ so that your honour shall be known throughout  
 “ the world.”
- 10 In the hundred threescore and fourteenth year  
 went Antiochus into the land of his fathers: and  
 all the forces came together unto him, so that few  
 11 were left with Tryphon. And king An- B. C.  
 tiochus pursued him, and he fled unto Do- 139.  
 12 ra<sup>f</sup>, which lieth by the sea-side. For he saw that  
 troubles came upon him all at once, and that his  
 13 forces had forsaken him. Then camped Antio-  
 chus against Dora, and with him an hundred and

4to, Valentiaë, 1781. Bayer, however, was warmly attacked by Tychsen, another celebrated numismatist, who denied the genuineness of the specimens: but he defended himself with vigour, in “ Numorum Hebræo-Samaritanorum Vindiciæ,” 4to, Valentiaë, 1790. Tychsen rejoined; and again was replied to: and the question continued to be agitated for some years afterwards, as may be seen in the Transactions of the Göttingen Academy for 1792, &c.

These two authors, Bayer and Tychsen, furnish ample

references to the earlier writers on Oriental coins, as Reiland, Swinton, the Pembroke collection, that of Dr. Hunter, to Frœlich, Woide, Gagnier, Barthelemy, &c.; and indeed appear to have exhausted the subject. Those persons who have not access to their works will do well to consult the “ Fragments to Calmet,” Nos. 202 and 203.

<sup>e</sup> See above, ch. x. 31.

<sup>f</sup> A town of Phœnicia, situate near mount Carmel; not to be confounded with Adora, mentioned at ch. xiii. 20.

twenty thousand men of war, and eight thousand horsemen. And he compassed the city round 14 about, and ships by sea closed up the passage, and he vexed the city by land and by sea, neither suffered he any to go out or in.

In the mean season came Numenius and his 15 company from Rome, having letters to the kings and countries; wherein were written these things: “ Lucius<sup>g</sup>, consul of the Romans, unto king 16 “ Ptolemy, greeting: The Jews’ ambassadors, our 17 “ friends and confederates, came unto us, to renew “ the old friendship<sup>h</sup> and league, being sent from “ Simon the high priest, and from the people of “ the Jews. And they brought a shield of gold 18 “ of a thousand minæ<sup>i</sup>. We thought it good 19 “ therefore to write unto the kings and countries, “ that they should do them no harm, nor fight “ against them, their cities, or countries, nor yet “ aid their enemies against them. It seemed also 20 “ good to us to receive the shield from them. “ If therefore there be any pestilent fellows who 21 “ have fled from their country unto you, deliver “ them unto Simon the high priest, that he may “ punish them according to their own law.” The 22 same things wrote he likewise unto Demetrius<sup>k</sup> the king, and Attalus, to Ariarathes, and Arsaces; and to all the countries<sup>l</sup>, and to Sampsames<sup>m</sup>, 23

<sup>g</sup> Namely Lucius Calpurnius Piso.

<sup>h</sup> Namely, that which was made with them by Judas Maccabæus, in the year B.C. 161. See above, at ch. viii.

<sup>i</sup> See above, at ch. xiv. 24.

<sup>k</sup> King of Syria. Namely Demetrius Nicator, at this

time a prisoner with the Parthians. Attalus, king of Pergamus. Ariarathes, of Cappadocia. Arsaces, (i. e. Mithridates,) of Parthia.

<sup>l</sup> Namely, all those which were on friendly terms with the Romans.

<sup>m</sup> There is an obscurity here.

and the Lacedæmonians, and to Delus, and Myndus, and Sicyon, and Caria, and Samos, and Pamphylia, and Lycia, and Halicarnassus, and Rhodus, and Phaselis, and Cos, and Side, and Aradus, and Gortyna, and Cnidus, and Cyprus, and Cyrene. And the copy hereof they wrote to Simon the high priest. So Antiochus the king camped against Dora the second *day*, bringing his forces against it continually, and making engines; and he shut up Tryphon, that he could neither go in nor out.

26 And Simon sent him two thousand chosen men to aid him: silver also and gold, and much armour.  
27 Nevertheless, he would not receive them, but brake all the covenants which he had made with him  
28 afore, and became strange unto him. Furthermore, he sent unto him Athenobius, one of his friends, to commune with him, and say, You withhold Joppe and Gazara, with the tower which is in Jerusalem, which are cities of my realm. The borders thereof ye have wasted, and done great hurt in the land, and gotten the dominion of many places  
30 within my kingdom. Now therefore deliver up the cities which ye have taken, and the tributes of the places whereof ye have gotten dominion  
31 out the borders of Judæa: or else, give me for them five hundred talents of silver; and for the harm which you have done, and the tributes of the cities, other five hundred talents: if not, we  
32 will come and subdue you in fight. So Athenobius the king's friend came to Jerusalem: and

Grotius, following the Latin version, judges that the Greek text is faulty, and that we

ought to read *Lampsacus*, the name of a well-known city of Asia Minor.

when he saw the glory of Simon, and the cupboard of gold, and silver plate, and his great attendance, he was astonished, and told him the king's message. Then answered Simon, and said unto him, 33 We have neither taken other men's land, nor holden that which appertaineth to others, but the inheritance of our fathers, which our enemies had wrongfully in possession a certain time. Where- 34 fore we, having the opportunity, hold the inheritance of our fathers. But as for Joppe and Gazara 35 which thou demandest, *although* they did great harm unto the people in our country, yet will we give an hundred talents for them. Hereunto Athenobius answered him not a word. But re- 36 turned in a rage to the king, and made a report unto him of these speeches, and of the glory of Simon, and of all which he had seen: whereupon the king was exceeding wroth. In the mean time 37 fled Tryphon by ship unto Orthosias<sup>n</sup>.

Then the king made Cendebæus captain of the 38 sea-coast, and gave him an host of footmen and horsemen, and commanded him to remove his 39 host toward Judæa: also he commanded him to build up Cedron<sup>o</sup>, and to fortify the gates, and to war against the people: but as for the king *himself*, he pursued Tryphon. So Cendebæus came 40 to Jamnia, and began to annoy the people, and to

<sup>n</sup> A maritime town of Phœnicia: seated on or near the river Eleutherus. It was of sufficient importance to coin money in the days of the emperor Adrian. Josephus adds, that Tryphon fled thence to his native place Apamea, where he was taken and slain,

having usurped the crown for three years.

<sup>o</sup> Grotius (from the Latin) corrects this to Gedor, or Gedora; which is a town in the south of the Holy Land, bordering on the territory of the Philistines and Idumæa.

invade Judæa, and to take the people prisoners,  
 41 and slay them. And when he had built up Cedron, he set horsemen there, and an host of *footmen*, to the end that issuing out they might make outroads upon the ways of Judæa, as the king had commanded him.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*John defeats Cendebæus. Simon and his sons are slain treacherously by Ptolemy son of Abubus.*

1 THEN came up John from Gazara, and told Simon his father, what Cendebæus had B.C.  
 2 done. Wherefore Simon called his two 138.  
 eldest sons, Judas and John, and said unto them; I and my brethren, and my father's house, have ever from our youth unto this day fought against the enemies of Israel; and things have prospered so well in our hands, that we have delivered Israel  
 3 oftentimes. But now I am old, and ye, by *God's* mercy, are of a sufficient age: be ye instead of me and my brother, and go out and fight for our na-  
 4 tion, and the help from Heaven be with you. So he chose out of the country twenty thousand men of war with horsemen, who went out against Cen-  
 5 debæus, and rested that night at Modin. And when as they rose in the morning, and went into the plain, behold, a mighty great host both of footmen and horsemen came against them: howbeit  
 6 there was a water-brook betwixt them. So he and his people pitched over against them: and when he saw that the people were afraid to go over the water-brook, he went over first himself, and then the men seeing him, passed through after  
 7 him. *That done*, he divided his men, and set the

horsemen in the midst of the footmen: for the enemy's horsemen were very many. Then sounded they with the holy trumpets: whereupon Cendebæus and his host were put to flight, so that many of them were slain, and the remnant fled to the strong hold. At that time was Judas, John's brother, wounded: but John still followed after them, until he came to Cedron<sup>a</sup>, which *Cendebæus* had built up. (And they fled even unto the towers in the fields of Azotus;) wherefore he burnt it with fire: so that there were slain of them about two thousand men. Afterward he returned into the land of Judah in peace.

Moreover, Ptolemæus the son of Abubus was made captain over the plain of Jericho, and he had abundance of silver and gold.

For he was the high priest's son-in-law. Wherefore his heart being lifted up, he thought to get the country to himself, and thereupon consulted deceitfully against Simon and his sons to destroy them. Now Simon was visiting the cities which were in the country, and taking care for the good ordering of them: at which time he came down himself to Jericho, with his sons Mattathias and Judas, in the hundred threescore and seventh year, in the eleventh month, which is the month Sabat: where the *son* of Abubus receiving them deceitfully into a little hold, called Docus<sup>b</sup>, which he had built, made them a great banquet: howbeit he had hidden men there. So when Simon and

<sup>a</sup> See the note at ch. xv. 39. "may be seen to this day." It was also called Dagon; and

<sup>b</sup> This is said to have been a strong tower situate near Jericho, the ruins whereof is mentioned again at 5 Macc. ch. xx.

his sons had drunk largely, Ptolemy and his men rose up, and took their weapons, and came upon Simon into the banqueting-place, and slew him, 17 and his two sons, and certain of his servants. In which doing he committed a great treachery, and recompensed evil for good.

18 Then Ptolemy wrote these things, and sent to the king<sup>c</sup>, that he should send him an host to aid him, and he would deliver him the country and 19 cities. He sent others also to Gazara to take John : and unto the captains of thousands he sent letters to come unto him, that he might give them 20 silver and gold, and rewards. And others he sent to take Jerusalem, and the mountain of the temple. 21 Now one had run afore to Gazara, and told John that his father and brethren were slain; and (*said* 22 *he*) *Ptolemy* hath sent to slay thee also. Hereof when he heard, he was sore astonished : so he laid hands on them which were come to destroy him, and slew them ; for he knew that they sought to make him away.

23 As concerning the rest of the accounts of John, and his wars and worthy deeds which he did, and the building of the walls which he made, and his 24 doings; behold, these are written in the chronicles of his priesthood<sup>d</sup>, from the time he was made high priest after his father.

<sup>c</sup> Archbishop Ussher remarks, that from allusions in one or two historians there is reason to think that this treacherous act of Ptolemy was not without the privity of Antiochus.

<sup>d</sup> From which, in all probability, Josephus drew the whole of that information which he has given us concerning these things. See also Macc. book V. ch. xx.—xxvi.

END OF BOOK II.



THE  
THIRD BOOK  
OF  
M A C C A B E E S :

CONTAINING

THE OCCURRENCES OF ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS, NAMELY,  
FROM THE ACCESSION OF ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES TO  
THE DEATH OF NICANOR.

At the beginning are inserted two letters written at a later period ; and likewise the history of Heliodorus' attempt to plunder the Temple.

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CHAPTER I.

*A letter from the Jews at Jerusalem to their brethren.*

- 1 “ **T**HE brethren the Jews which are at Jeru-  
“ salem, and those in the country of Judæa, B.C.  
“ wish unto the brethren the Jews which are <sup>144.</sup>  
2 “ throughout Egypt, health and peace: God be  
“ gracious unto you, and remember his covenant  
“ which he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
3 “ his faithful servants: and give you all an heart  
“ to serve him, and to do his will with a good cou-  
4 “ rage, and a willing mind; and open your heart  
“ in his law and commandments, and send you  
5 “ peace, and hear your prayers; and be at one  
“ with you, and forsake you not in time of trou-  
6 “ ble. And now we are here praying for you.  
7 “ In the reign of Demetrius<sup>a</sup> in the hundred three-

<sup>a</sup> Namely, Demetrius Nicator, the son of Demetrius Soter.

“ score and ninth year<sup>b</sup>, we the Jews have written  
 “ unto you in the extremity of trouble<sup>c</sup>: which  
 “ came upon us in these years, from the time that  
 “ Jason and his company revolted from the holy  
 “ land and kingdom, and burnt the porch, and  
 “ shed innocent blood: then we prayed unto the 8  
 “ Lord, and were heard; we offered also sacrifice  
 “ and fine flour, and lighted the lamps, and set  
 “ forth the loaves. And now, *see* that ye keep 9  
 “ the feast of tabernacles<sup>d</sup> in the month Casleu.

“ In the hundred fourscore and eighth year, 10  
 B. C. “ the people who were at Jerusalem, and  
 125. “ in Judæa, and the council, and Judas<sup>e</sup>,  
 “ sent greeting and health unto Aristobulus, king  
 “ Ptolemæus<sup>f</sup> master<sup>g</sup>, who was of the stock of the  
 “ anointed priests, and to the Jews who were in  
 “ Egypt. Having been delivered by God from 11  
 “ great perils, we thank him highly, as though we  
 “ had been in battle against the king<sup>h</sup>. For he 12  
 “ cast out<sup>i</sup> them which fought within the holy city.  
 “ For when the leader was come into Persia, and 13  
 “ the army with him which seemed invincible,

<sup>b</sup> Namely, of the “ Æra of  
 “ Contracts,” commencing at  
 a period six months later than  
 that which is followed by the  
 author of the preceding book.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. ἐν τῇ θλίψει καὶ ἐν τῇ  
 ἀκμῇ, literally, “ in our trouble  
 “ and crisis;” but fairly enough  
 translated as above.

<sup>d</sup> See below, ch. x. 6—8.

<sup>e</sup> It does not appear to be  
 ascertained who this Judas  
 was: various opinions concern-  
 ing him may be seen at  
 one view in Basnage’s History

of the Jews, book V. ch. 1.

<sup>f</sup> Surnamed Physcon, these-  
 venth sovereign of that name.

<sup>g</sup> Or teacher in philosophy.  
 Aristobulus was a peripatetic  
 philosopher, and is mentioned  
 by Clemens Alexandrinus and  
 Eusebius. (Ussher.)

<sup>h</sup> Namely, Antiochus Epi-  
 phanes.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. ἐξέβρασε, literally,  
 “ caused to boil over;” that  
 is, “ expelled through the  
 “ heat and agitation of water,”  
 as Suidas explains the word.

“ they were slain in the temple of Nanæa<sup>k</sup> by the  
 14 “ treachery of Nanæa’s priests. For Antiochus,  
 “ as though he would marry her, came into the  
 “ place, and his friends who were with him, to re-  
 15 “ ceive money in name of a dowry. Which, when  
 “ the priests of Nanæa had set forth, and he was  
 “ entered with a small company into the compass  
 “ of the temple, they shut the temple as soon as  
 16 “ Antiochus was come in: and opening a privy  
 “ door of the roof, they threw stones like thunder-  
 “ bolts, and struck down the captain and his com-  
 “ pany, hewed them in pieces, smote off their  
 “ heads, and cast them to those who were with-  
 17 “ out. Blessed be our God in all things, who  
 “ hath delivered up the ungodly.  
 18 “ Therefore, whereas we are now purposed to  
 “ keep the purification of the temple upon the five  
 “ and twentieth day of *the month* Casleu, we  
 “ thought it necessary to certify you thereof; that  
 “ ye also might keep it, as the *feast* of the taber-  
 “ nacles, and of the fire, *which was given us* when  
 “ Neemias<sup>l</sup> offered sacrifice, after that he had  
 19 “ builded the temple and the altar. For when  
 “ our fathers were led into Persia, the devout  
 “ priests of that time took the fire of the altar  
 “ privily, and hid it in a hollow place of a pit<sup>m</sup>  
 “ without water, where they kept *it* sure, so that  
 20 “ the place was unknown to all men. Now after

<sup>k</sup> This appears to be a Per-  
 sian name for Diana, or per-  
 haps Dea Mater. But see  
 the account given at 2 Macc.  
 vi. 1, &c., and Grotius’ note  
 on the place.

<sup>l</sup> See Nehemiah ch. viii:

where, however, there is not  
 one syllable concerning the  
 fire here mentioned.

<sup>m</sup> The Greek text here is  
 somewhat obscure: *ἐν κοιλώματι*  
*φρέατος τάξιν ἔχοντος ἀνύδρου.*

“ many years, when it pleased God, Neemias being  
 “ sent from the king of Persia, sent some of the  
 “ posterity of those priests who had hid it, for the  
 “ fire: but when they told us they found no fire,  
 “ but thick water; then commanded he them to 21  
 “ draw it up, and to bring it: and when the sa-  
 “ crifices were laid on, Neemias commanded the  
 “ priests to sprinkle the wood and the things laid  
 “ thereupon with the water. When this was 22  
 “ done, and the time came that the sun shone,  
 “ which afore was hid in the cloud, there was a  
 “ great fire kindled, so that every man marvelled.  
 “ And the priests made a prayer whilst the sacri- 23  
 “ fice was consuming, (*I say,*) both the priests and  
 “ all *the rest*, Jonathan beginning, and the rest  
 “ answering thereunto, as Neemias did.

“ And the prayer was after this manner; ‘ O 24  
 “ Lord, Lord God, Creator of all things, who art  
 “ terrible and strong, and righteous, and merciful,  
 “ and the only and gracious King. The only 25  
 “ giver of all things, the only just, almighty, and  
 “ everlasting, thou that deliverest Israel from all  
 “ evil, and didst choose the fathers, and sanctify  
 “ them: receive the sacrifice for thy whole people 26  
 “ Israel, and preserve thine own portion, and  
 “ sanctify it. Gather together those who are 27  
 “ scattered from us; deliver them which serve  
 “ among the heathen; look upon them which are  
 “ despised and abhorred; and let the heathen know  
 “ that thou art our God. Punish them which op- 28  
 “ press us, and with pride do us wrong. Plant thy 29  
 “ people again in thy holy place, as Moses hath  
 “ spoken<sup>n</sup>.” And the priests sung psalms of 30

<sup>n</sup> Perhaps the allusion is to Deuteron. xxx. 3—8.

- 31 “ thanksgiving. Now when the sacrifice was  
 “ consumed, Neemias commanded the water which  
 “ was left to be poured<sup>o</sup> on the great stones.  
 32 “ When this was done, there was kindled a flame :  
 “ but it was consumed by the light which shined  
 33 “ from the altar. So when this matter was known,  
 “ it was told the king of Persia, that in the place  
 “ where the priests who were led away had hid  
 “ the fire, there appeared water, and that Neemias  
 “ and his company had purified the sacrifices  
 34 “ therewith. Then the king enclosing the place,  
 “ made it holy, after he had tried the matter.  
 35 “ And the king took many gifts, and bestowed  
 36 “ thereof on those whom he would gratify. And  
 “ Neemias and his party called this thing Neph-  
 “ thar, which is as much as to say, a cleansing :  
 “ but by the generality it is called Nepthai.”

## CHAPTER II.

*The letter continued. The author's design in this book.*

- 1 “ IT is also found in the records, that Jeremy  
 “ the prophet commanded them which went into  
 “ captivity<sup>a</sup>, to take of the fire, as it hath been  
 2 “ signified : and how that the prophet, having  
 “ given them the law, charged them which went  
 “ into captivity not to forget the commandments  
 “ of the Lord ; and that they should not err in  
 “ their minds, on beholding images of gold and  
 3 “ silver, with their ornaments. And with other  
 “ such speeches exhorted he them, that the law  
 4 “ should not depart from their hearts. It was

<sup>o</sup> Gr. ἐκέλευσε λίθους μείζονας κατασχεῖν. The Greek is obscure. Perhaps for κατασχεῖν

we ought to read καταχέειν.

<sup>a</sup> Gr. τοὺς μεταγνομένους.

“ also contained in the *same* writing, that the  
“ prophet, being warned of God, commanded the  
“ tabernacle and the ark to go with him, as he  
“ went forth into the mountain, where Moses  
“ climbed up, and saw the heritage of God. And 5  
“ when Jeremy came thither, he found a hollow  
“ cave; wherein he laid the tabernacle, and the  
“ ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped  
“ the door. And some of those who followed him 6  
“ came to mark the way, but they could not find  
“ it. Which, when Jeremy perceived, he blamed 7  
“ them, saying, As for that place, it shall be un-  
“ known until the time that God gather his people  
“ again together, and be merciful unto them.  
“ Then shall the Lord shew them these things, 8  
“ and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the  
“ cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses, and  
“ as when Solomon desired that the place might  
“ be honourably sanctified. It was also declared, 9  
“ that he, being wise, offered the sacrifice of dedi-  
“ cation, and of the finishing of the temple. And as 10  
“ Moses prayed unto the Lord, and the fire came  
“ down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices:  
“ even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came  
“ down, and consumed the burnt-offerings. And 11  
“ Moses said, Because the sin-offering was not  
“ eaten<sup>b</sup>, it was consumed. So also Solomon kept 12  
“ those eight days.

“ The same things also were reported in the 13  
“ writings and commentaries of Neemias; and  
“ how he, founding a library, gathered together  
“ the acts of the kings and the prophets, and of

<sup>b</sup> See Leviticus, ch. x. 16—18.

“ David, and the epistles of the kings concerning  
 14 “ the holy gifts. In like manner also Judas  
 “ gathered together all those things which were  
 “ dispersed by reason of the war which we had,  
 15 “ and they remain with us. Wherefore, if ye  
 “ have need thereof, send some to fetch them  
 16 “ unto you. Whereas we then are about to cele-  
 “ brate the purification, we have written unto  
 “ you; and ye shall do well, if ye keep the same  
 17 “ days. But *it is* God who delivered all his  
 “ people, and gave them all an heritage, and the  
 “ kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanc-  
 18 “ tuary<sup>c</sup>, as he promised in the law. For we  
 “ hope in God that he will shortly have mercy  
 “ upon us, and gather us together out of every  
 “ land under heaven, unto the holy place: for he  
 “ hath delivered us out of great troubles, and  
 19 “ hath purified the place.”

NOW as concerning Judas Maccabæus, and his  
 20 brethren, and the purification of the great temple,  
 and the dedication of the altar; and the wars  
 21 against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his  
 son; and the manifest signs which came from  
 heaven unto those who behaved themselves man-  
 fully to their honour for Judaism: so that being  
 22 but a few, they overcame the whole country, and  
 chased barbarous multitudes; and recovered again  
 the temple renowned all the world over, and freed  
 the city, and upheld the laws, which were about  
 23 to be dissolved, the Lord being gracious unto  
 them with all favour: things which have been  
 24 declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books—we will  
 assay to abridge in one volume. For considering

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τὸν ἁγιασμόν, literally, “ sanctification.”

the infinite number<sup>d</sup>, and the difficulty which they find who desire to enter deeply<sup>e</sup> into the narrations of the story, for the variety of the matter; 25 we have been careful, that they which will read might have delight, and that they which are desirous to commit to memory, might have ease; and that all, into whose hands it comes, may have profit. Indeed to us, who have taken upon 26 us this painful labour of abridging, it was not easy, but a matter of sweat and watching; even 27 as it is no ease unto him who prepareth a banquet, and seeketh the benefit of others: yet for the pleasuring of many we will undertake gladly this painful task; leaving to the author the exact 28 handling of every particular, and labouring to follow the rules<sup>f</sup> of an abridgment. For as the 29 master-builder of a new house must care for the whole building; but he who undertaketh to deck it with painting and sculpture<sup>g</sup>, must seek out fit things for the adorning thereof: even so I think it is with us. To stand upon every point, and 30 discourse of all things at large, and to be curious in particulars, belongeth to the first author of the story: but to study brevity, and avoid much 31 labouring of the work, is to be granted to him who will make an abridgment<sup>h</sup>. Here then let 32 us begin the narrative; only adding thus much to

<sup>d</sup> Gr. τὸ χύμα τῶν ἀριθμῶν, the multitude, either of events or of narratives to be considered.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. εἰσκυκλεῖσθαι, literally, "to involve themselves."

<sup>f</sup> Gr. ὑπογραμμοῖς, "lines traced for a pattern."

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἐγκαίειν, "to burn

"in," meaning, "to paint in encaustic," a species of decoration in which the nations of antiquity delighted to indulge their taste.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. μετάφρασιν, literally, a "transmutation," either into another form or another language.

that which hath been said before; for it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue to a story, and to be short in the story itself.

### CHAPTER III.

*Heliodorus' attempt to plunder the temple of Jerusalem.*

- 1 Now when the holy city was inhabited with all peace, and the laws were kept very well, B. C. 187. because of the godliness of Onias<sup>a</sup> the high priest, and his hatred of wickedness; it came to pass, that even the kings themselves did honour the place, and magnify the temple with their best presents<sup>b</sup>; insomuch that Seleucus<sup>c</sup> king of B. C. 186. Asia, of his own revenues, bare all the costs belonging to the services of the sacrifices.
- 4 But one Simon of the tribe of Benjamin, B. C. 176. who was made governor of the temple, fell out with the high priest about evil doings<sup>d</sup> in the city. And when he could not overcome Onias, he went to Apollonius *the son* of Thraseas, who then was governor of Cœlosyria and Phœnice; and told him, that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of infinite sums of money, so that the multitude of their riches was innumerable; and that these did not belong to the account of the sacrifices, but

<sup>a</sup> The third of that name, son of Simon II: he succeeded to the high-priesthood in the year 191 B. C.

<sup>b</sup> Gr. ἀποστολαίς. See Josephus, Antiq. XII. 2, &c. The word occurs in this sense also at 3 Esdras ix. 51. 54. Compare the note <sup>e</sup> at 2 Macc. ii. 19.

<sup>c</sup> Called Philopator, or So-

ter: he was the son of Antiochus the Great, and elder brother of Antiochus Epiphanes.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. παρανομίας: but several manuscripts read ἀγορανομίας, the office of agoranomus, or ædile: a matter in which it was likely that Simon would raise a quarrel.

that it was possible that all of them might fall into the king's power.

Now when Apollonius came to the king and 7 had shewed him of the money whereof he was told, the king chose out Heliodorus his treasurer <sup>e</sup>, and sent him <sup>f</sup> with a commandment to bring away the foresaid money. So forthwith Heliodorus 8 took his journey, under a colour of visiting the cities of Cœlosyria and Phœnice, but indeed to fulfil the king's purpose. And when he was come 9 to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received by the high priest of the city; he told him what intelligence was given of the money, and declared wherefore he came, and asked if these things were so indeed. Then the high priest told him, that 10 there was money laid up for the relief of widows and fatherless children: and some also belonging 11 to Hircanus, *grandson* of Tobias <sup>g</sup>, a man of great dignity, and not as that wicked Simon had misinformed: the sum whereof in all was four hundred talents of silver, and two hundred of gold: and that it was altogether impossible that wrong 12 should be done unto them, which had committed it to the holiness of the place, and to the majesty and inviolable sanctity of the temple, honoured over all the world. But Heliodorus, 13 because of the king's commandment given him,

<sup>e</sup> Gr. τὸν ἐπὶ τῶν πραγμάτων. There is a various reading, χρημάτων, which our translators have followed. If we take the other reading, we ought to render it, as the Douay version does, "him who was over his affairs:" but it seems most likely that

the *treasurer* would be the officer sent, in a case where the seizing of treasure was the business to be performed.

<sup>f</sup> See Daniel's prophecy concerning the deeds of Seleucus, at ch. xi. 20, &c.

<sup>g</sup> Concerning this man consult Josephus, Antiq. XII. 4.

said, That in any wise, this must be brought into the king's treasury.

14 So at the day which he appointed, he entered  
in to order the overseeing of this matter: where-  
fore there was no small agony throughout the  
15 whole city. But the priests, prostrating them-  
selves before the altar in their priests' vestments,  
called unto heaven upon him who made a law  
concerning things given to be kept, to preserve  
these sums safely for such as had committed them  
16 to be kept. Then whoso had looked the high  
priest in the face, it would have wounded his  
heart: for his countenance, and the changing of  
his colour, declared the inward agony of his mind.  
17 For the man was compassed round with a fear,  
and bodily stupor, by which it was manifest to  
them which looked upon him, what sorrow he had  
18 in his heart. Others ran flocking out of their  
houses to a general supplication, because the place  
19 was like to come into contempt. And the women,  
girt with sackcloth under their breasts, collected  
in great numbers in the streets; and the virgins  
who were kept in, ran some to the gates, and some  
upon the walls, and others looked out of the win-  
20 dows. And all, stretching forth their hands toward  
21 heaven, made supplication. Then it was pitiful  
to see the promiscuous falling down of the multi-  
tude, and the fearful expectation of the high priest  
22 in great agony. They then called upon the Al-  
mighty Lord, to keep the things committed of  
trust safe and sure for those who had committed  
23 them. But Heliodorus was executing that which  
was decreed.

24 Now as he was there present himself with his

guard about the treasury, the Lord of spirits<sup>h</sup>, and the Prince of all power, caused a great apparition; so that all who presumed to come in with him were astonished at the power of God, and fainted, and were sore afraid: for there appeared unto 25 them a horse with a terrible rider upon him, and adorned with a very fair covering; and he ran fiercely, and smote at Heliodorus with his forefeet; and it seemed that he who sat upon the horse had complete armour of gold. Moreover, two other 26 young men appeared before him, notable in strength, excellent in beauty, and splendid in apparel; who stood by him on either side, and scourged him continually, and gave him many sore stripes. And Heliodorus fell suddenly unto 27 the ground, and was compassed with great darkness: but they which were with him took him up, and put him into a litter. Thus him who lately 28 came with a great train, and with all his guard into the said treasury, they carried out, being unable to help himself with his weapons: and manifestly they recognised the power of God. He 29 then, by the hand of God, was cast down, and lay speechless without any hope of life. But they 30 praised the Lord who had miraculously honoured his own place: and the temple, which a little afore was full of fear and trouble, when the Almighty Lord appeared, was filled with joy and gladness. Then straightway certain of Heliodo- 31 rus' friends prayed Onias, that he would call upon the Most High, to grant him his life, who lay utterly at the last gasp. So the high priest, sus- 32

<sup>h</sup> The Greek text varies here, between *πνευμάτων* and *πατέρων*.

pecting lest the king should misconceive that some treachery had been done to Heliodorus by the Jews, offered a sacrifice for the health of the man.

33 Now as the high priest was making an atonement, the same young men, in the same clothing, appeared and stood beside Heliodorus; saying, Give Onias the high priest great thanks, insomuch as

34 for his sake the Lord hath granted thee life: and seeing that thou hast been scourged from heaven, declare unto all men the mighty power of God. And when they had spoken these words, they

35 disappeared. So Heliodorus, after he had offered sacrifice unto the Lord, and made great vows unto him who had saved his life, and saluted Onias,

36 returned with his host to the king. Then testified he to all men the works of the great God,

37 which he had seen with his eyes. And when the king asked Heliodorus who might be a fit man to

38 be sent yet once again to Jerusalem, he said; If thou hast any enemy or traitor, send him thither, and thou shalt receive him well scourged, if he escape with his life: for in that place, no doubt,

39 there is an especial power of God. He himself who dwelleth in heaven, hath his eye on that place, and defendeth it; and he beateth and de-

40 stroyeth them which come to hurt it. And the things concerning Heliodorus, and the keeping of the treasury, fell out on this sort.

## CHAPTER IV.

*Jason is made high priest. He introduces Gentile fashions. He is supplanted by Menelaus. The murder of Onias.*

1 BUT the aforesaid Simon, who had been the

betrayed the money and of his country, spoke slanderously of Onias, that it was he who had terrified Heliodorus, and had been the worker of these evils. And him, who was a benefactor of 2 the city, a careful tender of his countrymen, and zealous for the laws, he dared to call a traitor. But when their hatred went so far, that even 3 murders were committed by one of Simon's faction; Onias, seeing the danger of this contention, 4 and that Apollonius, as being the governor of Cœlosyria and Phœnice, did rage, and increase Simon's malice;—went to the king, not to be an 5 accuser of his countrymen, but seeking the good of all, both public and private: for he saw that it 6 was impossible that the state should continue quiet, and Simon leave his folly, unless the king did look thereunto.

But after the death of Seleucus, when Antio- 7  
 B. C. chus, called Epiphanes, succeeded to the  
 175. kingdom; Jason the brother of Onias laboured underhand to be high priest, promising 8 unto the king, by intercession<sup>a</sup>, three hundred and threescore talents of silver, and of another revenue eighty talents: besides this, he promised 9 to assign an hundred and fifty more, if he might have licence to set him up a place for exercise<sup>b</sup>, and for the training up of youth in the fashions of the heathen, and to inscribe those of Jerusalem citizens of Antioch. Which when the king had 10 granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule, he forthwith brought his own nation to the Greek

<sup>a</sup> Or, "in a conversation:"  
 Gr. δι' ἐντεύξεως.

<sup>b</sup> Gr. γυμνάσιον. Compare  
 2 Macc. i. 11—15.

- 11 fashion. And the royal privileges granted of special favour to the Jews, by the means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, he threw aside: and putting down the forms of government which were according to the law, he brought up new  
 12 customs against the law. For he built gladly a place of exercise under the citadel itself; and bringing into training<sup>c</sup> the chief of the young men, he made them wear a hat.
- 13 Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase of heathenish manners, through the B. C. exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly 174.
- 14 wretch, and not high priest; that the priests had no inclination to serve any more at the altar; but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the challenge<sup>d</sup>  
 15 at the Discus; not esteeming the honours of their fathers, but liking the glory of the Grecians best  
 16 of all. By reason whereof sore calamity came upon them: for they had them to be their enemies and avengers, whose modes they followed so earnestly, and unto whom they desired to be alike  
 17 in all things. For it is not a light thing to do wickedly against the laws of God: but the time following will declare these things.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τοὺς κρατίστους τῶν ἐφήβων ὑποτάσσων ὑπὸ πέτασον ἤγεν. Here Schleusner suspects the word ὑποτάσσων to be superfluous, having slipped in by error of the copyists from ὑπὸ πέτασον, which followed: and indeed, in one manuscript, the word is want-

ing: yet, from a quotation from "Hippolytus de Anti-christo," given by Wesseling in a note on Diodorus Siculus, Eclog. lib. XXXIV. 1. it would appear that ὑποτάσσων must be retained.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. μετὰ τὴν τοῦ δίσκου πρόκλησιν.

Now when the game<sup>e</sup> which was used every fifth year was kept at Tyrus, the king being present, this vile Jason sent sacred messengers<sup>f</sup> from Jerusalem, who were Antiochians, to carry three hundred<sup>g</sup> drachms of silver to the sacrifice of Hercules: which even the bearers thereof thought fit not to bestow upon the sacrifice, because it was not proper, but to reserve for another charge. This money then, in regard of the sender, was appointed to Hercules' sacrifice; but because of the bearers thereof, it was employed to the making of galleys.

Now when Apollonius the son of Menestheus was sent into Egypt for the coronation of king Ptolemæus Philometor, Antiochus, understanding him not to be well-affected to his affairs, provided for his own safety: whereupon he came to Joppe, and from thence to Jerusalem: where he was honourably received by Jason, and by the city, and was brought in with torch-light, and with great shoutings: and so afterward went with his host unto Phœnice.

Three years afterward Jason sent Menelaus the foresaid Simon's brother<sup>h</sup>, to bear the money unto the king, and to put him in

<sup>e</sup> Which was instituted, not only in Tyre, but in many other places also, in imitation of the Olympic games.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. *θεωποδοί*, so called by Plato, Thucydides, Sophocles, and other classic authors.

<sup>g</sup> Grotius, thinking the sum too small, suggests an emendation, "three thousand." And indeed, three Greek manuscripts read, "three thou-

"sand three hundred:" which account is adopted by Vailant, in his "Historia Regum Syriæ."

<sup>h</sup> Josephus on the contrary asserts, that he was brother to Onias and Jason; which is much more probable, as he scarcely would have obtained the high-priesthood if he had not been of the family of Aaron.

24 mind of certain necessary matters. But he being  
 brought to the presence of the king, when he had  
 magnified him for the glorious appearance of his  
 power, got the priesthood to himself, offering  
 more than Jason by three hundred talents of sil-  
 25 ver. So he came with the king's mandate, bring-  
 ing nothing worthy the high-priesthood, but hav-  
 ing the fury of a cruel tyrant, and the rage of a  
 26 savage beast. Then Jason, who had undermined  
 his own brother, being undermined<sup>i</sup> by another,  
 was compelled to flee into the country of the Am-  
 27 monites. So Menelaus obtained the authority:  
 but as for the money which he had promised unto  
 the king, he took no good order for it, albeit Sos-  
 28 tratus the ruler of the castle required it: for unto  
 him appertained the gathering of the customs.  
 Wherefore they were both called before the king.  
 29 Now Menelaus left his brother Lysimachus in his  
 stead in the priesthood; and Sostratus *left* Crates,  
 30 who was governor of the Cyprians. While those  
 things were in doing, they of Tarsus and Mallos<sup>k</sup>  
 made insurrection, because they were given to the  
 31 king's concubine called Antiochis. Then came  
 the king in all haste to appease matters, leaving  
 Andronicus, a man in authority, for his deputy.  
 32 Now Menelaus, supposing that he had gotten  
 a convenient time, stole certain vessels of <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 gold out of the temple; and gave some to <sup>171.</sup>  
 Andronicus, and some he sold at Tyrus, and the  
 33 cities round about. Which when Onias knew of a

<sup>i</sup> Gr. *ὑπονοθεύσας*, and *ὑπονοθευθεῖς*. The expressions strictly apply to a case where an illegitimate person is sub-

stituted for a legitimate or proper one.

<sup>k</sup> Two cities of Cilicia.

surety, he reprov'd him, and withdrew himself into a sanctuary<sup>1</sup> at Daphne, which lieth by Antiochia. Wherefore Menelaus taking Andronicus<sup>3</sup> apart, pray'd him to get Onias into his hands; who being persuaded thereunto, and coming to Onias in deceit, gave him his right hand with oaths; and though he were suspected *by him*, yet persuaded he him to come forth from the sanctuary: whom forthwith he shut up *and slew* without regard of justice. For the which cause<sup>3</sup> not only the Jews, but many also of other nations took great indignation, and were much grieved for the unjust murder of the man.

And when the king was come again from the<sup>3</sup> places about Cilicia, the Jews who were in the city, and certain of the Greeks who abhorred the fact also, complain'd because Onias was slain without cause. Therefore Antiochus was heartily<sup>3</sup> sorry, and mov'd to pity, and wept, because of the sober and orderly behaviour of him who was dead. And being inflam'd with anger, forthwith<sup>3</sup> he took away Andronicus his purple, and rent off his clothes; and leading him through the whole city unto that very place where he had committed impiety against Onias, there slew he<sup>m</sup> the blood-stained murderer. Thus the Lord awarded him his punishment, as he had deserved.

<sup>1</sup> Namely, of Apollo, who was worshipp'd with much solemnity at this Daphne, near Antioch in Syria. This asylum is noticed by Strabo, and is expressly nam'd on some coins of Antioch.

<sup>m</sup> Gr. τὸν μαϊφόνον ἀπεκόσμησε: the verb may signify either "to strip off the raiment," or "to kill:" but the stripping has been mention'd already in an earlier portion of this verse.

39 Now when many sacrileges had been committed  
 in the city by Lysimachus, with the consent  
 of Menelaus, and the report thereof was <sup>B. C.</sup>  
<sup>170.</sup>  
 spread abroad, the multitude gathered themselves  
 together against Lysimachus, many vessels of gold  
 40 being already carried away. Whereupon the com-  
 mon people rising, and being filled with rage, Ly-  
 simachus armed about three thousand men, and  
 began first to offer violence; one Auranus being  
 the leader, a man far gone in years, and no less in  
 41 folly. They then seeing the attempt of Lysima-  
 chus, some of them caught stones, some clubs;  
 others taking handfuls of dust which was next at  
 hand, cast them all together upon Lysimachus,  
 42 and those who were with him. Thus many of  
 them they wounded, and some they struck to the  
 ground, and all *of them* they forced to flee: but  
 as for the church-robber himself, him they killed  
 43 beside the treasury. Of these matters therefore  
 there was an accusation laid against Menelaus.  
 44 Now when the king came to Tyrus, three men  
 who were sent from the council pleaded the cause  
 45 before him: but Menelaus being now convicted,  
 promised Ptolemy<sup>n</sup> the *son* of Dorymenes to give  
 him much money, if he would pacify the king to-  
 46 wards him. Whereupon Ptolemy taking the king  
 aside into a certain gallery<sup>o</sup>, as it were to take  
 47 the air, brought him to be of another mind. In-  
 somuch that he discharged Menelaus from the ac-  
 cusations; who, notwithstanding, was cause of all

<sup>n</sup> For whom see 2 Macc.  
 iii. 38, where he is reckoned  
 one of the three "mighty  
 "men of the king's friends."

<sup>o</sup> Gr. *περίστυλον*, a place  
 surrounded by pillars, a co-  
 lonnade.

the mischief: and those poor men, who, if they had told their cause, yea, before the Scythians, should have been judged innocent, them he condemned to death. Thus they who spake up in 48 defence of the city, and of the people, and of the holy vessels, quickly suffered an unjust punishment. Wherefore even they of Tyrus, moved 49 with hatred with that wicked deed, caused them to be honourably buried. And so through the 50 covetousness of them who were in power, Menelaus remained still in authority, increasing in malice, and being a great traitor<sup>P</sup> to the citizens.

#### CHAPTER V.

*Jason's cruelties, and death. Antiochus defeats the Jews; and plunders the temple.*

ABOUT the same time Antiochus prepared his 1 second<sup>a</sup> expedition into Egypt: and then it hap- 2 pened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen<sup>b</sup> running in the air, robed in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers; and 3 troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of

<sup>P</sup> Gr. ἐπίβουλος, lying in wait for any opportunity of injuring or annoying them.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Daniel xi. 29. Respecting his *first* expedition, which was in the preceding year, see 2 Macc. i. 17.

<sup>b</sup> The ingenious and fanciful Dr. Darwin, in the additional notes to his "Botanic Garden," adduces this passage in proof of the antiquity of the appearance of the

*Northern Lights*; of which phenomenon he considers this to be "such a description as might probably be given by an ignorant and alarmed people." (Note 1, on Meteors.) Josephus describes similar appearances in the heavens a short time previously to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. Compare 5 Macc. iii. 7.

- shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and armour of all sorts.
- 4 Wherefore every man prayed, that that apparition might turn to good.
- 5 Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took not less than a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city: and they which were upon the walls, being drawn back, and the city at length taken, Menelaus fled into the castle.
- 6 But Jason slew his own citizens without mercy, (not considering that success against his own kindred would be the worst kind of success<sup>c</sup>; but thinking that he was erecting trophies over his enemies, and not over his own countrymen.)
- 7 Howbeit, for all this he obtained not the authority, but at the last received shame for the reward of his treason, and fled again<sup>d</sup> into the country of
- 8 the Ammonites. In the end therefore he had an unhappy return, being accused<sup>e</sup> before Aretas the king of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued of all men, hated as a forsaker of the laws; and being had in abomination, as a public executioner of his country and countrymen, he
- 9 was cast out into Egypt. Thus he, who had driven many out of their country, perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lacedæmonians, and thinking *there* to find shelter, by reason of his

<sup>c</sup> The every-way unfortunate results of civil war are alluded to and deplored by more than one of the Greek and Latin poets.

<sup>d</sup> See above, ch. iv. 26.

<sup>e</sup> The Greek text reads *ἐγκλεισθεῖς*, "shut up and "watched:" but Grotius judges that the true reading is *ἐγκληθεῖς*: in this he is followed by Schleusner.

kindred. And he who had cast out many unburied, 10 had none to mourn for him, nor any solemn funerals at all, nor sepulchre with his fathers.

Now when this which was done came to the 11 king's ear, he thought that Judæa had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt<sup>f</sup> in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms; and com- 12 manded his men of war to cut down unsparingly such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses. Thus there was killing of young 13 and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants. And there 14 were destroyed within the space of three whole days, fourscore thousand; whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer were sold than slain. Yet was he not content with this, but 15 presumed to go into the most holy temple of all the world; having for his guide Menelaus, that traitor to the laws and to his country. And tak- 16 ing the holy vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down the things which had been dedicated by other kings to the augmentation, and glory, and honour of the place, he gave them away<sup>g</sup>. And so haughty was Antiochus in 17 mind, not considering that the Lord was angry for a while for the sins of them who dwelt in the city, and therefore his eye was not upon the place. For had they not been formerly wrapped in many 18 sins, this man, as soon as he had come, had forthwith been scourged, and turned back from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, who was sent by Seleucus the king to inspect the treasury. Never- 19

<sup>f</sup> Compare 2 Macc. i. 20.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἐπεδίδου: the sense is not perfectly clear.

- theless, God did not choose the people for the place's sake, but the place for the people's sake.
- 20 And therefore the place itself, which was partaker with them of the adversity which happened to the nation, did afterward communicate in the benefits sent from the Lord : and as it was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so again, the great Lord being reconciled, it was reestablished with all glory.
- 21 So when Antiochus had carried out<sup>h</sup> of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste unto Antiochia; weening in his pride to make the land navigable, and the sea passable on foot<sup>i</sup>: such was the haughtiness of his mind.
- 22 And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem, Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he who placed him
- 23 there; and at Garizim, Andronicus; and besides, Menelaus, who, worse than all the rest, bare an heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious
- 24 mind against his countrymen the Jews. He sent also that detestable ringleader Apollonius<sup>k</sup>, B. C. 168. with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to slay all those who were in their best age, and to sell the women, and the
- 25 younger persons. Who coming to Jerusalem, and pretending peace, did forbear till the holy day of the sabbath; when taking the Jews keeping holy day, he commanded his men to arm themselves.
- 26 And so he slew all them which were gone to the

<sup>h</sup> Compare 2 Macc. i. 23, Hellespont, are recorded by Herodotus, book VII. ch. 22—24; and 33—36.

<sup>i</sup> Like another Xerxes; whose attempts of this kind, at mount Athos and at the

<sup>k</sup> Compare 2 Macc. i. 29—32.

public worship; and running through the city with weapons, slaughtered great multitudes. But 27 Judas Maccabæus, with nine others, or thereabout, withdrew himself into the wilderness<sup>1</sup>; and lived in the mountains after the manner of beasts, with his company, who fed on herbs continually, that they might not be partakers of the pollution.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Antiochus persecutes the Jews. The courage and death of Eleazar.*

NOT long after this, the king sent an old man 1  
B. C. of Athens<sup>a</sup>, to compel the Jews to depart  
167. from the laws of their fathers, and not to live after the laws of God: and to pollute also 2 the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the defender of strangers<sup>b</sup>, as indeed they

<sup>1</sup> Compare 2 Macc. ii. 27—30.

<sup>a</sup> Grotius (following the Latin version) judges that the true reading is not 'Αθηναίων but 'Αντιόχειον; which indeed would be much more apposite, seeing that many of the Jews at this time had been enrolled citizens of Antioch. I perceive that the authors of the "Universal History" consider 'Αθηναίων as a proper name, and have rendered it "Atheneas, an old minister, well versed in all the heathenish rites as well as in cruelty."

<sup>b</sup> But Josephus says, "Jupiter Hellenius," Ant. XII. 5. It is notorious that Antiochus Epiphanes was a most zealous worshipper of *all new*

gods: see Michaelis' supplementa ad Lexica Heb. tom. II. p. 1857, who refers to Athenæus; in which author we find the following account. (Lib. V. p. 194, 195, ed. Casaubon.) Ἐν δὲ ταῖς πρὸς τὰς πόλεις θυσίαις, καὶ ταῖς πρὸς τοὺς θεοὺς τιμαῖς, πάντας ὑπερέβαλλε τοὺς βεβασιλευκότας.—Τὸ δὲ τῶν ἀγαμάτων πλῆθος οὐ δυνατόν ἐξηγήσασθαι πάντων γὰρ τῶν παρ' ἀνθρώποις λεγομένων ἢ νομιζομένων θεῶν ἢ δαιμόνων, προσέτι δὲ ἥρώων, εἶδωλα διήγετο, τὰ μὲν κεχρυσωμένα, τὰ δὲ ἡμφιεσμένα στολαῖς διαχρύσεισιν. All this took place at his grand festival at Daphne: and Athenæus adds, that the expence was supplied partly from the sums of which he

3 were<sup>c</sup> who dwelt in the place. And sore and  
 grievous, even to the common people, was the  
 4 presence<sup>d</sup> of this mischief. For the temple was  
 filled with riot and revelling, by the Gentiles; who  
 dallied with harlots, and had to do with women  
 within the sacred precincts; and besides that,  
 5 brought in things which were not lawful. The  
 altar also was filled with profane things, which  
 6 the law forbiddeth. Neither was it lawful for a  
 man to keep sabbath-days, or the feasts of his  
 forefathers, or to profess himself at all to be a  
 7 Jew. And in the day of the king's birth every  
 month they were brought by bitter constraint to  
 eat of the sacrifices; and when the feast of Bac-  
 chus was kept, the Jews were compelled to go in  
 8 procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy<sup>e</sup>. Moreover,  
 there went out a decree to the neighbour cities  
 of the Grecians, by the suggestion of Ptolemy<sup>f</sup>,  
 against the Jews, that they should observe the  
 same mode of living, and be partakers of their  
 9 sacrifices: and whoso would not conform them-  
 selves to the manners of the Greeks, should be put  
 to death. Then might a man have seen the pre-  
 10 sent misery. For there were two women<sup>g</sup> brought  
 who had circumcised their children; whom when  
 they had openly led round about the city, the  
 babes hanging at their breasts, they cast them  
 11 down headlong from the wall. And others who

had defrauded Ptolemy Phi-  
 lomētor while a boy, partly  
 from the contributions of his  
 friends, and partly from the  
 many temples which he had  
 robbed. Ἱεροσυλήκει δὲ καὶ τὰ  
 πλείστα τῶν Ἱερῶν.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. καθὼς ἐτύγγανον.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. ἡ ἐπίστασις: signify-  
 ing both the coming on, and  
 continuance, of the evil.

<sup>e</sup> Compare 1 Macc. ii. 19;  
 and the note there.

<sup>f</sup> See above, ch. iv. 45.

<sup>g</sup> Compare 2 Macc. i. 60—  
 63.

had run together into caves near by, to keep the sabbath-day secretly, being discovered to Philip<sup>h</sup>, were all burnt together; because they scrupled to defend themselves, for the honour of the most sacred day.

Now I beseech those who meet with this book, 12 that they be not discouraged for these calamities; but that they judge those punishments not to be for the destruction; but for a chastening, of our nation. For it is a token of his great goodness, 13 when wicked doers are not suffered any long time, but forthwith fall into punishments. For not as 14 with other nations, whom the Lord patiently forbearth to punish, till they be come to the fulness of their sins, so dealeth he with us. Lest that, 15 being come to the height of sin, afterwards he should take vengeance on us. And therefore he 16 never withdraweth his mercy from us. And though he chasten with adversity, yet doth he never forsake his people. But let this be said by 17 way of remembrance. But we must come to the declaring of the matter in few words.

Eleazar, one of the principal scribes, an aged 18 man, and of a very well-favoured countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eat swine's flesh. But he choosing rather to die glo- 19 riously, than to live stained with such an abomination, spit it forth, and came of his own accord to the torment. As it behoved them to come, 20 who are resolute to stand out against such things as are not lawful for love of life to be tasted. But they which had the charge of that wicked 21 feast, for the old acquaintance they had with the

<sup>h</sup> For an account of Philip, see ch. v. 22.

man, taking him aside, besought him to bring flesh of his own provision, such as was lawful for him to use, and make as if he did eat of the flesh taken from the sacrifice commanded by the king ;  
 22 that in so doing he might be delivered from death, and for the old friendship with them, find favour.  
 23 But he, taking on him a discreet consideration, and as became his age, and the excellency of his ancient years, and the honour of his grey head whereunto he was come<sup>i</sup>, and his most honest education from a child, or rather the holy law made and given by God ; answered accordingly, and desired them straightways to send him to the  
 24 grave. For it becometh not our age (*said he*) to dissemble, whereby many young persons might think that Eleazar, being fourscore years old and  
 25 ten, were now gone to a strange religion : and so they through mine hypocrisy, and desire to live a little time, and a moment longer, should be led astray by me, and I should get to myself a stain  
 26 and pollution upon my old age. For even though for the present time I should be delivered from the punishment of men : yet should I not escape the hand of the Almighty, neither alive nor dead.  
 27 Wherefore now manfully exchanging this life, I will shew myself such an one, as mine age re-  
 28 quireth ; and leave a noble example to such as be young, to die willingly and courageously a noble death, for the venerable and holy laws. And when he had said these words, immediately he  
 29 went to the torment : they which led him, changing the good-will they bare him a little before, into hatred, because the foresaid speeches, as they

<sup>i</sup> Gr. τῆς ἐπικτήτου καὶ ἐπιφανοῦς πολιᾶς.

thought, were madness. And when he was ready 30  
to die with stripes, he groaned, and said; It is  
manifest unto the Lord, who hath the holy know-  
ledge, that whereas I might have been delivered  
from death, I *now* endure sore pains in body, by  
being beaten; but in soul am well content to suf-  
fer these things, because I fear him. And thus 31  
this man died, leaving his death for an example  
of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not  
only unto young men, but unto the generality of  
his nation.

### CHAPTER VII.

*The constancy and death of seven brethren and their  
mother.*

IT came to pass also, that seven brethren with 1  
their mother were taken, and compelled by the  
king, to taste swine's flesh forbidden by the law,  
and were tormented with scourges and whips.  
But one of them who spake first, said thus; What 2  
wouldest thou ask or learn of us? we are ready  
to die, *rather* than to transgress the laws of our  
fathers. Then the king, being in a rage, command- 3  
ed to heat the pans and caldrons hot. Which 4  
forthwith being heated, he commanded to cut out  
the tongue of him who spake first; and having  
scalped him<sup>a</sup>, to cut off the utmost parts of his  
body, the rest of his brethren and his mother  
looking on. Now when he was thus maimed in 5  
all his members, he commanded him, being yet  
alive, to be brought to the fire, and to be fried in  
the pan. And as the vapour of the pan was dis-

<sup>a</sup>Or, "flayed:" Gr. περισκυθί- haps nearer to the meaning  
σας: but the former is per- of the original word.

persed for a good space, they exhorted one another with the mother, to die manfully, saying  
 6 thus; The Lord God looketh upon us, and in truth hath comfort in us, as Moses in his song, which witnessed to their faces, declared, saying<sup>b</sup>,  
 7 “ And he shall be comforted in his servants.” So when the first was dead after this manner, they brought the second to the cruel torture<sup>c</sup>: and when they had pulled off the skin of his head with the hair, they asked him, Wilt thou eat before thou be punished throughout every member  
 8 of thy body? But he answered in his own language, and said, No. Wherefore he also received the remainder of the torment as the former did.  
 9 And when he was at the last gasp, he said, Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise us up, who have died for his laws, unto an eternal resurrection of  
 10 life. After him was the third scornfully ill-treated: and when he was required, he put out his tongue, and that right soon; and held forth his  
 11 hands manfully, and said courageously, These I had from Heaven; and for His laws I despise<sup>d</sup> them, and from Him I hope to receive them again.  
 12 Insomuch that the king himself, and they which were with him, marvelled at the young man’s courage, for that he nothing regarded the pains.  
 13 Now when this man was dead also, they tormented  
 14 and mangled the fourth in like manner. And be-

<sup>b</sup> Compare Deut. xxxii. 36.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *ἐμπαυγμόν*; which word (together with its verb *ἐμπαίξω*) denotes severity of usage mixed with scorn and contumely. It was usually ren-

dered “ a mocking-stock” by the former translators.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *ὑπερορῶ*, “ I leave them out of consideration;” or, “ I make no account of them.”

ing at the point of death, he said thus; It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God, to be raised up again by Him: as for thee, thou shalt have no resurrection to life. After- 15  
ward they brought up the fifth also, and mangled him. Then looked he unto *the king*, and said, 16  
Thou having power over men, thyself being corruptible, doest what thou wilt; yet think not that our nation is forsaken by God: but abide a while, 17  
and behold his great power, how he will torment thee and thy seed. After him also they brought 18  
the sixth, who being ready to die, said; Be not deceived without cause: for we suffer these things for ourselves, having sinned<sup>e</sup> against our God: therefore marvellous things are done *unto us*. But 19  
think not thou, who hast taken in hand to strive against God, that thou shalt escape unpunished.

But the mother was admirable above all, and 20  
worthy of honourable memory: for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bare it with a good courage, because of the hope which she had in the Lord. Yea, she ex- 21  
horted every one of them in her own language, filled with courageous spirits: and stirring up her womanish thoughts with a manly spirit, she said unto them; I cannot tell how ye came into my 22  
womb; for I neither gave you breath nor life, neither was it I who formed the members of every one of you. But doubtless, the Creator of the 23  
world, who formed the generation of man, and found out the beginning of all things, will also of his own mercy give you breath and life again, as

<sup>e</sup> Compare 2 Macc. ii. 13; also see below, verse 32, 33.

ye now regard not your own selves for his law's sake.

- 24 Now Antiochus thinking himself despised, and suspecting it to be a reproachful speech, whilst the youngest was yet alive, did not only exhort him by words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and an enviable man, if he would turn from the laws of his fathers ; and that also he would take him for his  
25 friend, and trust him with affairs. But when the young man would in no case hearken unto him, the king called his mother, and exhorted her that she would counsel the young man to save his life.  
26 And when he had exhorted her with many words, she promised him that she would persuade her  
27 son. But she bowing herself towards him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, spake in her country language on this manner : “ O my son, have pity  
“ upon me who bare thee nine months in my  
“ womb, and gave thee suck three years<sup>f</sup>, and  
“ nourished thee, and brought thee up unto this  
28 “ age, and endured the troubles of education. I  
“ beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven and  
“ the earth, and all which is therein, and consider  
“ that God made them of things which were not ;  
“ and so was the race of men made likewise.  
29 “ Fear not this executioner ; but being worthy of  
“ thy brethren, take thy death, that I may receive  
30 “ thee again in mercy with thy brethren.” Whilst she was yet speaking, the young man said,  
“ Whom wait ye for ? I will not obey the king's  
“ commandment : but I will obey the command-

<sup>f</sup> Observe the long period of giving suck here stated.

“ ment of the law which was given unto our fa-  
“ thers by Moses. And thou, who hast been the 31  
“ author of all mischief against the Hebrews, shalt  
“ not escape the hands of God. For we suffer be- 32  
“ cause of our sins. And though the living Lord 33  
“ be angry with us a little while, for our chasten-  
“ ing and correction, yet shall he be reconciled  
“ again to his servants. But thou, O godless man, 34  
“ and of all other most abominable, be not lifted  
“ up without a cause, puffing up thyself with un-  
“ certain hopes, lifting up thy hand against the  
“ servants of *God*: for thou hast not yet escaped 35  
“ the judgment of Almighty God, who seeth all  
“ things. For our brethren, who now have suf- 36  
“ fered a short pain, are dead under God’s cove-  
“ nant of everlasting life: but thou, through the  
“ judgment of God, shalt receive just punishment  
“ for thy pride. But I, as my brethren, offer up 37  
“ my body and life for the laws of our fathers, be-  
“ seeing God that he would speedily be merci-  
“ ful unto our nation, and that thou by torments  
“ and plagues mayest confess that he alone is  
“ God; and that in me and my brethren, the 38  
“ wrath of the Almighty, which is justly brought  
“ upon all our nation, may cease.”

Then the king, being in a rage, handled him 39  
worse than all the rest, taking it grievously that  
he had mocked. So this man died undefiled, put- 40  
ting his whole trust in the Lord. Last of all, 41  
after the sons, the mother died. Let this be 42  
enough now to have spoken<sup>s</sup> concerning the idol-  
atrous feasts, and the extreme tortures.

<sup>s</sup> See the circumstances tailed more at large in the related in this chapter, de- fourth book of Maccabees.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*The exploits of Judas. His victory over Nicanor.*

- 1 THEN Judas Maccabæus, and they which were  
 with him, went privily into the towns, and B. C.  
 called their kinsfolks together; and taking 166.  
 unto them all such as continued in the Jews' re-  
 2 ligious, assembled about six thousand men: and  
 they called upon the Lord, that he would look  
 upon the people which was trodden down by all,  
 and also pity the temple profaned by ungodly  
 3 men: and that he would have compassion upon  
 the city, sore defaced, and ready to be laid even  
 with the ground, and hear the blood which cried  
 4 unto him: and remember the wicked slaughter of  
 harmless infants<sup>a</sup>, and the blasphemies committed  
 against his name; and that he would shew his  
 5 hatred against the wicked. Now when Macca-  
 bæus had his company about him, he could not  
 be withstood by the heathen: for the wrath of  
 6 the Lord was turned into mercy. Therefore he  
 came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities;  
 and got into his hands the most commodious  
 places, and overcame and put to flight no small  
 7 number of his enemies. But specially took he ad-  
 vantage of the night for such privy attempts, in-  
 somuch that a fame of his manliness was spread  
 every where.
- 8 So when Philip<sup>b</sup> saw that this man increased  
 by little and little, and that things prospered with

Likewise a perusal of the eloquent and spirit-stirring oration of Gregory Nazianzen on this subject (Orat. XXII.)

would amply repay the reader for his pains.

<sup>a</sup> Compare book II. ch. i. 61.

<sup>b</sup> See ch. v. 22.

him still more and more; he wrote unto Ptolemæus the governor<sup>c</sup> of Coelosyria and Phœnice, to yield more aid to the king's affairs. And forthwith 9 chusing Nicanor the *son* of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain, who in matters of war had great experience. So Nicanor un- 10 dertook to make so much money of the captive Jews, as should defray the tribute of two thousand talents, which the king was to pay<sup>d</sup> to the Romans. Wherefore immediately he sent to the 11 cities upon the sea-coast, inviting them to a sale of the captive Jews; and promising that they should have fourscore and ten bodies for one talent; not expecting the vengeance which was about to follow upon him from the Almighty God.

Now when word was brought unto Judas of 12 Nicanor's coming, and he had imparted unto those who were with him that the army was at hand; they which were fearful, and distrusted the justice 13 of God, fled, and conveyed themselves away. Others sold all which they had left, and withal 14 besought the Lord to deliver them, being sold by the wicked Nicanor, before they met together: and if not for their own sakes, yet for the cove- 15 nants he had made with their fathers, and for his

<sup>c</sup> That is, governor under Apollonius.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, according to the stipulations of a treaty which had been made between the

Romans and Antiochus the Great, after the defeat of the latter. The particulars of this transaction are related by Polybius and Livy.

holy and glorious name's sake, by which they were called.

16 So Maccabæus, calling together those who re-  
 mained with him, unto the number of six thou-  
 sand, exhorted them not to be stricken with terror  
 of the enemy; nor to fear the great multitude of  
 the heathen, who came wrongfully against them,  
 17 but to fight manfully: and to set before their  
 eyes the injury which they had unjustly done to  
 the holy place, and the cruel handling of the city,  
 whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking  
 18 away of the government of their forefathers. For  
 they (*said he*) trust in their weapons<sup>e</sup> and bold-  
 ness; but our confidence is in the Almighty God,  
 who with a nod can cast down both them which  
 19 come against us, and also all the world. More-  
 over, he recounted unto them what helps their  
 forefathers had found; and how they were deli-  
 vered, when under Sennacherib an hundred four-  
 20 score and five thousand perished<sup>f</sup>. And he told  
 them of the battle which they had in Babylon  
 with the Galatians<sup>g</sup>; how they came but eight  
 thousand in all to the business, with four thou-  
 sand Macedonians; and that the Macedonians be-  
 ing perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed an  
 hundred and twenty thousand, through the help  
 which they had from heaven, and so received a  
 21 great booty. Thus when he had made them bold

<sup>e</sup> Judas here almost repeats the very words of David, at Psalm xx. 7: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

<sup>f</sup> See the history of this transaction at 2 Kings xix. 35.

<sup>g</sup> That is, the Asiatic Gauls; for an account of whom see the note at book II. ch. viii. 2.

with these words, and ready to die for the laws and the country, he divided his army into four parts: and joined with himself his own brethren, 22 leaders of each band, *to wit*, Simon, and Joseph<sup>h</sup>, and Jonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men. Also *he appointed* Eleazar<sup>i</sup> to read the 23 holy book: and when he had given them this watchword, “The help of God;” himself leading the first band, he joined battle with Nicanor. And by the help of the Almighty they slew above 24 nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the most part of Nicanor’s host, and so put all to flight: and took the money of those 25 who had come to buy them, and pursued them far: but being pressed for time, they returned. 26 For it was the day before the sabbath, and therefore they did not long continue to pursue them.

So when they had gathered their armour to- 27 gether, and spoiled their enemies, they occupied themselves about the sabbath; yielding exceeding great praise and thanks to the Lord, who had preserved them unto that day, and distilled<sup>k</sup> upon them this the beginning of his mercy. And 28 after the sabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the maimed, and the widows, and orphans; the residue they divided among themselves and their servants. When this was done, 29

<sup>h</sup> He is called Joannan at 2 Macc. ii. 2.

<sup>i</sup> The Greek text of this clause is rather obscure: “Ἐτι δὲ καὶ Ἐλεάζαρον, παραγνοῦς τὴν ἱερὰν βίβλον, καὶ δοῦς, κ. τ. λ. which Grotius would correct to Ἐλεαζάρου παραγανοῦς, “quum prælegisset de Elea-

“zaro,” “after reading to “them concerning Eleazar;” namely, to kindle their courage by his example.

<sup>k</sup> See the same expression used at Deuteron. xxxii. 2, “My speech shall distil as “the dew.”

and they had made a common supplication, they besought the merciful Lord to be reconciled with his servants for ever.

- 30 Moreover, of those who were with Timotheus and Bacchides, who fought against them, they <sup>B.C.</sup> slew above twenty thousand; and very easily <sup>165.</sup> won high and strong holds, and divided amongst themselves many spoils more; and made the main-  
ed, orphans, widows, yea, and the aged also, equal  
31 in spoils with themselves. And when they had gathered their armour together, they laid it all up carefully in convenient places; and the remnant of  
32 the spoils they brought to Jerusalem. They slew also Philarches that wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews many  
33 ways. Furthermore, at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country, they burnt Callisthenes<sup>1</sup>, who had set fire upon the holy gates, who was fled into a little house, who thus received a reward meet for his wickedness.
- 34 As for that wicked wretch Nicanor, who had brought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews;  
35 he was, through the help of the Lord, brought down by them of whom he made least account; and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch, having very great misadventure, for that his host was  
36 destroyed. Thus he, who took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute, by means of the captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them; and therefore

<sup>1</sup> The Vatican manuscript adds here, "and certain others."

they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws which he had appointed them.

### CHAPTER IX.

#### *Antiochus' sickness and death.*

ABOUT that time came Antiochus in disorder 1  
 B.C. out of the country of Persia. For he had 2  
 164. entered the *city* called Persepolis<sup>a</sup>, and  
 went about to rob the temple, and to hold the city;  
 whereupon the multitude advancing betook them-  
 selves to a resistance by arms: and so it happened  
 that Antiochus, being put to flight by the inhabit-  
 ants, made a dishonourable retreat.

Now while he was at Ecbatana<sup>b</sup>, news was 3  
 brought him of what had happened unto Nicanor  
 and Timotheus. Then swelling with anger, he 4  
 thought to avenge upon the Jews the disgrace  
 done unto him by those who made him flee.  
 Therefore commanded he his charioteer to drive  
 without ceasing, and to dispatch the journey, the  
 judgment of God now following him. For he  
 had spoken proudly in this sort: "I will make  
 " Jerusalem a common buryingplace<sup>c</sup> of the Jews,

<sup>a</sup> The chief city of the Persian empire; for descriptions of which see Q. Curtius and Diodorus Siculus. But compare 2 Macc. vi. 1; where this occurrence is said to have taken place in Elymais.

<sup>b</sup> A renowned city, the ancient capital of Media. Its origin and structure are detailed by Herodotus, I. 98.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. Πολυάνδριον Ἰουδαίων Ἱεροσόλυμα ποιήσω. That this threat contained within it a degree of insult as well as in-

jury, we perceive on observing from Greek classic authors that the word πολυάνδριον conveyed the idea of any thing rather than an honourable place of sepulture. Ælian relates of the Lacedæmonian women, that they examined the bodies of their sons who had fallen in battle; and if the majority of their wounds were in front, proving that they had fought well and died nobly, they were delighted, and with pride τοῦς

5 “when I come thither.” But the all-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague; for as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels, which was remediless, came upon him, and sore torments of  
6 the inner parts; and that most justly: for he had tormented other men’s bowels with many and  
7 strange torments. Howbeit he nothing at all ceased from his bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in his rage against the Jews, and commanding to hasten the journey: but it came to pass that he fell down from his chariot, which was borne along violently; so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were dis-  
8 located. And thus he, who a little afore thought he might command the waves of the sea, (so proud was he beyond the condition of man,) and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in a horse-litter, shewing  
9 forth unto all the manifest power of God. So that the worms rose up out of the body of this wicked man; and whiles he lived in pains and torments, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his  
10 smell was noisome to all his army. And the man, who thought a little afore he could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry, for his intolerable stink.

*παῖδας εἰς τὰς πατρώας ἔφερον τάφους.* But if the wounds were in the back, from which a suspicion of their courage might arise, *ἐνταῦθα αἰδούμεναι, καὶ θρηνοῦσαι, καὶ ὡς ἐνὶ μάλιστα λαθεῖν σπεύδουσαι, ἀπηλλάττοντο, καταλιποῦσαι τοὺς νεκροὺς ἐν τῷ πολυανδρίῳ θάψαι.* Read the

note of Perizonius on the passage; who appositely quotes Jeremiah xxvi. 23, where king Jehoiakim is related to have slain Uriah, and to have cast his dead body *into the graves of the common people.*

Here therefore, being plagued, he began to 11  
 leave off his great pride; and to come to the know-  
 ledge of *himself* by the scourge of God, his pain  
 increasing every moment. And when he himself 12  
 could not abide his own smell, he said these  
 words; "It is meet to be subject unto God, and  
 " that a man who is mortal should not proudly  
 " think of himself as if he were God." This wicked 13  
 person vowed also unto the Lord, (who now no  
 more would have mercy upon him,) saying thus;  
 That the holy city (to the which he was going in 14  
 haste, to lay it even with the ground, and to make  
 it a common buryingplace) he would set at  
 liberty. And as touching the Jews, whom he 15  
 had judged not worthy to be so much as buried,  
 but to be cast out with their children, to be de-  
 voured by the fowls and wild beasts; he would  
 make them all equals to the citizens of Athens<sup>d</sup>.  
 And the holy temple, which before he had spoiled, 16  
 he would garnish with goodly gifts; and restore  
 all the holy vessels, with many more; and out of  
 his own revenue defray the charges belonging to  
 the sacrifices: yea, and that also he would become 17  
 a Jew himself, and go through every place which  
 was inhabited, declaring the power of God. But 18  
 for all this his pains would not cease: for the just  
 judgment of God was come upon him: therefore  
 despairing of his health, he wrote unto the Jews  
 the letters underwritten, bearing the form of a  
 supplication, and containing as follows:

<sup>d</sup> Probably here (as before, at ch. vi. 1.) is a misreading, of *Athens* for *Antioch*: the words being abbreviated might have been mistaken by the

copyist: the freedom of *Antioch* we have seen conferred upon the Jews; viz. at ch. iv. 9, and vi. 1: where see the note.

- 19 “ Antiochus, king and governor, to the good  
“ Jews his citizens, wisheth much joy, health, and  
20 “ prosperity. If ye and your children fare well,  
“ and your affairs be to your contentment, I give  
“ very great thanks to God, having my hope in  
21 “ heaven. As for me, I was sick, or else I would  
“ have remembered kindly your honour and good-  
“ will. Returning out of Persia, and being taken  
“ with a grievous disease, I thought it necessary to  
22 “ care for the common safety of all : not despairing  
“ of myself, but having great hope to escape this  
23 “ sickness. But considering that even my father,  
“ at what time he led an army into the high  
24 “ countries, appointed a successor; to the end that  
“ if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if  
“ any tidings were brought which were grievous,  
“ they of the land, knowing to whom the public  
25 “ affairs were left, might not be troubled. And  
“ moreover, considering how that the princes who  
“ are borderers and neighbours unto my kingdom,  
“ wait for opportunities, and expect what shall be  
“ the event ; I have appointed my son Antiochus  
“ king, whom I often committed and commended  
“ unto many of you, when I went up into the  
“ high provinces; to whom I have written as  
26 “ followeth : therefore I pray and request you  
“ to remember the benefits which I have done  
“ unto you generally, and in special; and that  
“ every man will be still faithful to me and my  
27 “ son. For I am persuaded that he, following  
“ my intentions, will behave towards you equitably  
“ and graciously.”
- 28 Thus the murderer and blasphemer, having  
suffered most grievously, as he entreated other

men, so died he a miserable death in a strange country in the mountains. And Philip, who was brought up with him, carried away his body; who also fearing the son of Antiochus, betook himself into Egypt to Ptolemæus Philometor.

## CHAPTER X.

*Judas purifies the temple. His valiant acts.*

Now Maccabæus and his company, the Lord 1  
 B.C. guiding them, recovered the temple and  
 165. the city; but the altars which the heathen 2  
 had built in the open street, and also the chapels,  
 they pulled down. And having cleansed the tem- 3  
 ple, they made another altar; and striking stones  
 they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice  
 after two years<sup>a</sup>, and set forth incense, and lights,  
 and shew-bread. When that was done, they fell 4  
 flat down, and besought the Lord that they might  
 come no more into such troubles; but if they  
 sinned any more against him, that he himself  
 would chasten<sup>b</sup> them with mercy; and that they  
 might not be delivered unto the blasphemous and  
 barbarous nations. Now upon the same day that 5  
 the temple had been profaned by strangers, it  
 happened that on the same day the purification of  
 it took place; even the five and twentieth day of  
 the same month, which is Casleu. And they 6  
 kept eight days with gladness, as in the feast of

<sup>a</sup> Surely we ought to read *three* instead of *two*; for so the history requires. Compare 2 Macc. iv. 52, 53; and Josephus. Grotius sanctions this correction; and he is supported by one Greek MS.

<sup>b</sup> Compare David's petition to the same effect, after he had been betrayed into the folly of numbering Israel and Judah, as recorded at 2 Samuel xxiv. 14. See also 1 Macc. ii. 17. vi. 10.

the tabernacles ; remembering that not long afore they had holden<sup>c</sup> the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like  
 7 wild beasts. Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also ; and sang psalms unto Him who had given them good success in cleansing  
 8 his place. They ordained also, by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept by the whole nation of the Jews.  
 9 And this was the end of Antiochus called Epi-phanes.  
 10 But now will we declare the acts of Antiochus Eupator, who was the son of this wicked B. C. man ; collecting briefly the calamities of the 164.  
 11 wars. For when he was come to the crown, he set one Lysias over the affairs of his realm ; and *appointed him* chief governor of Cœlosyria and  
 12 Phœnice. For Ptolemæus, who was called Marcron<sup>d</sup>, chusing rather to do justice unto the Jews, for the wrong which had been done unto them,  
 13 endeavoured to continue peace with them. Whereupon being accused by *the king's* friends before Eupator, and called traitor every where, because he had left Cyprus, which Philometor had committed unto him, and departed to Antiochus Epi-phanes ; and seeing that he was in no honourable place<sup>e</sup>, he was so discouraged, that he poisoned himself, and died.

<sup>c</sup> The sense is rather, that they had passed the day of that feast in wandering like beasts over the mountains ; instead of being able to keep it with due solemnity, and in peace.

<sup>d</sup> The same who is mentioned above, at ch. iv. 45 ; and viii. 8 ; as being the son of Dorymenes.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. μητ' ἐν γενῇ τῇ ἐξουσίαν ἔχων.

But when Gorgias was made governor of the 14 strong holds, he hired soldiers, and nourished war continually with the Jews: and therewithal the 15 Idumæans, having gotten into their hands the most commodious fortresses, kept the Jews occupied; and receiving those who were banished from Jerusalem, they went about to nourish war. Then 16 they which were with Maccabæus made supplication, and besought God that he would be their helper; and so they ran with violence upon the strong holds<sup>f</sup> of the Idumæans: and assaulting 17 them valiantly, they won the holds; and kept off all who fought upon the wall, and slew all who fell into their hands, and killed no fewer than twenty thousand. And because certain (no fewer 18 than nine thousand) were fled together into two very strong castles, having all manner of things convenient to *sustain* the siege; Maccabæus left 19 Simon and Joseph, and Zacchæus also, and them which were with him, who were enough to besiege them; and departed himself unto those places which more needed his help. Now Simon and his 20 company being led with covetousness, were persuaded for money, (through certain of those who were in the castle,) and took seventy thousand drachms, and let some of them escape. But when 21 it was told Maccabæus what was done, he called the governors of the people together; and accused those men, that they had sold their brethren for money, and set their enemies free to fight against them. So he slew those who were found traitors, 22 and immediately took the two castles. And 23

<sup>f</sup> Namely Acrabattine; as related at 2 Macc. v. 3.

having good success with his weapons in all things he took in hand, he slew in the two strong holds more than twenty thousand.

24 Now Timotheus, whom the Jews had overcome<sup>g</sup>  
before; when he had gathered a great multitude  
of foreign forces, and horses out of Asia not a few,  
came as though he would take Judæa by force of  
25 arms. But when he drew near, Maccabæus and  
his company turned themselves to pray unto God,  
and sprinkled earth upon their heads, and girded  
26 their loins with sackcloth; and fell down at the  
foot of the altar, and besought him to be merciful  
to them, and to be an enemy to their enemies, and  
an adversary to their adversaries, as the law de-  
27 clareth<sup>h</sup>. So after the prayer, they took their  
weapons, and went on further from the city: and  
when they drew near to their enemies, they kept  
28 by themselves. Now the sun being newly risen,  
they joined both together; the one part having  
together with their virtue their refuge also unto  
the Lord, for a pledge of success and victory: the  
other side making their courage leader of their  
29 battle. But when the battle waxed strong, there  
appeared unto the enemies from heaven five  
comely men upon horses, with bridles of gold;  
30 and two of them led the Jews, and took Macca-  
bæus betwixt them, and covered him on every  
side with their complete armour, and kept him  
safe; but shot arrows and lightnings against the  
enemies: so that being confounded with blindness,

<sup>g</sup> Compare 2 Macc. v. 6, 7. "thy face: they shall come  
<sup>h</sup> Viz. at Deut. xxviii. 7; "out against thee one way,  
"The Lord shall cause thine "and flee before thee seven  
"enemies that rise up against "ways."  
"thee to be smitten before

and filled with confusion, they were cut to pieces. And there were slain *of footmen* twenty thousand 31 and five hundred, and six hundred horsemen.

As for Timotheus himself, he fled into the hold 32 called Gazara<sup>i</sup>, a very strong garrison, of which Chæreas was governor. But Maccabæus and his 33 company laid siege against the fortress courageously four days. And they which were within, 34 trusting to the strength of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and uttered wicked words. Never- 35 theless, upon the fifth day early twenty young men of Maccabæus' company, inflamed with anger because of the blasphemies, assaulted the wall manfully, and with a fierce courage killed all whom they met withal. Others likewise ascend- 36 ing after them, whiles they were busied with them which were within, burnt the towers, and kindling fires, burnt the blasphemers alive; and others broke open the gates, and having received in the rest of the army, took the city: and killed Timo- 37 theus, who was hid in a certain pit, and Chæreas his brother, with Apollophanes. When this was 38 done, they praised the Lord with psalms and thanksgiving, who had done so great things for Israel, and given them the victory.

#### CHAPTER XI.

*The acts of Lysias. Letters of Antiochus and of the Romans.*

NOT long after this, Lysias the king's<sup>a</sup> protector and cousin, who also managed the affairs, took sore displeasure for the things which were done.

<sup>i</sup> See 2 Macc. v. 8; vii. 45.

<sup>a</sup> Namely, young Antiochus Eupator.

2 And when he had gathered about fourscore thousand *men*, with all the horsemen, he came against the Jews, thinking to make the city an habitation  
3 for the Gentiles; and to make a gain of the temple, as of the other chapels of the heathen, and to  
4 set the high-priesthood to sale every year: not at all considering the power of God, but puffed up with his ten thousands of footmen, and his thousands of horsemen, and his fourscore elephants.  
5 So he came to Judæa, and drew near to Bethsura, which was a strong town, but distant from Jerusalem about five furlongs; and he laid sore siege  
6 unto it. Now when Maccabæus and his company heard that he besieged the holds, they and all the people with lamentation and tears besought the Lord, that he would send a good angel to deliver  
7 Israel. Then Maccabæus himself first of all took up weapons, exhorting the others that they would jeopard themselves together with him to help their brethren: so they went forth together with  
8 a willing mind. And as they were at Jerusalem, there appeared going before them on horseback, one in white clothing, shaking a panoply of gold.  
9 Then they praised the merciful God, all together, and took heart; insomuch that they were ready, not only to fight with men, but with most cruel  
10 beasts, and to pierce through walls of iron. Thus they marched forward in their array, having a helper from heaven: for the Lord was merciful  
11 unto them. And giving a charge upon their enemies like lions, they slew eleven thousand *footmen*, and sixteen hundred horsemen, and put all  
12 the others to flight. The greater part of them

also being wounded escaped naked<sup>b</sup>; and Lysias himself fled away shamefully, and so escaped. Who, as he was a man of understanding, casting 13 with himself what loss he had had; and considering that the Hebrews could not be overcome, because the Almighty God helped them; he sent unto them, and persuaded them to agree to all 14 reasonable *conditions*, and *promised* that he would persuade the king that he must needs be a friend unto them. Then Maccabæus consented to all 15 which Lysias desired, being careful of the common good; and whatsoever Maccabæus wrote unto Lysias concerning the Jews, the king granted it.

For there were letters written unto the Jews 16 from Lysias to this effect: “ Lysias unto the people of the Jews, *sendeth* greeting: John and 17 “ Absalom, who were sent from you, delivered “ me the petition subscribed, and made the request for the performance of the contents thereof. Therefore what things soever were meet to 18 “ be reported to the king, I have declared them, “ and he hath granted as much as might be. If 19 “ then ye will keep yourselves loyal to the state, “ hereafter also will I endeavour to be a means of “ your good. But of the particulars I have given 20 “ order, both to these, and the others who came “ from me, to commune with you. Fare ye well. 21 “ The hundred and eight and fortieth year, the “ four and twentieth day of *the month* Dioscorin- “ thus<sup>c</sup>.”

<sup>b</sup> Gr. *γυμνοί*, that is, “ without their armour:” having thrown away their weapons, for the greater facility of escape.

<sup>c</sup> No such name of a month

- 22 Now the king's letters contained these words :  
 " King Antiochus unto his brother Lysias, *sendeth*  
 23 " greeting : Since our father is translated unto the  
 " gods, our will is, that they which are in our  
 " realm live quietly, that every one may attend  
 24 " upon his own affairs. We understand also, that  
 " the Jews did not agree to our father's bringing  
 " them to the Grecian customs, but had rather  
 " keep their own manner of living : for the which  
 " cause they require that their own laws may be  
 25 " allowed to them. Desiring therefore that this  
 " nation also shall be in rest, we have determined  
 " to restore them their temple, that they may live  
 " according to the customs of their forefathers.  
 26 " Thou shalt do well therefore to send unto them,  
 " and grant them peace<sup>d</sup>; that when they are cer-  
 " tified of our mind, they may be of good com-  
 " fort, and ever go cheerfully about their own  
 " affairs."  
 27 And the letter of the king unto the nation of  
 the Jews was after this manner : " King Anti-  
 " ochus *sendeth* greeting unto the council, and the  
 28 " rest of the Jews : If ye fare well, we have our  
 29 " desire ; we are also in good health. Menelaus  
 " declared unto us, that your desire was to return  
 30 " home, and to follow your own business : where-

is known. The Latin version reads *Dioscorus*. Grotius believes that the reading is faulty, and ought to be  $\Delta\iota\omicron\upsilon$ , (one of the Macedonian months,) which the copyist may have mistaken for an abbreviated word, and supplied at his own discretion. Archbishop Ussher believes it to

be an intercalary month, the same as Adar-Nisan, or Dyster-Xanthicus, which occurs in Esther iii. 7, in a Greek MS. now in the British Museum, (MS. Holmes, No. 93.)

<sup>d</sup> The Greek phrase here, and in many following passages, is,  $\delta\omicron\upsilon\varsigma\ \delta\epsilon\acute{\xi}\iota\lambda\alpha\varsigma$ .

“ fore they which will depart shall have safe con-  
 “ duct, with security, till the thirtieth day of Xan-  
 “ thicus. And the Jews shall use their own kind 31  
 “ of meats, and laws, as before ; and none of them  
 “ any manner of ways shall be molested for things  
 “ ignorantly done. I have sent also Menelaus, 32  
 “ that he may comfort you. Fare ye well. In 33  
 “ the hundred forty and eighth year, and in the  
 “ fifteenth day of *the month Xanthicus*.”

The Romans also sent unto them a letter con- 34  
 taining these words : “ Quintus Memmius, and  
 “ Titus Manlius, ambassadors of the Romans, *send*  
 “ greeting unto the people of the Jews : Whatso- 35  
 “ ever Lysias the king’s cousin hath granted,  
 “ therewith we also are well pleased. But touch- 36  
 “ ing such things as he judged to be referred to  
 “ the king, after ye have advised thereof, send  
 “ one forthwith, that we may declare as it is con-  
 “ venient for you : for we are now going to An-  
 “ tioch. Therefore send some with speed, that 37  
 “ we may know what is your mind. Farewell. 38  
 “ This hundred and eight and fortieth year, the  
 “ fifteenth day of *the month Xanthicus* <sup>f</sup>.”

## CHAPTER XII.

*Judas defeats Timotheus and Gorgias. \ He takes many cities.*

WHEN these covenants were made, Lysias went 1  
 unto the king, and the Jews were about their hus-  
 bandry. But of the governors of several places, 2

<sup>e</sup> Answering to our April.

<sup>f</sup> The abridgment of Ja-  
 son’s history has been thought  
 by some to end with this

chapter ; and the remainder  
 of the book to have been  
 composed from other sources.

Timotheus<sup>a</sup>, and Apollonius the *son* of Gennæus, also Hieronymus, and Demophon, and besides them Nicanor the governor of Cyprus, would not suffer them to be quiet, and live in peace.

3 The men of Joppe also did such an ungodly deed as this: they prayed the Jews who dwelt among them to go with their wives and children into the boats which they had prepared, as though  
4 they had meant them no hurt. Who accepted of it according to the common decree of the city, as being desirous to live in peace, and suspecting nothing: but when they were gone forth into the deep, they drowned<sup>b</sup> no less than two hundred of them.

5 When Judas heard of this cruelty done unto his countrymen, he commanded those who were with  
6 him *to make them ready*. And calling upon God the righteous Judge, he came against those murderers of his brethren; and burnt the haven by night, and set the boats on fire, and those who  
7 fled thither he slew. But when the town was shut up, he retreated, with a determination to come again and root out the whole state and peo-  
8 ple of Joppe. But when he heard that the Jamnites<sup>c</sup> were minded to do in like manner unto the  
9 Jews who dwelt among them; he came upon the Jamnites also by night, and set fire on the haven, and the navy; so that the light of the fire was

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. v. 6, 37; 3 Macc. viii. 30, 32; x. 37.

<sup>b</sup> Josephus relates a similar act of cruelty practised by the Galilæans against those

who were favourers of Herod. (Antiq. XIV. 27.)

<sup>c</sup> Jamnia was another sea-port town, near Joppe. See book II. ch. iv. 15, and the note there.

seen at Jerusalem, two hundred and forty furlongs off.

Now when they were gone from thence nine 10 furlongs, in their journey towards Timotheus, no fewer than five thousand *men on foot*, and five hundred horsemen of the Arabians set upon him. Whereupon there was a very sore battle; but Judas' side, by the help of God, got the victory; so that the Nomades<sup>d</sup> of Arabia being overcome, besought Judas for peace, promising both to give him cattle, and to assist him in other matters. Then Judas, thinking indeed that they would be 12 profitable in many things, granted them peace: and having received assurance of this, they departed to their tents.

He went also about to take a certain city, which 13 was strongly secured by bridges, and fenced about with walls, and inhabited by people of divers countries; and the name of it was Caspis<sup>e</sup>. But 14 they which were within it, put such trust in the strength of the walls and provision of victuals, that they behaved themselves rudely towards Judas and his company; railing also and blaspheming, and uttering such words as were not to be spoken. Wherefore Judas with his company, 15 calling upon the great Lord of the world, (who without any rams or engines of war, did cast

<sup>d</sup> "Wanderers," so called from their roving unsettled mode of life; their custom being not to reside in towns or in any fixed spot, but to move from place to place at pleasure, according to the convenience of pasturage for

their cattle. From this word *Nomades*, the Latin authors afterwards called them *Nu-midæ*.

<sup>e</sup> Or Casphon, as it is called at 2 Macc. v. 36: probably the place designated is Heshbon.

down Jericho<sup>f</sup> in the time of Joshua,) gave a  
 16 fierce assault against the walls; and took the  
 city by the will of God, and made unspeakable  
 slaughters; insomuch that a lake two furlongs  
 broad, near adjoining thereunto, being filled full,  
 appeared to be running with blood.

17 Then departed they from thence seven hun-  
 dred and fifty furlongs, and came to Characa unto  
 18 the Jews who are called Tubieni<sup>g</sup>. But as for  
 Timotheus, they found him not in the places: for  
 before he had dispatched any thing, he departed  
 from thence, having left a very strong garrison in  
 19 a certain hold. Howbeit, Dositheus and Sosipa-  
 ter, who were of Maccabæus's captains, went forth,  
 and slew those whom Timotheus had left in the  
 fortress, above ten thousand men.

20 And Maccabæus ranged his army by bands, and  
 set them over the bands; and went against Timo-  
 theus, who had about him an hundred and twenty  
 thousand men of foot, and two thousand and five  
 21 hundred horsemen. Now when Timotheus had  
 knowledge of Judas' coming, he sent the women  
 and children, and the other baggage, unto a for-  
 tress called Carnion<sup>h</sup>; (for the post was hard to  
 besiege, and uneasy to come unto, by reason of the  
 22 straitness of all the places;) but when Judas his  
 first band came in sight, the enemies (being smitten  
 with fear and terror, through the appearing of  
 Him who seeth all things) fled amain; one running  
 this way, another that way, so as that they were  
 often hurt by their own men, and wounded with  
 23 the points of their own swords. Judas also was

<sup>f</sup> Compare Joshua vi. 20.

<sup>g</sup> See at 2 Macc. v. 13.

<sup>h</sup> Or Carnaim. Compare

2 Macc. v. 43.

very earnest in pursuing them, killing those wicked wretches, of whom he slew about thirty thousand men. Moreover, Timotheus himself fell <sup>24</sup> into the hands of Dositheus and Sosipater, whom he besought with much craft to let him go with his life; because he had many of the Jews' parents, and the brethren of some of them, who, if they put him to death, should not be regarded. So when he had confirmed the agreement<sup>i</sup> with <sup>25</sup> many words, that he would restore these without hurt, they let him go, for the saving of their brethren.

Then Maccabæus marched forth to Carnion, <sup>26</sup> and to the temple of Atargatis<sup>k</sup>; and there he slew five and twenty thousand persons. And <sup>27</sup> after he had put to flight and destroyed them, Judas removed the host towards Ephron<sup>l</sup>, a strong city, wherein Lysias abode and a great multitude of divers nations, and the strong young men kept the walls, and defended them mightily: wherein also was great provision of engines and darts.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. *ἔπιστόμιον*: the same word occurs at Daniel vi. 10, and 12; where it is translated, *a writing* or *decree*.

<sup>k</sup> This deity, called also Dercetis, or Derceto, by the Greeks, was worshipped extensively throughout Phœnicia and Babylonia. Lucian describes her image as being half woman half fish, like Dagon of the Philistines; and indeed she has been considered to be the same deity (for in these the sexes were holden changeable at pleasure). Diodorus Siculus mentions that

a statue of it at Ascalon had the *face* only of a woman, all the rest of the body, &c. being like a fish. The name is said to signify, "a magnificent fish." See Selden, *de Diis Syris*. Dercetis and her worship is mentioned by Ovid, *Metamorphos.* IV. 45. And it is noticed in the *Fragments to Calmet*, (from the *Asiatic Researches*, vol. IV.) that the name Antargati occurs as the Sanskrit appellation of one of the Chaldæan deities.

<sup>l</sup> Compare 2 Macc. v. 46.

28 But when Judas and his company had called upon almighty God, (who with his power breaketh the strength of his enemies,) they won the city, and slew twenty and five thousand of them which were within.

29 From thence they departed to Scythopolis<sup>m</sup>, which lieth six hundred furlongs from Jerusalem.

30 But when the Jews who dwelt there had testified that the Scythopolitans dwelt lovingly with them, and entreated them kindly in the time of their ad-  
31 versity; they gave them thanks, desiring them to be friendly still unto them: and so they came to Jerusalem, the feast of the weeks approaching.

32 And after the *feast* called Pentecost, they went<sup>n</sup> forth against Gorgias the governor of Idumæa<sup>o</sup>;  
33 who came out with three thousand men of foot,  
34 and four hundred horsemen. And it happened that in their fighting together, a few of the Jews  
35 were slain. At which time Dositheus, one of Bacenor's company, who was on horseback, and a strong man, pressed close upon Gorgias, and taking hold of his coat, drew him by force; and when he would have taken that cursed man alive, a horseman of Thracia coming upon him, smote off his shoulder<sup>p</sup>, so that Gorgias escaped  
36 unto Marisa<sup>q</sup>. Now when Gorgias<sup>r</sup> and his men

<sup>m</sup> The same which at 2 Macc. v. 52, is called Bethsan. See the note there.

<sup>n</sup> Namely, Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias, whom Judas had left in charge of the people, while he himself was gone on a military expedition. Compare 2 Macc. v. 18.

<sup>o</sup> Beyond doubt the read-

ing is faulty, and ought to be *Jamnia*, as at 2 Macc. v. 58. Josephus warrants this correction.

<sup>p</sup> More properly, "his arm at the shoulder."

<sup>q</sup> A town or fortress of Judah, near to Eleuthropolis.

<sup>r</sup> There is here a remarkable variety among the MSS.

had fought long, and were weary; Judas called upon the Lord, that he would shew himself to be their helper, and leader of the battle. And with 37 that he began in his own language, and sung psalms with a loud voice; and rushing unawares upon Gorgias and his men, he put them to flight. So Judas gathered his host, and came into the 38 city Odollam<sup>s</sup>. And when the seventh day came, they purified themselves, (as the custom was,) and kept the sabbath in the same place.

And upon the day following, as the use had 39 been<sup>t</sup>, Judas and his company came to take up the bodies of them which were slain, and to bury them with their kinsmen in their fathers' graves. Now under the coats of every one who was slain, 40 they found things<sup>u</sup> consecrated to the idols of the Jamnites, which are forbidden<sup>x</sup> the Jews by the law. Then every man saw that this was the cause wherefore they were slain. All men there- 41 fore praising the Lord the righteous Judge, who had opened the things that were hid, betook them- 42 selves unto prayer; and besought him, that the sin committed might wholly be put out of remembrance. Besides, that noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves from sin; forsomuch as they saw before their eyes the things which came

some reading 'Εσδραν, 'Εσραν, 'Εξρει, or 'Εσδρην: which Grotius judges ought to be 'Εφρών, the city mentioned at ver. 27. Archbishop Ussher takes Esdris for one of Judas' captains.

<sup>s</sup> Query whether this be the same as Adullam, mentioned at Genesis xxxviii. 12.?

<sup>t</sup> The Greek text varies, between καθ' ὃν τρόπον, and καθ' ὃν χρόνον, τὸ τῆς χρείας ἐγεγόνει. The latter would signify "when all which was necessary had been done."

<sup>u</sup> See the same offence and its punishment recorded at Joshua vii. 4—26.

<sup>x</sup> See Deuteron. vii. 5.

to pass, for the sins of those who were slain.  
 43 And when he had made a gathering throughout  
 the company<sup>y</sup> to the sum of two thousand<sup>z</sup>  
 drachms of silver, he sent it to Jerusalem to offer  
 a sin-offering, doing therein very well, and pro-  
 perly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection;  
 44 (for if he had not hoped that they which were  
 slain should have risen again, it had been super-  
 45 fluous and vain to pray for the dead;) and also *in*  
*that* he perceived that there was great favour laid  
 up for those who died godly. (It was an holy  
 and good thought.) Whereupon he made an ex-  
 piation for the dead, that they might be delivered  
 from sin.

### CHAPTER XIII.

*The battles of Judas with Antiochus Eupator. Peace made.*

- 1 IN the hundred forty and ninth year it was told Judas that Antiochus Eupator was B. C. 164. coming with a great power into Judæa:
- 2 and with him Lysias his protector and ruler of his affairs, having each of them a Grecian power, of footmen an hundred and ten thousand, and horsemen five thousand and three hundred, and elephants two and twenty, and three hundred chariots armed with scythes.
- 3 Menelaus also joined himself with them, and with great dissimulation encouraged Antiochus; not for the safeguard of his country, but because

<sup>y</sup> Gr. *κατ' ἀνδρολογίαν*, "man by man."

Verses 43—45.] It deserves to be noticed, that no mention of any such offering or idea, as that which is inserted here, is found either

in the Second Book of Maccabees, or in the Fifth, although the same portion of the history is there treated of.

<sup>z</sup> Three Greek manuscripts read "three thousand."

he thought to have been made governor. But 4  
 the King of kings moved Antiochus' mind against  
 this wicked wretch; and when Lysias informed  
 the king that this man was the cause of all mis-  
 chief, the king commanded to bring him unto  
 Beroea, and to put him to death, as the manner is  
 in that place. Now there is in that place a tower 5  
 of fifty cubits high, full of ashes; and it had a  
 round instrument<sup>a</sup>, which on every side hanged  
 down into the ashes. And whosoever was con- 6  
 demned of sacrilege, or had committed any other  
 grievous crime, there did all men thrust him unto  
 death. Such a death it happened that wicked 7  
 Menelaus to die, not having so much as burial in  
 the earth; and that most justly: for insomuch as 8  
 he had committed many sins about the altar,  
 whose fire and ashes were holy, he received his  
 death in ashes.

Now the king came with a barbarous and 9  
 haughty mind, to do far worse to the Jews than  
 had been done in his father's time. Which things 10  
 when Judas perceived, he commanded the multi-  
 tude to call upon the Lord night and day; that if  
 ever at any other time, he would now also help

<sup>a</sup> Gr. *δργανον περιφερές*. The passage is rather obscure: but it seems that the tower contained a *wheel* in contact with the ashes, on which the culprit was tied, and then whirled round till he was suffocated. See the word *δργανον* again used to signify a wheel, in 4 Macc. ix. 19, 20. A similar mode of destruction is mentioned by Valerius Maximus, (IX. 2. sect. 6.) who states that Darius Ochus

of Persia, wishing to get rid of some obnoxious chiefs, devised a novel mode of punishment, to save himself from violating the letter of a previous oath: "Septum altis parietibus locum cinere com-  
 "plevit, suppositoque tigno  
 "prominente, benigne cibo et  
 "potione exceptos in eo collocabat; e quo somno sopiti  
 "in illam insidiosam congeriem decidebant."

them, being at the point to be deprived of their law, of their country, and of the holy temple :  
 11 and that he would not suffer the people, which lately had been refreshed a little, to become again  
 12 subject to the blasphemous nations. So when they had all done this together, and besought the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying flat upon the ground three days long; Judas, having exhorted them, commanded they should be in  
 13 readiness. And being apart with the elders, he determined, before the king's host should enter into Judæa, and get possession of the city, to go forth, and try the matter *in fight*, by the help of the  
 14 Lord. So when he had committed *all* to the Creator of the world, and exhorted his soldiers to fight manfully, even unto death, for the laws, the temple, the city, the country, and the commonwealth, he  
 15 camped by Modin. And having given the watchword to them that were about him, "Victory is  
 "of God;" with the most valiant and choice young men, he attacked the king's tent by night, and slew in the camp about four thousand men, and the chiefest of the elephants, with all who  
 16 were upon him<sup>b</sup>. And at last they filled the camp with fear and tumult, and departed with good  
 17 success. This was done in the break of the day, because the protection of the Lord did help him.  
 18 Now when the king had taken a taste of the

<sup>b</sup> There is some obscurity in the Greek text, καὶ τὸν πρωτεύοντα τῶν ἐλεφάντων σὺν τῷ κατ'οικίαν ὄχλῳ συνέθηκε. [There is a various reading, ὄντι for ὄχλῳ.] Grotius translates it, "and he added, (to the slain,) "him who was director of

"the Elephants, with all his "retinue." Bochart understands the elephant himself, not his governor, to be spoken of; and corrects the reading το τὸν πρωτεύοντα τῶν ἐλεφάντων ὃς σὺν τῷ κατ'οικίαν ὄχλῳ συνέθηκε.

manliness of the Jews, he went about to take the holds by policy; and marched towards Bethsura, 19 which was a strong garrison of the Jews: but he was put to flight, failed, and lost some of his men: and Judas conveyed unto them which were 20 in it such things as were necessary. But Rhodocus, who was in the Jews' host, disclosed the secrets to the enemies; therefore he was sought out, and taken, and put in prison. The king 22 treated with them in Bethsura the second time, gave his hand, took theirs, departed, fought with Judas and his men, was overcome; heard that 23 Philip, who was left over the affairs in Antioch, had shaken off his allegiance; was confounded *at it*, entreated the Jews, submitted himself, and swore to all just conditions, agreed with them, and offered sacrifice, honoured the temple, and dealt kindly with the place; and accepted well of 24 Maccabæus, made him principal governor from Ptolemais unto the Gerrhenians<sup>c</sup>; came to Ptole- 25 mais: the people there were grieved by reason of the covenants; for they stormed, because they wished to make their covenants void. Lysias 26 went up to the judgment-seat, said as much as could be in defence of the cause, persuaded, pacified, made them well-affected, returned to Antioch. Thus it went touching the king's coming and departing.

#### CHAPTER XIV<sup>a</sup>.

*The attempts of Nicanor against the Jews.*

AFTER three years<sup>b</sup> was Judas with his com- 1

<sup>c</sup> Who dwelt on the borders of Egypt.

<sup>a</sup> Compare this chapter with 2 Macc. vii.

<sup>b</sup> Namely, from the commencement of Antiochus' reign.

pany informed that Demetrius the *son* of Seleucus, having entered by the haven of Tripolis B. C.  
 2 with a great power and navy, had gained <sup>162.</sup>  
 possession of the country, and killed Antiochus, and Lysias his protector.

3 Now one Alcimus, who had been high priest, and had defiled himself wilfully in the times of their mingling<sup>c</sup> *with the Gentiles*, perceiving that by no means he could save himself, nor have any  
 4 more access to the holy altar; came to king Demetrius in the hundred and one and fiftieth year, presenting unto him a crown of gold, and a palm, and also of the golden boughs which were used solemnly in the temple: and so that day he held  
 5 his peace. Howbeit, having gotten opportunity to further his foolish enterprise, *and* being called into council by Demetrius, and asked how the Jews stood affected, and what they intended, he  
 6 answered thereunto; “Those of the Jews who are  
 “ called Assidæans<sup>d</sup>, (whose captain is Judas Mac-  
 “ cabæus,) nourish war, and are seditious, and will  
 7 “ not let the realm be in quietness. Wherefore I,  
 “ being deprived of mine ancestors’ honour, (I  
 “ mean the high-priesthood,) am now come hi-  
 8 “ ther: first verily for the unfeigned care I have  
 “ of things pertaining to the king; and secondly,  
 “ even for that I intend the good of mine own  
 “ countrymen: for all our nation is in no small  
 “ misery, through the unadvised dealing of them  
 9 “ aforesaid. Wherefore, O king, seeing thou

<sup>c</sup> Gr. ἐπιμιξίας: but many MSS. read ἀμιξίας, as at verse 38 of this chapter. The two readings and passages deserve to be compared, as doubtless

one and the same thing is intended in both.

<sup>d</sup> Concerning these men, see 2 Macc. ii. 42. and vii. 13.

“ knowest all these things, be careful for the  
 “ country and our nation, which is pressed <sup>e</sup> on  
 “ every side, according to the affable clemency  
 “ which thou readily shewest unto all. For as 10  
 “ long as Judas liveth, it is not possible that the  
 “ state should be quiet.”

This was no sooner spoken by him, but the rest 11  
 of his friends, being maliciously set against Judas,  
 did more incense Demetrius. And forthwith calling 12  
 Nicanor, who had been master of the elephants,  
 and making him governor over Judæa, he sent him  
 forth; commanding him to slay Judas, and to scat- 13  
 ter them which were with him, and to make Alci-  
 mus high priest of the most high temple. Then the 14  
 heathen who had fled out of Judæa from Judas,  
 came to Nicanor by flocks, thinking the harm and  
 calamities of the Jews would be their welfare.  
 Now when *the Jews* heard of Nicanor's coming, 15  
 and the intended invasion of the heathen, they  
 cast earth upon their heads, and made supplica-  
 tion to him who had established his people for  
 ever, and who always helpeth his own portion  
 with manifestation of his presence. So at the com- 16  
 mandment of the captain they removed straight-  
 ways from thence, and came near unto them, at  
 the town of Dessau <sup>f</sup>.

Now Simon, Judas' brother, had joined battle 17  
 with Nicanor, but was somewhat discomfited  
 through the sudden silence <sup>g</sup> of his enemies.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. τοῦ περιισταμένου γέ-  
 νους ἡμῶν, “surrounded and  
 “pressed on all sides.” The  
 verb is used in this passive  
 sense by Polybius.

<sup>f</sup> Its precise situation is  
 not known.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἀφασίαν. This ex-  
 pression is used by Polybius:  
 still the sense is obscure.

18 Nevertheless, Nicanor hearing of the manliness of  
 Judas and his men, and the courageousness which  
 they had to fight for their country, declined to try  
 19 the matter by the sword. Wherefore he sent Po-  
 sidonius, and Theodotus, and Mattathias, to make  
 20 peace. So when they had taken long advisement  
 thereupon, and the captain had made the multi-  
 tude acquainted therewith, and it appeared that  
 they were all of one mind, they consented to the  
 21 covenant; and appointed a day to meet in toge-  
 ther by themselves: and *when* the day came, and  
 22 particular seats were set for each of them; Judas  
 placed armed men, ready in convenient places,  
 lest some treachery should be suddenly practised  
 by the enemies: so they held a peaceable confer-  
 ence.

23 Now Nicanor abode in Jerusalem, and did no  
 hurt, but sent away the people which had been  
 24 gathered together in flocks. And he had Judas  
 ever in his presence; *for* he was affectionately in-  
 25 clined towards him. He prayed him also to take  
 a wife, and to beget children: so he married, was  
 26 quiet, and took part<sup>h</sup> of this social life. But  
 Alcimus perceiving the love which was betwixt  
 them, and considering the covenants which were  
 made, took himself away; and came to Demetrius,  
 and told him that Nicanor was not well affected

Grotius would meet the diffi-  
 culty by reading ἐφόδειαν, and  
 Biel by ἀφιξίω: but the MSS.  
 give no countenance to either  
 emendation.

<sup>h</sup>. Gr. ἐκοινωνήσεν βίου, "he  
 "entered upon domestic life."  
 In the first book of Macca-

bes, iv. 6, the phrase βίου  
 κοινωνία occurs, denoting "a  
 "married life." Most of the  
 old translators interpret the  
 passage as meaning that Ju-  
 das and Nicanor thencefor-  
 ward *lived together*.

towards the state; for that he had ordained Judas, a traitor to his realm, to be his successor. Then the king being in a rage, and provoked 27 with the accusations of the most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was much displeased with the covenants, and commanding him that he should send Maccabæus prisoner in all haste unto Antioch.

When this came to Nicanor's hearing, he was 28 much confounded in himself, and took it grievously that he should make void the arti-  
 B.C. 16½. cles which were agreed upon, the man being in no fault. But because there was no way 29 of resisting the king, he watched his time to accomplish this thing by policy. But when Mac- 30 cabæus saw that Nicanor began to be churlish unto him, and that he entreated him more roughly than he was wont, perceiving that such sour behaviour came not of good, he gathered together not a few of his men, and withdrew himself secretly from Nicanor. But the other, finding that 31 he was notably prevented by Judas' policy, came into the great and holy temple; and while the priests were offering the ordinary sacrifices, com- 32 manded them to deliver *him* the man. And when they sware that they could not tell where the 33 man was whom he sought, he stretched out his right hand toward the temple, and made an oath in this manner; If ye will not deliver me Judas as a prisoner, I will lay this temple of God even with the ground, and I will break down the altar, and erect here a notable temple unto Bacchus.

After these words he departed. Then the 34

priests lifted up their hands towards heaven, and besought Him who was ever a defender of their nation, saying in this manner; Thou, O Lord of all things, who hast need of nothing<sup>i</sup>, wast pleased that the temple of thine habitation should be among us; therefore now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep this house ever undefiled, which lately was cleansed<sup>k</sup>.

37 Now was there accused unto Nicanor one Rhazis, one of the elders of Jerusalem, a lover of his countrymen, and a man of very good report, who for his kindness was called a father of the Jews. 38 For in the former times, when they mingled not<sup>l</sup> themselves with the Gentiles, he had been accused of Judaism, and did boldly jeopard his body and life with all vehemency for the religion of the Jews. So Nicanor, willing to declare the hate which he bare unto the Jews, sent above five hundred men of war to take him. For he thought 41 by taking him, to do *the Jews* much hurt. Now when the multitude would have taken the tower, and violently broken into the outer door, and commanded to bring fire and burn the doors, he being surrounded on every side, fell upon his sword; 42 chusing rather to die manfully, than to come into the hands of the wicked, to be abused otherwise 43 than beseemed his noble birth: but missing his stroke through the hurry of the conflict, the multitude also rushing within the doors, he ran boldly

<sup>i</sup> See the same expression used at 1 Macc. ii. 9.

<sup>k</sup> The common version adds here, "and stop every unrighteous mouth." But

these words are wholly wanting in almost every Greek manuscript.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. ἀμιξίας. Compare this expression with verse 3 above.

up to the wall, and cast himself down manfully amongst the thickest of them. But they quickly 44 giving back, and a space being made, he fell down upon the middle of his belly<sup>m</sup>. Nevertheless, 45 while there was yet breath within him, being inflamed with anger, he rose up; and though his blood gushed out like spouts of water, and his wounds were grievous, yet he ran through the midst of the throng; and standing upon a certain steep rock, when as his blood was now quite gone, 46 he held forth his bowels, and taking them in both his hands, he cast them upon the throng; and calling upon the Lord of life and spirit to restore him those again, he thus died.

#### CHAPTER XV.

##### *The defeat of Nicanor. His death.*

BUT Nicanor, hearing that Judas and his com- 1 pany were in the strong places about Samaria, devised without any danger to set upon them on the sabbath-day. Nevertheless, the Jews who were 2 compelled to go with him, said; O destroy not so cruelly and barbarously, but give honour to that day, which He who seeth all things hath honoured with holiness above *other days*. Then the most 3 abandoned wretch demanded, If there existed a Mighty One in heaven, who had commanded the sabbath-day to be kept. And when they said, 4 There is, the living Lord: he is the mighty One

<sup>m</sup> Gr. ἦλθε κατὰ μέσον τὸν κενεῶνα· or, as before translated, “into the midst of the “void place;” for the word κενεῶν is thought to bear both significations: but the wound-

ed condition of the man, as described in the following verse, seems to determine in favour of that rendering which I have adopted.

in heaven, who commanded the seventh day to be  
 5 kept: then said the other, And I also am mighty  
 upon earth, and I command to take arms, and to  
 do the king's business: yet he obtained not to  
 6 have his wicked will done. So Nicanor, lifting  
 up his neck in all haughtiness, determined to set  
 up a public trophy of his victory over Judas and  
 them which were with him.

7 But Maccabæus had ever sure confidence that  
 8 he should obtain help from the Lord: wherefore  
 he exhorted his people not to fear the coming of  
 the heathen against them, but to remember the  
 help which in former times they had received  
 from heaven; and now to expect the victory and  
 aid which should come unto them from the Al-  
 9 mighty. And so comforting them out of the law  
 and the prophets, and withal putting them in  
 mind of the battles which they had won afore,  
 10 he made them more cheerful. And when he had  
 stirred up their minds, he gave them their charge;  
 shewing them therewithal the perfidy of the hea-  
 11 then, and the breach of oaths. Thus he armed  
 every one of them, not so much with defence of  
 shields and spears, as with the comfort of good  
 words: and besides that, telling them a dream  
 worthy to be believed for a true vision<sup>a</sup>, he re-  
 12 joiced them all [not a little]. And this was his  
 vision: That Onias, who had been high priest, a  
 virtuous and a good man, reverend in deportment,  
 gentle in manners, well spoken also, and exercised  
 from a child in all points of virtue, holding up

<sup>a</sup> Gr. ὑπὸ τῆ. There is a is respectably supported by  
 various reading, ὑπερ τῆ, which MSS.

his hands, prayed over the whole body of the Jews. This done, that in like manner there ap- 13  
peared a man with grey hairs, and exceeding glorious, and that about him there was a certain wonderful and most excellent majesty. Then 14  
Onias answered, saying, This is a lover of thy brethren, who prayeth much for the people, and for the holy city, *to wit*, Jeremias the prophet of God. Whereupon Jeremias holding forth his right 15  
hand, gave to Judas a sword of gold, and in giving it, spake thus; Take this holy sword, a gift 16  
from God, with which thou shalt defeat<sup>b</sup> the adversaries.

Thus being well comforted by the words of 17  
Judas, which were very good, and able to stir them up to valour, and to encourage the hearts of the young men, they determined not to pitch camp; but courageously to set upon them, and manfully to try the matter by conflict; because both the city, and the sanctuary, and the temple, were in danger. For their anxiety for their wives 18  
and their children, their brethren and kinsfolks, was in less account with them: but the greatest and principal fear was for the holy temple. Also 19  
there was no slight anxiety among those who were collected together in the city, being troubled for the conflict abroad. And now, when as all 20  
looked forward to the approaching trial, and the enemies were already come near, and the army was set in array, and the beasts placed in a convenient position, and the horsemen drawn up on the wings; Maccabæus, seeing the coming of the 21

<sup>b</sup> Gr. *θραύσεις*, a word used in this sense by Polybius.

multitude, and the divers preparations of armour, and the fierceness of the beasts, stretched out his hands towards heaven, and called upon the Lord who worketh wonders<sup>c</sup>; knowing that victory cometh not by arms, but even as it seemeth good to him, he giveth the victory to such as are  
 22 worthy. Therefore in his prayer he said after this manner; “O Lord, thou didst send thine angel  
 “in the time of Ezekias king of Judæa, and didst  
 “slay in the host of Sennacherib an hundred  
 23 “fourscore and five thousand. Wherefore now  
 “also, O Lord of heaven, send a good angel be-  
 24 “fore us, for a fear and a dread *unto them*; and  
 “through the might of thine arm, let those be  
 “stricken with terror who come against thy holy  
 “people to blaspheme.” And he ended thus.

25 Then Nicanor, and they which were with him,  
 26 came forward with trumpets and songs. But Judas and his company encountered the enemies  
 27 with invocation and prayer. So that fighting with their hands, and praying unto God with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty and five thousand men: for through the appearance of God they were greatly cheered.

28 Now when the battle was done, returning again with joy, they discovered that Nicanor lay dead  
 29 in all his armour. Then making a great shout, and a noise, they praised the Mighty One in their  
 30 own language. And *Judas*, who was ever the chief defender of the citizens, both in body and mind, and who continued his love<sup>d</sup> towards his

<sup>c</sup> The Vatican manuscript adds here τὸν κατόπτην, “the beholder of all things.”

<sup>d</sup> Gr. ὁ τὴν τῆς ἡλικίας εὐνοίαν εἰς τοὺς ὁμοθενοὺς διαφυλάξας.

countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nicanor's head, and his hand, with his shoulder, and bring them to Jerusalem. So when he had 31 arrived there; and had called them of his nation together, and set the priests before the altar, he sent for them which were of the tower; and 32 shewed them vile Nicanor's head, and the hand of that blasphemous man, which with proud brags he had stretched out against the holy temple of the Almighty. And when he had cut out the tongue of 33 that ungodly Nicanor, he commanded that they should give it by pieces unto the fowls; and hang up the reward<sup>e</sup> of his madness before the temple. So every man praised toward the heaven the glo- 34 rious Lord, saying, Blessed be He who hath kept his own place undefiled. He hanged also Nica- 35 nor's head upon the tower, an evident and manifest sign unto all of the help of the Lord.

And they all ordained with a common decree, 36 in no case to let that day pass without solemnity, but to celebrate the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which in the Syrian tongue is called Adar, the day before Mardocheus' day<sup>f</sup>. It having gone 37 thus with Nicanor; and from that time forth the city continuing in the power of the Hebrews, I also here will end my discourse.

And if *I have done* well, and appropriately<sup>g</sup> to 38 my arrangement of the story, it is that which I desired: but if slenderly and meanly, it is that

<sup>e</sup> Gr. ἐπίχειρον, a word used by Polybius in this sense. Schleusner contends that it ought to be translated *arm*; but I think his arguments will not bear examination.

<sup>f</sup> Namely, the feast of Purim, mentioned at Esther ix. 28, 59.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. εὐθικτως, an expression used by Polybius.

39 which I could attain unto. For, as to drink wine alone, or in like manner again water, is hurtful; and as wine mingled with water is pleasant, and affords an agreeable delight: even so the fit framing of a discourse delighteth the ears of them which read the story. And here shall be the end.

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It deserves remark, that in Coverdale's translation of the Bible, first printed in 1535, likewise in Matthew's, 1537, in Cranmer's, 1539, also in the various reprints of these editions, the last two verses of this book are wanting: nor have I found them in any English Bible earlier than the Genevan of 1560, and the Bishops' of 1568.

END OF BOOK III.



THE  
FOURTH BOOK  
OF  
MACCABEES:

CONTAINING

REFLECTIONS ON RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE: LIKEWISE AN ACCOUNT OF HELIODORUS' ATTEMPT TO PLUNDER THE TEMPLE: AND THE HISTORY OF ELEAZAR AND THE SEVEN BRETHREN PERSECUTED EVEN TO DEATH FOR THEIR ADHERENCE TO RELIGION.

CHAPTER I.

*On the power of Religious Principle.*

1 **AS** I am about to discuss a most philosophical subject, *namely*, whether religious principle<sup>a</sup> be perfect master of the Passions; I should be advising you well *by desiring* that with all readiness  
2 of mind you give attention to philosophy. For in truth, Reason is necessary to every person, as a preliminary step to Science: and moreover it contains within itself the recommendation of *excelling*

<sup>a</sup> This book is commonly spoken of as a treatise "on the government of *Reason*:" on consideration, I have judged it best to distinguish as under, the four following words, which are of constant occur-

rence throughout the work. Δόγος I translate, *Reason*: λογισμός, *Principle*: εὐσεβῆς λογισμός, *Religious Principle*: εὐλογιστία, *Rectitude of Principle*.

*in* the highest virtue, I mean, in Prudence. Now 3 if Principle appears to have dominion over those passions which are impediments to Temperance, such as gluttony and sensual desire: it also ap- 4 pears to lord it over those which stand in the way of Justice, such as habitual depravity<sup>b</sup>; and likewise over those which interfere with Fortitude, namely, Anger, and Pain, and Fear.

How happens it then, perhaps some may say, 5 that if Principle is superior to the passions, it does not obtain the sovereignty over Forgetfulness and Ignorance? This their attempt at argument is ridiculous. For Principle does not prevail against 6 those passions which belong to itself<sup>c</sup>, *and are defects of its own nature*; but against such as are opposed to Justice, and Fortitude, and Temperance, and Prudence<sup>d</sup>: and *even* against these it prevails not in such degree as to destroy them, but *only* so as not to yield to, *or be guided by* them.

This fact indeed I might prove to you by argu- 7 ments from many other sources, that Principle is absolute sovereign of the Passions: but I may de- 8 monstrate it with much greater effect, from the magnanimity of those persons who suffered death in defence of virtue, namely, Eleazar, and the seven brethren and their mother. For all these, 9 by their contempt of sufferings even unto death<sup>e</sup>, have given demonstration that Principle does possess controul over the Passions. For their virtues, 10

<sup>b</sup> Gr. κακοήθεια.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τῶν ἑαυτοῦ παθῶν.

<sup>d</sup> These words are omitted by Josephus. (edit. Haverkamp.)

<sup>e</sup> After these words Josephus adds, “in defence of the laws of God, and by despising even their own lives for the sake of religion.”

therefore, it is my business to praise these men, who, together with their mother, died at this juncture for the sake of that which is right: and for the honours which they have acquired, I must congratulate and think them happy.

- 11 For they, having obtained admiration for their fortitude and patience, not only from men in general, but even from those who had shamefully ill-treated them<sup>f</sup>, became the means of putting a stop to that tyranny which was exercised against their nation; having conquered the tyrant by their patient endurance, so that their country was purged and cleansed by the expiatory sacrifice which they offered.
- 12 But I may now proceed at once to discuss the point in question, commencing by speaking generally to the argument, as is our custom; and then will go on to discourse concerning these persons in particular, giving glory to the all-wise God.
- 13 The question, then, which we have to determine, is, “whether Principle be complete master  
14 “of the Passions.” Let us define, therefore, and explain, what is Principle, and what is Passion. Also, how many sorts of Passions there are; and whether Principle extends its dominion to all of these.
- 15 Principle then is, “Intellect accompanied *and*  
“*guided* by sound reason, chusing and ordering  
16 “aright<sup>g</sup> a life directed by wisdom.” And Wisdom is, “The knowledge of affairs both divine and  
17 “human, and of their causes.” But this is *attained by* the discipline and instruction of the law:

<sup>f</sup> Compare ch. xvii. 16.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. προτίμων τὸν σοφίας βίον. [var. lect. λόγον.]

by which instruction we learn to receive divine matters with becoming reverence, and human affairs agreeably to their apparent utility. Now of 18 wisdom there are *four* species, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance; and the most influ- 19 ential<sup>h</sup> of them all is Prudence; by means of which indeed Principle obtains that mastery which it exercises over the Passions.

Of the Passions [*or affections*] the two most 20 comprehensive are Pleasure and Pain: and each of these affects [both the body and<sup>i</sup>] the mind. There are also numerous affections which accom- 21 pany and follow these leading passions, of Pleasure and Pain. Before Pleasure goes Desire: and after 22 Pleasure comes Joy. Before Pain is Fear: and 23 after Pain comes Sorrow. Anger<sup>k</sup> is an affection 24 which partakes both of pleasure and pain, *as will be perceived* if any one carefully observes it whenever it comes upon him. There exists also in 25 Pleasure a malignant evil habit, which is the most various and versatile of all the affections. In the 26 mind it exhibits itself under the form of arrogance, and avarice, love of vainglory, love of quarrelling, want of good faith, and envy. And in 27 the body it is greediness, and gluttony, and selfish enjoyment<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>h</sup> So Cicero pronounces of it, that, of the four virtues, this "maxime naturam attin-  
git humanam." De Officiis, I. c. 6.

<sup>i</sup> The words within brackets are wanting in the Oxford Septuagint, 8vo. 1817, but they are necessary to complete the sense, as may appear from ver. 27, 28. infra. Grabe's edi-

tion, taken from the Alexandrian MS., contains them.

<sup>k</sup> The same account of Anger is given by Aristotle, in the second book of his Rhetoric. "Ἐστὼ ὀργὴ ἄρεξις μετὰ λύπης τιμωρίας,—καὶ πάσῃ ὀργῇ ἔπρασθαι τινα ἡδονήν.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. *μονοφαγία*. Though this substantive is not found (perhaps) in classic authors,

28 As therefore there are two direct main shoots  
of the body and mind, namely, Pleasure and Pain;  
so are there many side-shoots springing up from  
29 these affections. Each of which shoots Princi-  
ple, that universal husbandman, pruning on every  
side<sup>m</sup>, and scraping off, and tying up, and watering,  
and changing about in every way, cultivates and  
improves the materials both of the morals and af-  
30 fections. For Principle truly is the leader of the  
Virtues; but of the Passions it is the monarch.

31 Observe now, first of all, from those acts which  
are obstructive to Temperance, how completely  
32 Principle is ruler over the Passions. For instance,  
Temperance is "The conquering of our desires."  
33 Of the desires, some have reference to the mind,  
and some to the body; and over both of these,  
34 Principle appears to bear sway. For from what  
cause *is it, that*, when we are urged on to forbid-  
den kinds<sup>n</sup> of food, we turn away from the plea-  
sures which these are calculated to afford? Is it  
not, that Principle is able to restrain and rule  
35 these appetites? such at least is my opinion. And  
therefore, when we long for fishes, and fowls, and  
fourfooted animals, and every kind of food which  
is forbidden to us by the law, it is through the  
mastery of Principle that we abstain from them.

yet both the verb *μονοφαγέω*  
and the adjective *μονοφάγος*  
occur in Athenæus: and in  
Aristophanes (Vesp. 923), we  
have a person styled *κυνῶν*  
*ἀπάντων ἀνδρα μονοφαγίστατον.*

<sup>m</sup> Gr. *περικαθαίρων τε καὶ*  
*ἀποκνίζων, καὶ περιπλέκων, καὶ*  
*ἐπάρδων, καὶ πάντα τρόπον μετο-*  
*χτετεύων, κ. τ. λ.* The text of

the Oxford edition, 1817, 8vo.  
is extremely faulty here, and  
indeed in very many other  
passages.

<sup>n</sup> The author of this book  
is here speaking as a Jew, to  
Jews. See the particulars of  
the prohibitions to which he  
alludes, at Leviticus, ch. iii.  
vii. xi. and Deuter. ch. xiv.

For the affections of our appetites are restrained 36 and turned into another direction by sobriety of mind; and all the movements of the body are kept in check<sup>o</sup> by Principle.

## CHAPTER II.

### *Particular illustrations of the strength of Principle.*

AND where is the wonder of all this? if *even* 1 the desires of the soul are disappointed, when brought into competition with the pursuit of that which is honourable and right? Yet on this 2 ground the self-controuling Joseph<sup>a</sup> is extolled; that through the Principle which ruled in his mind, he overcame the temptation to sensual indulgence. For he, being youthful and fully ripe 3 for sexual intercourse, quelled through Principle the impetuous ardour of his passions.

And not only does Principle seem to vanquish 4 the stimulus of sensual indulgence, but also that of desire of every kind. For instance, the Law 5 says<sup>b</sup>, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife; nor any thing which is thy neighbour’s.” And now, since the Law has enjoined us not to 6 covet, I may the more easily persuade you that Principle is able to overcome the desires, even as it masters those passions which are preventive of Justice. For how is a man reclaimed, who through 7 parsimony habitually lives by himself<sup>c</sup>, and is a

<sup>o</sup> Gr. *φιμούνται*, are led as by a halter.

<sup>a</sup> See Genesis xxxix.

<sup>b</sup> Namely, at Exodus xx. 17.

<sup>c</sup> The sordid baseness of this habit is alluded to and

reproved by Job, who thus imprecates on himself: “*If I have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof, —then let mine arm fall from my shoulder-blade,*

glutton and a drunkard<sup>d</sup>; unless it be evident  
 8 that Principle is lord over the passions? But as  
 soon as any man regulates his life by the Law,—  
 although he be a miser, he does violence to his  
 own disposition; lending money without interest  
 to those who are in need, and forfeiting<sup>e</sup> the mo-  
 9 ney lent when the weeks *of the sabbatical year*  
 come on. And though a man be naturally parsimonious,  
 he becomes obedient to the Law through  
 Principle; neither gathering up<sup>f</sup> the last ears of  
 his harvest, nor gleaning the remnant of his vine-  
 yards: and in other points of his conduct it is  
 easy to see that it is Principle which conquers his  
 10 passions. For the Law prevails even over affec-  
 tion towards parents; not surrendering the cause  
 11 of Virtue *even* on their account. It also prevails  
 over conjugal affection; condemning it whenever  
 12 it seems contrary to law. It controuls likewise  
 the affection *of parents* towards their children,  
 punishing them for any vice. And it is master  
 over the intercourse between friends, reproving  
 them for any evil doings.

13 And do not think this to be incredible, when  
 Principle is able to overcome even enmity, by  
 14 means of the Law: not *permitting us* to cut down  
 the fruit-trees<sup>g</sup> belonging to the enemies, but pre-

“ and mine arm be broken  
 “ from the bone.” Job xxxi.  
 17, 23. See above, ch. i. 27.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *μονοφάγος τις ὦν τὸ ἥθος, καὶ γαστρίμαργος, καὶ μῆθυσιος.*

<sup>e</sup> Gr. *καὶ τὸ δάνειον τῶν ἐβδομάδων ἐνστάσων χρεοκοπούμενος.* The allusion seems to be to the sabbatical year, or year

of jubilee, the provisions of which are detailed in Leviticus, ch. xxv.

<sup>f</sup> See Leviticus xix. 9, 10; xxiii. 22; Deut. xxiv. 19, 21.

<sup>g</sup> See this injunction laid upon the Israelites at Deut. xx. 19, where they are called “ trees for meat.” Josephus, in his second book against

destroying it, and helping to build up again the things which had fallen.

And even over the more violent passions Prin- 15  
ciple appears to bear rule; namely, the love of  
empire, and vain-glory, and boasting, and ostenta-  
tion, and envy. For all these malignant passions 16  
a sober mind subdues and repels, as likewise it  
behaves towards anger; for even this it masters.  
For example; Moses, when enraged with Dathan 17  
and Abiram, did nothing against them in anger<sup>h</sup>,  
but disciplined his mind under Principle. For 18  
the sober mind, as I observed, is able to prevail  
against the passions: and some of them it can  
change, and others utterly annul<sup>i</sup>. For on what 19  
other ground does our most wise father Jacob<sup>k</sup>  
reprove Simeon and Levi, for having slain the  
whole tribe of the Sichemites contrary to good  
Principle; saying, “Cursed be their anger?” For, 20  
if Principle had not possessed the power of sub-  
duing Anger, he would not have spoken thus. For 21  
when God formed man, He planted around him a  
variety both of passions and of moral feelings.  
And then over all He set the intellectual Mind *as* 22  
on a throne<sup>l</sup>, for a holy director by means of the

Apion, has a parallel passage:  
Ἐπιεικῆ δὲ καὶ τὰ πρὸς τοὺς πο-  
λεμίους εἶναι κριθέντα· οὐδὲ γὰρ  
εἶα [ὁ νόμος]  
τὴν γῆν αὐτῶν πυρπολεῖν, οὐδὲ  
κόπτειν ἡμέρα δένδρα συγκεχώ-  
ρηκεν.

<sup>h</sup> See this verified (in Numbers xvi.) of the man who “was very meek, above  
“all the men which were up-

“on the face of the earth.”

<sup>i</sup> These two verses (17, 18.)  
do not occur in Josephus’  
text.

<sup>k</sup> See Genesis xxxiv. and  
xlix.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. καὶ τηρικαῦτα δὲ περὶ  
πάντων τὸν ἱερὸν ἡγεμόνα νοῦν  
διὰ τῶν ἔνδον αἰσθητηρίων ἐνε-  
θρόνισεν.

23 internal sensations. And to this Mind He imparted a law ; by which if it guide itself, it will continue to support an empire, sober, and just, and virtuous, and brave.

## CHAPTER III.

*The argument illustrated by example.*

- 1 How then happens it, any one may say, that if Principle subdues the passions, it does not obtain the mastery over forgetfulness and ignorance ?  
 2 But this reasoning is perfectly ridiculous : for Principle does not appear to have dominion over those passions which are connected with itself, but  
 3 over those which belong to the body. For instance, any one of you may not be able wholly to eradicate Desire ; but nevertheless *your* Principle is able to effect so much as this, that you be not  
 4 enslaved by *that* desire. Any one of us may not be able to root quite out of his mind Anger : but still, he may be able, *by means of Reason*, to lend  
 5 aid<sup>a</sup> towards subduing his anger. Any one of you may not be able to eradicate a vicious propensity : but Principle is able to assist him, so that he  
 6 shall not be bowed down by this propensity. For Principle is not an eradicator of the Passions, but their antagonist and opponent.  
 7 And this we may illustrate more forcibly by  
 8 the thirst of king David<sup>b</sup>. For when David had been engaged with the Philistines during a whole day, and had slain many of them, in company

<sup>a</sup> Gr. βοηθῆσαι τῷ θυμῷ. βλέπτειν τὸ σῶμα. Lib. XI. 25.  
 This use of the verb βοηθέω we have in Polybius ; βοηθεῖν ταῖς νόσοις καὶ ταῖς αἰτίαις τοῦ

<sup>b</sup> See the history of this transaction at 2 Sam. xxiii. 15, &c.

with the soldiers of his nation : when evening 9  
 was come, perspiring and greatly fatigued, he  
 came to the royal tent, around which the whole  
 body of his chief mighty men<sup>c</sup> had encamped.  
 All the rest, then, employed themselves about 10  
 their supper : but the king, being exceedingly 11  
 thirsty, although he had at hand abundance of  
 water from the fountain, could not assuage his  
 thirst with this : but a certain unaccountable long- 12  
 ing for water which was in the enemy's camp, in-  
 creasing tortured<sup>d</sup> him, and relaxing consumed  
 him. Wherefore when his guards were concerned 13  
 at this longing of the king, two<sup>e</sup> brave young sol-  
 diers, feeling respect for this his desire, armed  
 themselves ; and taking an urn, passed over the  
 enemies' ramparts. And having escaped the no- 14  
 tice of those who watched the gates, they passed  
 through the whole camp of the enemy in search  
 of it. And having discovered the fountain by 15  
 their valour, they brought from it a draught for  
 the king. But he, though parched up with thirst, 16  
 considered how great danger it would be to his  
 soul to drink water, which must be reckoned  
 equal to so much blood<sup>f</sup>. Wherefore, placing his 17

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τῶν προγόνων. The Latin translator of Josephus renders it simply "militum." "Προγόνων, quasi primæ nobilitatis viri, maximeque conspicui invicta fortitudine, quam eis Sacer Textus ibi adscribit,"—is Combesius' note upon the passage in Haverkamp's edition of Josephus.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. ἐπιτεινουσα συνέφρυγε, καὶ λύουσα κατέφλεγε. The

sense appears to be, that the feeling alternately increased and relaxed, and at each stage was accompanied by much torment to the king's mind.

<sup>e</sup> The Scripture informs us that there were "three : " see 2 Sam. xxiii. 16.

<sup>f</sup> "And David longed, and said, O that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem,

Principle in opposition to his desire, he poured  
 18 out the cup *as an offering* to God. For the sober  
 mind is able to overcome the pressure of the pas-  
 19 sions; and to extinguish the flames of lusts; and  
 to vanquish bodily pains, however excessive; and,  
 by honourable uprightness of Principle, to reject  
 with scorn all *assumed* dominion of the Passions.

20 But the occasion now invites us to the demon-  
 strative proof from history of this theory B. C.  
186.  
 of sober Principle.

21 For, when our fathers were enjoying complete  
 peace<sup>g</sup> through their strict observance of the Law,  
 and were prospering; so that even the king of  
 Asia, Seleucus Nicanor, both assigned them mo-  
 ney for the service of the temple, and approved  
 and permitted their constitution and form of go-  
 22 vernment: then certain persons, attempting inno-  
 vations against the general unanimity of senti-  
 ment, fell into calamities<sup>h</sup> in various ways.

“ which is by the gate! And  
 “ the three mighty men brake  
 “ through the host of the  
 “ Philistines, and drew water  
 “ out of the well of Bethle-  
 “ hem that was by the gate,  
 “ and took it, and brought it  
 “ to David: nevertheless he  
 “ would not drink thereof,  
 “ but poured it out unto the  
 “ Lord. And he said, Be it  
 “ far from me, O Lord, that  
 “ I should do this: is not  
 “ this the blood of the men  
 “ that went in jeopardy of  
 “ their lives? therefore he  
 “ would not drink it.” 2 Sa-

muel xxiii. 15—17.

<sup>g</sup> This narrative commences  
 about the year 187 before  
 Christ, when Seleucus Philo-  
 pator was king of Syria; Pto-  
 lemy Epiphanes king of E-  
 gypt; and Onias, the son of  
 Simon, high priest of the  
 Jews. Compare 3 Macc. iii.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. πολυτρόποις ἐχρήσαντο  
 συμφοραῖς. But this text is  
 probably faulty: the sense  
 seems to be, that, through the  
 ill-advised attempts of some  
 few persons, *the whole nation*  
 was brought into calamity.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The attempt of Apollonius. The beginning of Antiochus' ill-will to the Jews.*

FOR a certain man named Simon, who was op- 1  
 B. C. posed in politics to Onias, then holding  
 176. the high-priesthood for his life, an upright  
 and honourable man,—after that by every kind of  
 accusation thrown out to the hurt of his nation,  
 he could do him no harm; fled away, with the  
 design of betraying his country, *to the enemy*.  
 Wherefore, when he was come to Apollonius<sup>a</sup>, 2  
 the military governor of Syria and Phœnice and  
 Cilicia, he said: “Being well affected towards 3  
 “the interests of the king, I am come to inform  
 “you that many immense sums<sup>b</sup> of private money  
 “are hoarded up in the treasuries in Jerusalem,  
 “which monies have no connexion with the tem-  
 “ple, but belong of right to king Seleucus.”

Apollonius, coming to the knowledge of these 4  
 particulars, praises Simon for his affectionate re-  
 gard for the king; and, going up to Seleucus,  
 apprised him of this accumulated treasure. And 5  
 when he had received a commission respecting it,  
 taking his attendant troops, and quickly returning  
 into our country with the accursed Simon and a  
 most powerful army; he proclaimed that he was 6  
 come at the king's command, to take away from

<sup>a</sup> Compare the history of this transaction with the accounts given in the other books; namely, at 3 Macc. iii. 5, &c. 5 Macc. i. 2. Both these books state that

the person sent was Heliodorus, not Apollonius: but this latter name is mentioned (as archbishop Ussher observes) in the *Fasti Siculi*.

<sup>b</sup> Gr. *πολλὰς μυριάδας*.

the treasury the money which belonged to individuals. And when our nation was indignant at this speech, and spake up against it; thinking it were extremely hard that they who had confided their deposits to the sacred treasury should be deprived of them; they prepared what resistance they could. But Apollonius with threats departed for the temple. But the priests, with the women and children in the temple, having besought God to protect the holy place which was thus contemned; and while Apollonius with his armed forces was going up to the seizure of the treasure;—there appeared from heaven angels<sup>c</sup>, riding on horses, glittering all over in their armour, and filling his troops with great fear and trembling. And Apollonius, falling down half dead upon the floor of that court of the temple which is open to all<sup>d</sup> nations, stretched forth his hands to heaven, and with tears besought the Hebrews, that by offering up prayers for him they would appease the heavenly host. [For he owned that he had sinned, so as even to be worthy of death; and that, if he were preserved, he would proclaim abroad to all men the blessedness of the holy place<sup>e</sup>.]

13 Onias the high priest, induced by these words, and on other grounds being anxious that king Seleucus should not think that Apollonius had been thus laid hold on by human stratagem and

<sup>c</sup> Compare the account given in 3 Macc. iii. which differs in a few particulars: for example, Heliodorus, not Apollonius, is there made the principal actor.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, that which was called "the court of the Gentiles."

<sup>e</sup> This verse does not occur in Josephus.

not by Divine vengeance, prayed for him. And 14 he, being thus unexpectedly preserved from death, departed, intending to shew unto the king<sup>f</sup> the things which had happened to him.

But when king Seleucus was dead, his son 15  
 B. C. Antiochus Epiphanes succeeded<sup>g</sup> to his king-  
 175. dom, a haughty and wicked man<sup>h</sup>. Who, 16  
 having deposed Onias from the high-priesthood, appointed his brother Jason high priest: who had 17  
 covenanted, if Antiochus would give him the authority, to pay him<sup>i</sup> every year three thousand six hundred and sixty talents. And *the king* gave 18  
 him authority to be high priest, and to be civil ruler of the nation. Who both changed the way 19  
 of living of the Jewish people, and led them aside by strange policies to all kinds of transgression of their law. So that he not only erected a gym- 20  
 nasium on the very citadel of our country, but also put a stop<sup>k</sup> to the service of the temple. At which things Divine Justice being provoked, 21  
 caused Antiochus himself to be their enemy.

For when he was in Egypt warring with Pto- 22  
 About lemy<sup>l</sup>, and had heard that, on a report of  
 B.C. 170. his death being circulated, the men of Jeru-

<sup>f</sup> Compare 3 Macc. iii. 36—39.

<sup>g</sup> Namely, in the year before Christ 175.

<sup>h</sup> See his character drawn at 2 Macc. i. 10, and the notes there.

<sup>i</sup> If the figures here given be correct, the money promised yearly to Antiochus amounts to the enormous sum of one hundred and thirty one thousand three hundred and

ninety pounds, of our money!

<sup>k</sup> See this predicted at Daniel xi. 31, and its fulfilment detailed more fully at 2 Macc. i. 39, 41, &c.

<sup>l</sup> Ptolemy Philometor. Antiochus wishing “to have the “dominion of two realms,” (see 2 Macc. i. 16.) entered into Egypt, and made war against Ptolemy, and defeated him, anno Seleucid. 143. B. C. 170.

salem had most exceedingly rejoiced<sup>m</sup>, he marched  
 23 against them with all speed. And when he had  
 defeated them, he made a decree, that if any of  
 them were seen living according to the laws and  
 customs of their country, they should be put to  
 24 death. And when he could in no way accomplish  
 by his decrees the dissolution of that affection  
 which the people bore to their own law ; but saw  
 that all his threats and punishments were ren-  
 25 dered vain : so that even women<sup>n</sup>, because they  
 had circumcised their children, were thrown down  
 a precipice, together with their infants, being pre-  
 viously aware that they would suffer this punish-  
 26 ment *if they ventured to circumcise* : when there-  
 fore his decrees were treated with contempt by  
 the people, he in person compelled by tortures  
 every individual of the nation, by tasting for-  
 bidden and unclean meats<sup>o</sup>, to abjure the Jewish  
 religion.

## CHAPTER V.

*Eleazar brought forward. His eloquent address to  
 the king.*

1 THE tyrant Antiochus<sup>a</sup>, then, sitting in state  
 with his attendants on a certain elevated  
 spot, and his armed troops standing round <sup>About</sup>  
 2 them on every side ;—commanded his guards to <sup>B.C. 167.</sup>

<sup>m</sup> Gr. ὡς ἐν μάλιστα χαί-  
 ροιεν. Respecting their sup-  
 posed joy, see 3 Macc. v. 5.  
 and 11.

<sup>n</sup> Compare 3 Macc. vi. 10.

<sup>o</sup> How strong a contrast  
 does this present to the con-  
 duct of his predecessor Anti-  
 ochus the Great : who, in his  
 eager desire to benefit and  
 please the Jews, forbade that

any of the meats which their  
 law pronounced to be unclean  
 should even be brought with-  
 in the precincts of the city.  
 See Josephus, Antiq. XII.  
 3.

<sup>a</sup> This persecution of Ele-  
 azar and the rest is thought  
 to have taken place in the  
 year before Christ 167. Com-  
 pare 3 Macc. vi. 18, &c.

seize every individual of the Hebrews, and to compel him to taste swine's flesh<sup>b</sup>, and things offered to idols<sup>c</sup>. And that if any persons refused to eat this unclean food, they should be tortured to death upon the wheel.

And when many had been seized, a Hebrew 4 named Eleazar, a chief man among the people, by family a priest, by profession a lawyer<sup>d</sup>, and advanced in years, and from his age known to many of those about the king, was brought out near to him. And Antiochus seeing him, said; "Old 5  
" man, I would advise you, before your torments  
" begin, to eat of the swine's flesh and save your  
" life: for I respect your age and grey hairs; 6  
" which, although you have had for so long a  
" time, you do not seem to me to understand phi-  
" losophy, since you adhere to the superstition of  
" the Jews. For why, since nature has freely 7  
" given you the excellent food of this animal's  
" flesh, do you abhor it? For truly it is absurd 8  
" not to enjoy things which are agreeable, without  
" conveying any disgrace; and unjust to turn our-  
" selves away from the favours of nature. But 9  
" you seem to me likely to do a thing still more  
" senseless, if, from a vain affectation of follow-  
" ing Truth, you will further proceed to hold me  
" in contempt, to your own punishment. Will 10

<sup>b</sup> It is of course remembered that this food was expressly and by name forbidden to the Jews by God. See Leviticus xi. 7.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *εἰδωλόθυστα*, which, we remember, were at a subsequent period forbidden to the

early Christian converts, by an express ordinance of the Apostles. See Acts xv. 29.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *νομικός*: the same word occurs in the New Testament, and designates a Jewish divine, or expounder of the Scriptures.

“ you not wake up from this foolish philosophy of  
 11 “ yours? And will you not chase away the de-  
 “ ception of your reasonings; and, having re-  
 “ gained a mind worthy of your years, follow a  
 “ philosophy which unites expediency with truth?  
 12 “ and, receiving thankfully my benevolent ex-  
 13 “ hortation, have pity on your old age? For  
 “ consider this also; that, if there be any Power  
 “ which watches over this your religious system,  
 “ it would pardon you for every transgression of  
 “ the law which was committed through com-  
 “ pulsion.”

14 While the tyrant in this manner exhorted him  
 to the unallowed eating of flesh, Eleazar requested  
 15 leave<sup>e</sup> to speak. And having received permission,  
 he commenced publicly addressing the people  
 thus:

16 “ We, O Antiochus, who are persuaded that we  
 “ conduct ourselves agreeably to a divine law,  
 “ think no duty more imperative than that of a  
 17 “ full obedience<sup>f</sup> to our law. On which account  
 “ we deem it wrong to offend against it in any  
 18 “ manner. And yet, even if our law were not in  
 “ truth divine, as you imagine, (but we on the  
 “ contrary hold it to be divine,) not even in that  
 “ case would it be lawful for us to annul that  
 19 “ character which we have for piety. Do not

<sup>e</sup> Gr. λόγον ἤτησεν.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. εὑπειθείας. Schleusner conjectures that we ought to read ἀπειθείας, disobedience: but, besides that all the MSS. are opposed to such a change, the received text obtains a strong confirmation from the following passage of Josephus,

(contra Apionem, I.) Speaking of the moral habits of the Jews, Josephus says; Μαρίστα δὲ πάντων περὶ παιδοτροφίαν φιλοκαλοῦντες, καὶ τὸ φυλάττειν τοὺς νόμους καὶ τὴν κατὰ τούτους παραδεδομένην εὐσέβειαν ἔργον ἀναγκαϊότατον παντὸς τοῦ βίου πεποιημένοι.

“ think therefore, that this is a small offence, if  
 “ we should eat of things which are unclean. For 20  
 “ to transgress in small matters or in great is  
 “ equal *in guilt*; for by each of these the law  
 “ is equally holden at nought.

“ And you deride our philosophy, as though we 21  
 “ live in it without good reason for so doing.  
 “ Yet it throughly teaches us temperance, so that 22  
 “ we master all the pleasures and desires: and it  
 “ exercises us in fortitude, so that we willingly  
 “ undergo every toil<sup>g</sup>: and it instructs us in jus- 23  
 “ tice, so that in all our behaviour we give what  
 “ is due: and it teaches us to be pious, so that  
 “ we worship the only living God in a manner  
 “ becoming his greatness.

“ Wherefore we eat not unclean meats: for, 24  
 “ believing that the law was constituted by God,  
 “ we know that the Creator of the world sympa-  
 “ thises with our nature in the framing of his  
 “ laws. And those things which will suit our na- 25  
 “ tures he has permitted us to eat; but the meats  
 “ which would prove the contrary, he has for-  
 “ bidden us to use.

“ But you, tyrannically, not only force us to 26  
 “ transgress the law, but also to eat, that you  
 “ may still further have to laugh at this eating of  
 “ unclean things which is most odious to us. But 27

<sup>g</sup> The Greek text of verses 22 and 23 is greatly obscured by careless pointing and printing in the Oxford edition: it ought to stand thus: Σωφροσύνην τε γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἐκιδάσκει, ὥστε πασῶν τῶν ἡδονῶν καὶ ἐπιθυμιῶν κρατεῖν: Καὶ ἀνδρείααν ἐξασ-

κεῖ, ὥστε πάντα πόνον ἐκουσίως ὑπομένειν. Καὶ δικαιοσύνην παιδεύει, ὥστε διὰ πάντων τῶν ἡθῶν ἰσονομεῖν. Καὶ εὐσεβείαν διδάσκει, ὥστε μόνον τὸν ὄντα Θεὸν σέβειν μεγαλοπρεπῶς. Thus the four parts are complete, and answer to each other.

“ this laughter you never shall enjoy against me :  
 “ nor will I violate the sacred oaths of my fore-  
 28 “ fathers concerning the keeping of the law. Not  
 “ even if you pluck out my eyes, and consume  
 29 “ my entrails in the fire. I am not so old and  
 “ devoid of spirit, but that my principle is still vi-  
 30 “ gorous in religion’s cause. Against this, pre-  
 “ pare your racks, and kindle the fire still more  
 “ fiercely<sup>f</sup>. I will not so far compassionate my  
 “ old age, as for my own individual sake to pull  
 31 “ down the law of my country. I will not fail  
 “ thee, O law, my instructor ! I will not forsake  
 32 “ thee, O beloved self-controul ! nor will I shame  
 “ thee, O philosophic reason ! nor will I renounce  
 “ thee, O honoured priesthood and science of the  
 33 “ law ! Nor shall you pollute my reverend mouth  
 “ in old age, nor the advanced years of a life  
 34 “ passed in obedience<sup>h</sup> to the law. My fathers  
 “ shall receive me pure, not having been afraid of  
 35 “ your violence even unto death. For indeed  
 “ over the ungodly you will tyrannize : but over  
 “ my religious principles you shall not obtain do-  
 “ minion, neither by your arguments nor your  
 “ deeds.”

## CHAPTER VI.

*Eleazar’s sufferings ; and death. Reflections on it.*

1 WHEN Eleazar had in this manner eloquently  
 answered<sup>a</sup> the tyrant’s exhortations, the guards  
 surrounded him, and drew him with violence to  
 2 the instruments of torture. And first of all they

<sup>g</sup> See Daniel iii. 19.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. οὐδὲ νομίμου βίου ἡλικίαν, a phrase which scarcely admits a close translation into

English ; as indeed is frequently the case throughout this book.

<sup>a</sup> Gr. ἀντιπροσρούσαντα.

stripped<sup>b</sup> the old man, arrayed as he was in the becoming garb of piety. Then, having bound his arms to each side of his body, they disfigured him with scourges: a herald on each side crying out aloud, "Obey the commands of the king." But Eleazar, truly noble and high-minded, regarded it not in the least, as though he were tortured only in a dream. But lifting up his eyes on high to 5 heaven, the old man was stript of his flesh by the whips, and streamed down with blood, and his flanks were laid open by wounds. And though 6 he fell to the ground, because his body could not support the pains, he still retained his strength of principle upright and unbending.

Then one of the savage guards leaping upon his 7 belly kicked<sup>c</sup> it, to make him rise up after he had fallen. But he supported the pain, and regarded 8 not the violence, and patiently endured the ill usage. And, like a fine spirited champion<sup>d</sup> at the 9 Grecian games, the old man enduring stripes conquered his tormentors. And though his face was 10 wet with perspiration, and he sorely gasped for breath; yet he was admired, even by those who tortured him, for his hardihood.

Wherefore, partly in pity for his age; partly 11 feeling sympathy for their former acquaintance with him, and partly in admiration of his constancy; some of the king's attendants came up to him and said: Why, Eleazar, will you destroy<sup>e</sup> 12 yourself by all these evils? we will bring you

<sup>b</sup> Gr. περιέδυσαν τὸν γηραιὸν ἔκκεκοσμημένον περὶ τὴν εὐσέβειαν εὐσχημοσύνην.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. λαξ εἰς τοὺς κενεῶνας ἐναλλόμενος ἔτυπτεν.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. Ἀθλητής.

<sup>e</sup> There is a variety of reading in the Greek: ἀπολλείς, ὑποβάλλεις, παραβάλλεις.

some dressed meat<sup>f</sup>, and do you save yourself by pretending to have tasted some of the swine's flesh.

- 13 But Eleazar, as if tortured<sup>g</sup> still more cruelly  
 14 by this advice, cried out: "Let not us, who are  
 " children of Abraham, be so foolish as through  
 " weakness of mind to play a part which is dis-  
 15 " creditable to us. Absurd indeed it would be, if  
 " having lived to old age in conformity with the  
 " truth, and preserving a good character agreeably  
 " to the law<sup>h</sup>, we now should change *our course* :  
 16 " and ourselves should become a pattern of im-  
 " piety to the young, by being an example of eat-  
 17 " ing unclean meats. It would be disgraceful, if  
 " we should still live on for some short time ; and  
 " this, being derided by all men for our coward-  
 18 " ice. While by the tyrant we shall be despised  
 " as spiritless, and shall not have defended our di-  
 19 " vine law unto the death. Wherefore, do you,  
 " O ye children of Abraham, die nobly in defence  
 " of *your* religion. But you, ye guards of the ty-  
 " rant, why do you make delay<sup>i</sup> ?"  
 20 When they beheld him thus high-spirited in

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τῶν ἡψημένων, so that by the outward appearance it could not be distinguished.

<sup>g</sup> We have here exhibited by Eleazar a portion of that spirit which animated St. Paul, when his friends, alarmed for his safety, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem: "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts xxi. 13.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. δόξαν νομίμως φυλάσσοιτες.

<sup>i</sup> Thus, in 3 Macc. vii. 30, the youngest of the seven sons, when led out to punishment and warmed by the pious address of his mother, exclaimed, "Whom wait ye for? I will not obey the king's commandment: but I will obey the commandment of the law that was given unto our fathers by Moses."

the midst of his troubles; and that he did not change at all through their compassion of him, they carried him to the fire. Then with their 21 horrid instruments they threw him on the pile of fire to burn him, and poured stinking liquids into his nostrils. But he, being now completely burnt 22 to the bones, and about to expire, lifted up his eyes to God, and said: "Thou knowest, O God, 23 " that whereas I might have saved myself, I am " dying by fiery torments for the law's sake. " Therefore be merciful to thy people, being satisfied with the punishment suffered by me for " them. Make my blood <sup>k</sup> a purification for them, 24 " and accept my life an offering instead of theirs." And having uttered these words, the holy man 25 died nobly in his torments; and, even to the tortures of death, stood fast in his principle for the sake of the law.

Confessedly therefore religious Principle is lord 26 over the passions. For if the passions had over- 27 powered principle, I would have given to them the testimony of such mastery. But now, since principle has overcome the passions, to it we give, as is becoming, the rank and power of sovereignty. And it is just that we should own that the mas- 28 tery belongs to principle, since it prevails over pains inflicted from without<sup>1</sup>. Nay, to say other- 29

<sup>k</sup> Gr. Καθάρισον αὐτῶν ποιήσον τὸ ἐμὸν αἷμα. So, at 3 Macc. vii. 37, "I, as my brethren, offer up my body and life for the laws of our fathers, beseeching God that he would speedily be merciful unto our nation: and that in me and my brethren the wrath of the Almighty,

" which is justly brought upon all our nation, may cease."—For the use and meaning of the word καθάρισιον, see Ælian. Var. Hist. XIV. 7: and compare the Oration of Æschines against Timarchus, sect. 23.

<sup>1</sup> Gr. τῶν ἔξωθεν ἀληθόνων.

wise would be ridiculous : and I demonstrate, that Principle not only conquers pains, but likewise that it is master over pleasures, and does not give way to these.

### CHAPTER VII.

*Reflections on the sufferings and constancy of Eleazar.*

- 1 FOR the principle of our father Eleazar, as an  
 excellent pilot, steering the ship of piety through  
 2 the stormy sea of passions ;—though ill-used by  
 the tyrant's threats, and overwhelmed by the tem-  
 3 pestuous waves of tortures ;—by no means turned  
 aside the rudder of piety, until it sailed in safely  
 4 to the harbour of immortal victory. No city ever  
 so held out, when besieged by numerous and va-  
 ried engines of war, as did that holy man, while  
 his sacred life was assailed with scourgings and  
 racks ; *and* he conquered his besiegers, through  
 5 the principle of piety which shielded him. For  
 father Eleazar, stretching out his firm determina-  
 tion as a rocky promontory<sup>a</sup>, broke to pieces  
 around it the raging billows of the passions.
- 6 O Priest worthy of the priesthood ! thou didst  
 not pollute thy holy teeth, nor defile with pol-  
 luted meat thy stomach<sup>b</sup> which admitted only that  
 which was holy and clean. O thou harmonizer<sup>c</sup>  
 with the law, and disciple<sup>d</sup> of a divine philo-  
 7 sophy ! Such ought those to be, who put in prac-  
 tice<sup>e</sup> the law at the cost of their own life, and

<sup>a</sup> See a somewhat similar figure of speech below, at ch. xiii. 6. does not well admit a close translation into English.

<sup>b</sup> Gr. τὴν θεοσέβειαν καὶ καθαρισμὸν χωρήσασαν γαστέρα.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. σύμφωνε νόμου ; which

<sup>d</sup> Gr. φιλόσοφε θείου λόγου.

<sup>e</sup> The Greek text varies, between δημοργούντας and ἱεροργούντας.

with generous exertions defend it by sufferings even unto death. You, O father, by your endurance have gloriously established<sup>f</sup> our adherence to the law; and by your correct behaviour have magnified our sanctity; and by your deeds have added credit to our profession of divine philosophy.

O aged man, of more strength than the tortures! O old man of more energy than the fire! Eleazar, thou greatest monarch of the passions!

For, as our father Aaron, armed with a censer, 10 running through the midst of the congregation<sup>g</sup>, vanquished the angel who was consuming them with fire: so Eleazar, a descendant of Aaron, 11 though he was being devoured by fire, yet swerved not aside from his principle. And, what is most 12 to be admired, being an old man, the energies of his body being now weakened, and his flesh now hanging loosely about him, and his nerves also spent with exertion, he became young again in spirit through principle; and by the principle<sup>h</sup> which animated Isaac, he defeated the many-headed torture. O happy old age! venerable gray 13 hairs, and life obedient to the law! which the sure seal of death has consummated! Wherefore, 14 if an old man through religion has despised torments even unto death, beyond all dispute religious Principle is governor of the passions.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὴν εὐνομίαν ἡμῶν διὰ τῶν ὑπομονῶν εἰς δόξαν ἐκύρωσας, καὶ τὴν ἀγιστίαν σεμνολογήσας οὐ κατέλυσας, καὶ διὰ τῶν ἔργων ἐπιστοποίησας τοὺς τῆς θείας φιλοσοφίας λόγους.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἔθνοπλήθους. But there is a various reading, which as

to sense seems preferable, διὰ τοῦ ἔθνοπλήκτου πυρός, “through the fire, which was “consuming the congregation.” See Numbers xvi. 44.

<sup>h</sup> This last clause is wanting in some MSS.

15 But perhaps some persons may say, that all  
 16 men do not subdue their passions<sup>i</sup>; because all  
 indeed do not possess this prudent principle. But  
 as many as pay regard to piety with all their  
 heart, these alone are able to overcome the affec-  
 17 tions of the flesh. Who believe that to God they  
 do not die: for, *even* as our forefathers Abra-  
 18 ham<sup>k</sup>, Isaac, and Jacob, they live to God. It  
 does not therefore contradict *our assertion*, if that  
 some men through weakness of principle appear  
 to be governed by their passions. For who, that  
 piously follows the whole rule of philosophy, and  
 trusts in God, and knows that it is a blessed  
 thing to endure every pain for virtue's sake, would  
 not overcome his passions, in the cause of reli-  
 19 gion? For the wise and temperate man alone is  
 the brave controller of the passions.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Seven brethren, with their mother, are brought forth to  
 the torture.*

1 THROUGH this it was, that even boys, govern-  
 ing their conduct by religious principle, B. C.  
167.  
 overcame still severer torments.  
 2 For when the tyrant was signally defeated in his  
 first attempt, not having been able to force the old  
 3 man to eat unclean meats; then in violent anger he  
 commanded to bring others of the grown-up<sup>a</sup> He-  
 brew captives: and, if they would eat the unclean

<sup>i</sup> It seems that the sup-  
 posed objection terminates  
 here, and that the remainder  
 of the sentence comprises the  
 author's answer to such an  
 argument.

<sup>k</sup> See Exodus iii. 6. and  
 St. Matthew xxii. 32; Mark  
 xii. 26.

<sup>a</sup> Gr. ἐκ τῆς ἡλικίας τῶν  
 Ἑβραίων.

food, to let them go when they had eaten; but, if they refused, to torment them with greater severity.

The tyrant having given these orders, there 4  
 were brought forward seven brethren<sup>b</sup>, together  
 with their aged mother, handsome and modest  
 youths, and ingenuous, and altogether graceful in  
 appearance. Whom when the tyrant beheld en- 5  
 circling their mother as in a dance, he was pleased  
 with them; and being struck with their fair and  
 ingenuous appearance, he smiled upon them, and  
 having called them near to him, said; "O young 6  
 " men, I have an affectionate admiration of the  
 " beauty of each of you: and greatly respecting 7  
 " so numerous a band of brothers, I not only ad-  
 " vise you not to fall into the same madness with  
 " that old man who was recently tortured: but 8  
 " moreover I counsel you to yield, and to enjoy  
 " my friendship: for, as I have the power<sup>c</sup> to  
 " punish those who disobey my commands, so  
 " have I also *power* to confer favours upon those  
 " who are obedient to me. Trust to me<sup>d</sup> there- 9  
 " fore, and you shall receive stations of authority<sup>e</sup>  
 " in my affairs, after you have renounced the or-  
 " dinance of the policy of your fathers<sup>f</sup>: and 10

<sup>b</sup> Rufinus, in his Latin paraphrase of this book, relates that the mother's name was Solomona, and those of the sons, Maccabæus, Aber, Machir, Judas, Achaz, Areth, Jacob: from their eldest brother these youths obtained commonly the appellation of "the Maccabæan brethren."  
 [Ussher.]

<sup>c</sup> The same argument, we remember, was addressed by Pilate to our blessed Saviour. See St. John xix. 10.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. Πιστεύσατε: but a preferable various reading is πεισθέντες, "obeying."

<sup>e</sup> Gr. ἀρχὰς ἡγεμονικὰς.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὸν πατριὸν ὑμῶν τῆς πολιτείας θεσμόν.

- “ adopting the Grecian mode <sup>g</sup> of life, and living  
 “ according to it, enjoy your youth *with all its*  
 11 “ *delights*. For, if you dispose me to anger by  
 “ your disobedience, you will compel me, with  
 “ dreadful punishments, to destroy every one of  
 12 “ you by tortures. Have mercy therefore on your-  
 “ selves, whom even I an enemy pity on account  
 13 “ of your youthful age and your fair forms. Will  
 “ you not take this into consideration, that if you  
 “ disobey, there is nothing in store for you but to  
 “ die in the midst of torments?”
- 14 And thus saying, he commanded the instru-  
 ments of torture to be brought forward; that even  
 by terror he might persuade them to eat the un-  
 15 clean meats. And when his guards brought out  
 the wheels, and dislocating racks, and pullies<sup>h</sup>,  
 and catapeltæ, and caldrons, and frying-pans,  
 and rings, and iron fetters, and wedges, and ma-  
 16 terials for kindling fire: the tyrant went on to  
 say; “ Young men, be afraid: and that just  
 “ Deity, whom you worship, will pardon you for  
 17 “ having transgressed upon compulsion.” But  
 they, *though* hearing seductive words, and behold-  
 ing terrible things<sup>i</sup>, not only were not afraid, but  
 even replied to the tyrant’s arguments; and, by  
 the excellence of their reasoning, demolished his  
 power.

<sup>g</sup> For former accounts of this policy of Antiochus towards the Jews, see 2 Macc. i. 12—14; and 3 Macc. iii. 9—19; v. 1—11.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. *τροχαντήρας*. It is not easy to say exactly what the *τροχαντήρ* was: the lexicons give no information

whatsoever. For all these implements of torture, the reader may consult “ Gallo-  
 “ nius de Martyrum cruci-  
 “ atibus,” 8vo. 1668.

<sup>i</sup> “Ὁν οὐ μόνον ἡ βλαβὴ ἡδύνατο  
 συνεκτρίψαι αὐτοὺς, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ  
 ὄψις ἐκφοβήσασα διολέσαι. Sa-  
 pient. Salomon. cap. xi. 19.

Now let us consider the matter *closely*. If there 18  
 had been among them any who were weak-minded  
 and void of courage, what sort of words would  
 they have used? would they not have been these?  
 “ O wretched and most foolish that we are ! when 19  
 “ the king exhorts and invites us to accept his  
 “ kindness, shall we not obey him? Why do we 20  
 “ amuse ourselves with vain desires, and venture  
 “ on a disobedience which will *only* bring our  
 “ death? Brethren, shall we not fear these im- 21  
 “ plements of torture, and reflect on the threats  
 “ of torment, and fly from this vain-glory and  
 “ fatal ostentation? Let us have mercy on our 22  
 “ own prime of life, and compassion on our mo-  
 “ ther’s age : and let us consider, that by disobe-  
 “ dience we shall instantly die. But Divine Justice 23  
 “ itself will pardon us, that we were afraid of the  
 “ king through *stern* necessity.

“ Why do we withdraw ourselves from a most 24  
 “ delightful life, and deprive ourselves of the world  
 “ with its enjoyments? Let us not struggle against 25  
 “ necessity ; nor seek vain-glory in our own tor-  
 “ ments. Not even the law itself adjudges us to 26  
 “ death, for having against our wills<sup>k</sup> dreaded  
 “ the instruments of torture. From whence has 27  
 “ so great a love of strife settled itself in us, and  
 “ a fatal obstinacy delights us, when we might  
 “ live unmolested<sup>l</sup> by obeying the king?”

But nothing of this kind did the young men 28  
 say, nor even thought of it, when they were on  
 the point of being tortured : for they were regard-

<sup>k</sup> Gr. ὁ νόμος—ἀκουσίως.      pearls far preferable.  
 Another reading is, ὁ ναὸς      <sup>l</sup> Gr. μετὰ ἀρπαγῆς (var.  
 ἐκουσίως : but the former ap-      lect. ἀδείας).

less<sup>m</sup> of suffering, and superior to a sense of pain.  
 29 So that, as soon as the tyrant had ceased from  
 advising them to eat the unclean meats, they all  
 with one voice, as if from one mind, spake *thus*  
 unto him.

## CHAPTER IX.

*The noble address of the young men. The first and  
 second are put to death.*

- 1 “ Why waitest thou<sup>a</sup>, O tyrant? for we are  
 “ prepared to die, *rather* than transgress the com-  
 2 “ mands of our fathers. For we feel, and justly,  
 “ that we disgrace our ancestors, if we follow not  
 “ obedience to the law and Moses<sup>b</sup> as our guide.  
 3 “ Do not, O tyrant, who advisest us to violate the  
 “ law;—do not, while you hate us, pity us more  
 4 “ than we pity ourselves. For we consider your  
 “ compassionate wish, that we should save our  
 “ lives by transgressing the law, to be worse than  
 5 “ death<sup>c</sup> itself. And you think to frighten us,  
 “ threatening us with a death by torture, as  
 “ though we had not lately learned<sup>d</sup> this from  
 6 “ Eleazar. But if aged men of the Hebrews have  
 “ died, and even after enduring torturings, for re-  
 “ ligion’s sake; with more justice we young men  
 “ ought to die, despising the torments of your  
 “ persecutions, which even the old man, who is  
 “ our instructor, overcame.

<sup>m</sup> The Greek word is *περί-  
 φρονες*, but it is manifest that  
 this must be understood as if  
 it were *ὑπέρφρονες*.

<sup>a</sup> Compare ch. vi. 19, above.  
 This prompt and resolute re-  
 ply breathes the same spirit as  
 was exhibited at an earlier pe-  
 riod to king Nebuchadnezzar  
 by Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego, when they were  
 exposed to a similar alterna-  
 tive, of idolatry or death.

<sup>b</sup> The Greek text varies,  
 between *Μωϋσῆ* and *γνώσει*.

<sup>c</sup> Compare ch. vi. 13, and  
 the note there.

<sup>d</sup> The Greek is *μαθὼν*, which  
 probably ought to be *μαθόν-  
 τας*.

“ Make the experiment, therefore, O tyrant! 7  
 “ and even if you take away our lives for reli-  
 “ gion’s sake, think not that you hurt us by these  
 “ torments. For we indeed, through this suffer- 8  
 “ ing and endurance, shall *hereafter* receive the  
 “ rewards of virtue; and shall be<sup>e</sup> with God, in  
 “ whose cause we are suffering. But you, on 9  
 “ account of the wilful foul murder of us, shall  
 “ suffer from Divine vengeance eternal torment  
 “ by fire.”

When they had thus spoken, the tyrant was 10  
 not only vexed with them as disobedient, but also  
 was wroth with them as *being* ungrateful<sup>f</sup> per-  
 sons. So that the guards being commanded 11  
 brought out the eldest of them; and having rent  
 off his coat, they bound his hands and arms to each  
 side of his body with leather thongs. And when 12  
 they had tired themselves by beating him with  
 scourges, producing no effect, they threw him upon  
 the wheel. Upon the circumference of which the 13  
 noble youth being extended had his joints dislo-  
 cated. And *while* he was being fractured in every 14  
 limb, he inveighed *against Antiochus*, saying:  
 “ O most foul tyrant, enemy of heavenly justice, 15  
 “ and cruel-minded; you do not maltreat me in  
 “ this manner *for* having committed murder or  
 “ sacrilege, but for standing up in defence of the

<sup>e</sup> The last clause of this verse is omitted in the Oxford 8vo. Septuagint of 1817: but it occurs in Grabe’s edition, taken from the Alexandrian MS.

<sup>f</sup> It is probable that he felt personally nettled, at having taken in vain the trouble

of expressing his anxiety for their welfare, and offering them life and security on terms which he fancied must be accepted joyfully; but which they, from a principle of religion, spurned with the bitterest contempt.

- 16 “Divine Law.” And when the guards said,  
 “Consent to eat, that you may be released from  
 17 “torments;” he said to them, “Your wheel, O ye  
 “accursed ministers, is not so powerful as to  
 “break<sup>g</sup> my Principle. Cut up my limbs, and  
 “burn my flesh, and wrench my joints asunder.  
 18 “For throughout all your tortures I will cause  
 “you to believe that the children of the Hebrews  
 “alone are invincible in virtue’s cause.”
- 19 As he was saying this, they placed fire under  
 him<sup>h</sup>; and turned the wheel about with great  
 20 violence, extending him at length upon it. And  
 the wheel was besprinkled with blood on every  
 side; and the heap of hot coals was extinguished  
 by the droppings of gore; and pieces of his flesh  
 21 flew about the axles of the machine. And al-  
 though he already had the frame of his bones  
 wrenched and mangled, the high-minded youth,  
 true son<sup>i</sup> of Abraham, never uttered a groan.  
 22 But, as if he were being transformed by fire into  
 23 immortality, he nobly endured the rackings: say-  
 ing, “Follow my example, brethren: desert not<sup>k</sup>  
 “the post of honour which my life exhibits; nor  
 “forswear your fraternal fellowship with me in  
 24 “magnanimity. War a holy and noble warfare<sup>l</sup>

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἄξαι. But Josephus has ἄγξαι, “to choke,” or “stifle.” Either of the two expressions is sufficiently apposite.

<sup>h</sup> The text of this verse in the edition of 1817 is thus: Ταῦτα λέγοντες εἰς πῦρ ἐπέτρωσαν, καὶ διερεθίζοντες, τὸν τροχὸν προσεπικατέειπον· which is probably corrupt, and ought to be (as in Grabe), Ταῦτα λέγοντι

πῦρ ὑπέστρωσαν, καὶ διερέθισαν τὸν τροχὸν προσεπικατατείνοντες.

<sup>i</sup> Gr. Ἀβραμιαῖος νεανίας.

<sup>k</sup> Gr. μὴ μου τὸν αἰῶνα λειπατακῆσητε, a phrase which does not admit a close rendering into English.

<sup>l</sup> Gr. ἱερὰν καὶ εὐγενῆ στρατείαν στρατεύσασθε. Precisely the same advice, and almost in the selfsame words, is

“ for Religion ; by which means the providence of  
 “ our Just Father, becoming appeased towards  
 “ our nation, may take vengeance on the execrable  
 “ tyrant.” And having spoken thus, the holy ad- 25  
 mirable youth breathed out his soul.

And when all had wondered at his persevering 26  
 spirit, the officers brought out the one who was  
 next to him in age ; and having fitted on them-  
 selves iron gauntlets<sup>m</sup> with sharp nails, they bound  
 him to the machines *called* catapeltæ. And 27  
 when, on asking whether he would consent to eat  
 before he were tortured, they heard his noble sen-  
 timent ; tearing him with the iron claws from the 28  
 muscles *of his neck*, the savage beasts like pan-  
 thers<sup>n</sup> drew off all the flesh to the chin, and the  
 skin of his head. But he with gravity bearing 29  
 this pain, said : How pleasant is every form of  
 death in behalf of our country's Religion ! And to 30  
 the tyrant he said, “ Do you not think, most in-  
 “ human of all tyrants, that you are now suffer-  
 “ ing torments greater than mine, on seeing the  
 “ haughty calculations of your tyranny defeated  
 “ by our endurance in Religion's cause ? For I 31  
 “ truly lighten my own pains with the delights  
 “ which virtue yields. But you are tormented  
 “ with the apprehensions of impiety : and you  
 “ shall not escape, O most infamous tyrant, the  
 “ Divine wrath !”

given by St. Paul to Timothy,  
*ἵνα στρατεύῃ τὴν καλὴν στρατείαν.*  
 1 Tim. i. 18.

<sup>m</sup> Gr. *σιδηρᾶς χεῖρας*. The  
 officers or executioners put on  
 these gloves, or gauntlets, or  
 claws, that they might tear  
 his flesh from the bones, as

shewn at verse 28.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. *αἱ παρδάλοι θῆρες*.  
 Athenæus uses the word *παρ-  
 δαλώδης* to express the same  
 idea. The metaphor is fami-  
 liar to most of the Greek  
 classic authors.

## CHAPTER X.

*The third and fourth brothers are put to death.*

1 AND when this one had undergone a memor-  
 able<sup>a</sup> death, the third was brought forward, being  
 much intreated by many that he would taste *the*  
 2 *meats*, and save his life. But he, crying aloud,  
 said: "Do ye not know that the same father begat  
 " and the same mother bare me, as those who just  
 " now have died; and that I was educated in the  
 3 " same opinions? I will not abjure<sup>b</sup> the honourable  
 " tie of brotherhood. Wherefore, if ye have ready  
 " any species of punishment, apply it to my body:  
 " for my mind, even if you wish it, you cannot  
 4 " reach." But they, grievously disliking his free-  
 dom of speech, wrenched his hands and feet with  
 dislocating engines; and straining him by the  
 5 joints, pulled his limbs asunder. And they frac-  
 tured his fingers, and his arms, and his legs, and  
 6 his elbows<sup>c</sup>. And not being able to choke him by  
 any means, dragging off<sup>d</sup> his skin together with  
 the tips of his fingers, they flayed him entirely,  
 and immediately brought him to the wheel.  
 7 Round about which<sup>e</sup>, while he was dislocated,  
*even* to the back bone, he beheld the pieces of his

<sup>a</sup> Gr. τὸν ἀοίδιμον, "worthy of song." The same expression is repeated at verse 13.

<sup>b</sup> According to the intreaty of his elder brother, given above, at ver. 23 of the preceding chapter.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. ἀγκῶνας. The word βραχίονας had gone before: and by these two probably are meant both the upper and

lower joints of the arms.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. περισύραντες τὸ δέρμα σὺν ἄκραις ταῖς τῶν δακτύλων κορυφαῖς ἀπεσκύθιζον. In book III. ch. vii. 4, we have the word περισकुθίσαντας, which appears to bear precisely the same meaning as ἀποσκυθίζω in this passage.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. περὶ ὃν ἐκ σφονδύλων ἐκμελιζόμενος ἑώρα κ. τ. λ.

flesh flying about, and streams of blood flowing from his entrails. And, being at the point of 8 death, he said, “ We indeed, O abominable tyrant, 9 “ suffer these things through our *religious* educa- “ tion and virtue towards God : but you, for your 10 “ impiety and foul murders, shall endure intermi- “ nable torments.”

And after that he had died in a manner worthy 11 of his brethren, they dragged forward the fourth ; saying, “ Do not you be mad with the same mad- 12 “ ness as your brethren : but obey the king, and “ save yourself.” But he said to them, “ You have “ no fire of so intense<sup>f</sup> a power against me, that I “ should quake with fear. *No!* by the blessed 13 “ death of my brethren, and the eternal destruc- “ tion *which awaits* the tyrant, and the praise- “ worthy life of the righteous, I will not renounce<sup>g</sup> “ our honourable brotherhood. Devise new tor- 14 “ tures, O tyrant ! that even after these *also* you “ may learn that I am the brother of those *men* “ who have been tormented before *me*.” On hear- 15 ing these words, the bloodthirsty, murderous, and most abominable Antiochus commanded to cut out his tongue. But he said, “ Even though you 16 “ take away my organ of speech, yet God heareth “ even the silent. Behold, my tongue is ready 17 “ loosed before you ; cut it off : for you shall not “ further *be able to* cut away our fixed Principle<sup>h</sup> “ as *you do to* our tongue. With pleasure, for 18

<sup>f</sup> Gr. οὐκ οὕτως καυστικώτερον ἔχετε κατ’ ἐμοῦ τὸ πῦρ : or the sense may be, your fire cannot be *more* consuming against *me*, than it has been found against my brethren who have

already endured it.

<sup>g</sup> See above, ver. 3, and the note there.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. τὸν λογισμὸν ἡμῶν γλωσσοτομήσεις.

“ God’s sake, we suffer amputation of our limbs.  
 19 “ But you God shall speedily visit with ven-  
 “ geance ; since you cut out that tongue which  
 “ was wont to hymn the strains of Divine  
 “ praises.”

## CHAPTER XI.

*The death of the fifth and sixth brothers.*

1 AND after this *youth* also had died, being mi-  
 serably mangled in torments, the fifth leaped for-  
 2 ward, saying ; “ I am not about, O tyrant, to beg  
 “ escape from the torturing which is inflicted on  
 3 “ us for virtue’s sake. But of my own accord I  
 “ have come forward, that having put me also to  
 “ death, you may owe to heavenly justice a debt  
 4 “ of vengeance for still more enormities. O thou  
 “ hater of virtue, and of the human race ! what  
 “ have we done, that thou destroyest us after this  
 5 “ merciless manner ? Does it seem to you wrong  
 “ that we venerate the universal Creator, and live  
 6 “ according to his most virtuous law ? This con-  
 “ duct, surely, deserves honours rather than tor-  
 “ tures. [If (at least<sup>a</sup>) you had ever felt any of  
 “ the desires of men, and had entertained a hope  
 “ of salvation from God. But lo ! now, being  
 “ estranged from God, you persecute those who  
 “ are reverent towards Him.”]  
 7 While he was uttering these words, the guards  
 having bound him, dragged him to the catapelta:  
 8 to which tying him by the knees, and making

<sup>a</sup> This part, to the end of the verse, is omitted by Josephus. The sense at present is imperfect, and requires to be completed by the insertion of the words, “ you would have been sensible of this,” if, &c.

these fast with iron fetters, they twisted<sup>b</sup> his loins upon the wedge of the wheel; on which being wholly disjointed, he curled round the wheel like a scorpion [or snake], and was pulled limb from limb. In this manner, being both hard pressed 9 for breath, and crushed in his body, he said: “ Involuntarily, O tyrant, you bestow on us fair 10 “ favours, giving us opportunity, by more nobly “ borne sufferings, to exhibit our endurance in “ defence of the law.”

And when he also was dead, the sixth was 11 brought out, a mere youth: who, when the tyrant asked if he would eat and save himself, replied: “ I indeed in age am younger than my brethren, 12 “ but in purpose of mind I am their equal. For 13 “ we, having been brought forth and educated in “ the same manner, ought alike to die in defence “ of the same *cause*. So that if you chuse to tor- 14 “ ment us because we eat not unclean food, tor- “ ment.”

When he had thus spoken, they brought him 15 to the rack: stretched on which, with his limbs strained and his spine disjointed, he was roasted from beneath. And having heated sharp spits, 16 they applied them to his back; and piercing through his sides, they burned away his entrails. But he, while thus tormented, said; “ O holy 17 “ noble trial, to which so many brothers of us “ being called, to be exercised in sufferings for

<sup>b</sup> The Greek text of this verse is somewhat difficult of interpretation: τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ περὶ τὸν τροχαῖον σφῆνα κατέκαμψαν· περὶ ὃν ὄλος ἐπὶ τὸν τροχὸν σκορπίου τρόπον ἀνα-

κλώμενος ἐξεμελίζετο. It may mean, that he was broken into as many pieces as there are joints in the tail of a scorpion.

18 “ religion’s sake, have not been overcome! For  
 “ righteous knowledge<sup>c</sup>, armed with honour and  
 19 “ virtue, O tyrant, is invincible. I shall soon die,  
 “ *and be* with my brethren: and so will you<sup>d</sup>, O  
 “ tyrant, *shortly*, having brought upon yourself a  
 20 “ severe avenging fiend. O thou inventor of new  
 “ torments<sup>e</sup>, and enemy of those who are truly  
 “ religious, we six youths have demolished thy  
 21 “ tyrannic sway. For is it not a demolishing of  
 “ you, that you have not been able to persuade  
 “ away our Principle, nor to force us to the eat-  
 22 “ ing of unclean food? Your fire to us is cold:  
 “ your catapultæ give no pain: and your violence  
 23 “ is powerless. For the guards, not of a tyrant,  
 “ but of the Divine Law, are our protectors;  
 “ through this, we retain our Principle unsub-  
 “ dued.”

## CHAPTER XII.

*The speech, and death, of the seventh brother.*

1 AND when he also, having been thrown into  
 a caldron, had died blessedly, the seventh came  
 2 forward, the youngest of all: whom the tyrant  
 commiserating, although he had been sorely put  
 to shame by his brethren; seeing him already  
 bound in chains, he sent for him to come nearer,  
 3 and endeavoured to advise him, saying: “ You

<sup>c</sup> Gr. ἡ εὐσεβῆς ἐπιστήμη καλοκαγαθία καθωπλισμένη. The punctuation in this and the next two verses is very faulty in the edition of 1817, and obstructs the sense.

<sup>d</sup> The Greek text is obscure here. It may mean,

that “ I myself shall bring upon you a severe avenger.”

<sup>e</sup> See the same character given of Antiochus at 3 Macc. ix. 6. “ He had tormented other men’s bowels with many *and strange* torments.”

“ see now the result of your brethren’s folly ; for  
 “ through disobedience they have been racked  
 “ and are dead : and you yourself, unless you  
 “ obey, shall, after horrible tortures, die forthwith  
 “ before your time<sup>a</sup>. But, if you will be per- 4  
 “ suaded, you shall be our friend, and shall take  
 “ a lead in the affairs of the kingdom.”

And having thus exhorted him, he sent for the 5  
 boy’s mother ; that having condoled with her on  
 the loss of so many sons, he might rouse her to  
 save *one*<sup>b</sup> *at least*, by making this surviving one  
 obedient. But he, after that his mother had ex- 6  
 hortcd him in the Hebrew tongue, (as we shall  
 relate in a short time) said ; “ Let me go, that I  
 “ may speak to the king and to all his friends  
 “ with him.” And they, the king and his friends, 7  
 rejoicing exceedingly at the youth’s announce-  
 ment, quickly set him free. And he, running 8  
 close up to the frying-pans, said : “ Unholy tyrant, 9  
 “ most impious of all wicked wretches ! are you  
 “ not ashamed, having received from God worldly  
 “ good things and a kingdom, to slay his servants,  
 “ and to rack those who practise piety ? For 10  
 “ which things, the Divine vengeance is keeping  
 “ you in store for a more intense and eternal fire  
 “ and torments, which shall not cease from you  
 “ for ever. Were you not ashamed, O most sa- 11  
 “ vage wretch, being a man yourself, to cut out  
 “ the tongues of men formed with like passions<sup>c</sup>,

<sup>a</sup> Gr. πρὸ ὄρας ; or it may mean, “ within this very  
 “ hour.”

<sup>b</sup> Gr. παρορμήσειεν ἐπὶ τὴν  
 σωτηρίαν.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. τοὺς ὁμοιοπαθεῖς ; the  
 expression used to the men  
 of Lystra by St. Paul : see  
 Acts xiv. 15.

- “ and composed of the same elements <sup>d</sup> ; and  
 “ shamefully to misuse and torment them in this  
 12 “ manner? They, however, having died nobly,  
 13 “ have fulfilled their piety towards God. But  
 “ you, wretch, shall miserably suffer <sup>e</sup>, for having  
 “ slain without cause the champions of virtue.  
 14 “ Wherefore I, (continued he,) being myself about  
 “ to die, do not desert the testimony <sup>f</sup> of my bre-  
 15 “ thren. [And I invoke the God of my fathers,  
 “ that He will be merciful to my family. But  
 “ you He will punish, both in this life and after  
 “ death <sup>g</sup>.”]
- 16 And having prayed thus against *the tyrant*, he  
 threw himself into the frying-pans, and so ex-  
 pired.

## CHAPTER XIII.

*Reflections on the above-mentioned occurrence.*

- 1 Now if these seven brethren despised suffer-  
 ings even unto death, it is confessed on all sides  
 that religious Principle is absolute master of the  
 2 passions. For as, if being enslaved by their pas-  
 sions, they had eaten the unclean meat, we should  
 have said that they were vanquished by these  
 3 *passions*; so now it is not so: but through that  
 principle which we have commended <sup>a</sup>, by God's  
 4 help they overcame their passions. And it is im-  
 possible to overlook this victorious generalship <sup>b</sup> of

<sup>d</sup> So at Acts xvii. 26, St. Paul declares, that God “hath made of one blood all nations of the earth.”

<sup>e</sup> Gr. *κακὸς κακῶς οὐμώξεις*, a phrase sufficiently familiar to the readers of the Greek dramatic poets.

<sup>f</sup> The Greek text varies,

between *μαρτυρίας* and *ἀριστί-  
 as*, “noble conduct.”

<sup>g</sup> This verse is omitted by Josephus.

<sup>a</sup> Gr. *τῷ ἐπαινουμένῳ λογισ-  
 μῷ παρὰ Θεῶν περιεγέγοντο τ. π.*

<sup>b</sup> Or sovereignty. Gr. *τὴν ἡγεμονίαν τῆς διανοίας.*

settled purpose : for it prevailed over both passion and sufferings. How then can we avoid conced- 5  
 ing to these men the conquest of their passions through rectitude of principle, who shrank not from the pains of fire? For like as towers<sup>c</sup> placed 6  
 at the mouths of harbours, breaking the threats of the waves, afford a calm sea to those who are sailing into port; so that sevenfold<sup>d</sup> barrier, the 7  
 right principle of these youths, having fortified the harbour of piety, conquered the headstrong violence of *their* passions. For having formed a 8  
 holy band of piety, they animated each other, saying; “ Brothers! let us die like brothers, in defence of the law. Let us imitate the three 9  
 “ young men<sup>e</sup> in Assyria, who despised the furnace equally torturing<sup>f</sup> to them all. Let us  
 “ not shrink from shewing forth our piety.” And 10  
 one said, “ Take courage, brother :” and another, “ Endure nobly.” And another, putting them in remembrance, said, “ Remember whence ye are, “ and by what father’s hand Isaac through his  
 “ piety submitted to be offered for a victim.” And 11  
 one and all looking on *each other*, cheerful and full of confidence, said; “ Let us with all our  
 “ heart sacrifice ourselves to God who gave us  
 “ our lives, and let us make our bodies serviceable  
 “ for the preservation of the law. Let us not fear 12

<sup>c</sup> Gr. *καθάπερ γὰρ προβλήτες λιμένων πύργοι*. Thus in the Ajax of Sophocles the projecting rock of Sunium is called *πόντου πρόβλημα ἀλίκυστον*. See a metaphor of the same kind above at ch. vii. 5.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. *ἡ ἐπτάπυργος τῶν ναυίσκων ἐδλογιστία*.

<sup>e</sup> Namely, those mentioned in the book of Daniel.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. *ἰσοπάλιδος καμίνου*. Or perhaps the expression may mean, “ equal to those tortures which are prepared “ for us;” so that they have set us an honourable example.

“ him who appears to kill the body<sup>g</sup>. For a great  
 “ trial and danger to the soul is laid up for those  
 13 “ who transgress the commandment of God. Let  
 “ us therefore arm ourselves with that mastery<sup>h</sup>  
 “ over the passions which divine principle sup-  
 14 “ plies. For when we shall have suffered thus,  
 “ Abraham and Isaac and Jacob will receive us  
 “ into their bosoms<sup>i</sup>, and all the fathers will  
 15 “ praise us.” And to each one of their brethren  
 who was dragged along, the rest said; “ Do not  
 “ disgrace us, brother; nor disappoint *the just*  
 “ *hopes of* those who have died before us.”  
 16 Now you are not ignorant of the charm *and*  
*spell* of brotherhood, which divine and allwise  
 Providence has imparted through fathers to their  
 children, and which it has implanted even from  
 17 the mother’s womb. In which these brothers hav-  
 ing remained an equal time, and being formed in  
 the same period, and increasing in growth from  
 the same blood, and being completed with the  
 18 same life, and brought forth after equal periods,  
 and drinking milk from the same fountains,—on  
 those accounts the affectionate souls are nourish-  
 ed<sup>k</sup> up together in the embraces of *the same*  
 19 bosom; and increase *in affection* more and more  
 by this bringing up together, and by daily inter-  
 course, and by the rest of their education, and by

<sup>g</sup> Thus our blessed Saviour  
 instructs his disciples: “ Fear  
 “ not them which kill the  
 “ body, but are not able to  
 “ kill the soul,” &c. Matt. x.  
 28.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. τῆ τοῦ θείου λογισμοῦ  
 παθοκρατεία.

<sup>i</sup> Compare Luke xvi. 22, 23.

<sup>k</sup> Gr. ἀφ’ ὧν συντρέφονται ἐν  
 ἐναγκαλισμάτων, [sed lege ἀγ-  
 καλαῖς μαστῶν] φιλάδελφοι ψυ-  
 χαί. The text is rather ob-  
 scure: and beyond all doubt  
 the reading of the edition of  
 1817 is corrupt.

that study and practice (which we use) of the law of God.

Brotherly affection therefore, being thus full of 20 sympathy, *even in ordinary cases*, these seven brethren had between themselves a still more strongly sympathetic unanimity. For having been 21 educated in the same law, and having practised the same virtues, and being brought up together in a life of righteousness, they loved<sup>1</sup> each other with still greater ardour. For a similar zeal for 22 all which was right and honourable, added intensity to their mutual accordance. For by the addition of piety, it made brotherly affection more than ever desirable to them. But yet, although 23 nature, and familiarity, and virtuous morals, had combined to increase in them the *already* strong ties of brotherhood; those who were left of *them* endured to behold their brethren, who were cruelly used for their religion, tortured even unto death.

#### CHAPTER XIV.

*Reflections on the noble conduct of the youths, and on their mother's sufferings.*

AND more than this, they were even encourag- 1 ing them on to the cruel treatment: so that they not only disregarded those pains, but likewise overcame the affections of brotherly love. O prin- 2 ciples, more kingly than a king! more liberal than the liberal minded<sup>a</sup>! O sacred and harmonious agreement of the seven brethren in religion! Not 3 one of the seven youths shewed cowardice, nor

<sup>1</sup> The edition of 1817 is *βασιλικώτεροι, και ελευθέρων ελευ- again faulty here.*

<sup>a</sup> Gr. <sup>2</sup>Ω βασιλέως λογισμοί

*θερώτεροι.*

shrank back from death. But all, as if they were running the road to immortality, hastened to the  
4 death by torture. For, as the hands and feet move in accordance with the directions of the mind : so these holy youths, being moved by religion<sup>b</sup>, as by one immortal soul, joined in undergoing death for its sake.

5 O most holy sevenfold band<sup>c</sup> of accordant brothers ! For, as the seven days of creation revolving formed the circle of the week : so these youths formed a circling band of piety, overcoming the fear of *the tyrant's* torments. Now we,  
7 even at hearing the affliction of those young men, are struck with horror ; but they, not only seeing, and not only hearing the threatening words on the spot, but also suffering *the effect of those threats*, endured it ; and this, through the pains  
8 of fire. Than which, what can be more painful ? for the power of fire, being sharp and rapid, quickly consumes the bodies.

9 And think it not marvellous, that the principle of those men prevailed amidst their torments ; when even a woman's mind despised pains still  
10 more varied. For the mother<sup>d</sup> of those seven

<sup>b</sup> The Greek text here is not quite clear.

<sup>c</sup> There is a degree of obscurity about the Greek text of this passage: Ὡ παναγία ἡ συμφώνων ἀδελφῶν ἑβδομάς· καθάπερ γὰρ ἑπτὰ τῆς κοσμοποιίας ἡμέραι περὶ τὴν εὐσέβειαν· οὕτως περὶ τὴν ἑβδομάδα χορεύοντες οἱ μίρακες ἐκύκλουν τὸν τῶν βασιλέων φόβον καταλύοντες. L'Es-trange paraphrases it thus : " For as the seven days in " which the world was created

" give us the idea of God, and " shew the perfection of his " majesty and goodness ; so do " these seven renowned mar- " tyrs, by running the whole " circle of pains and tortures, " compose one finished piece " of constancy and courage ; " and teach us that perfec- " tion of fortitude which ban- " nishes the slavish fear of " death."

<sup>d</sup> Augustin thus expresses himself on the subject of this

young men endured *equal* rackings over every one of her children. And consider now, how extensive and variously entwined<sup>e</sup> is the ardour of parental affection, drawing every creature to a sympathy with its own offspring. Since even irrational animals entertain towards their young the same sympathy and affection as human beings. For instance, among birds, those which are domesticated and wander about *our* houses, defend their young. And those which make nests and hatch young on the tops of mountains, and in the crags of valleys, and the hollows and tops of trees, hinder any one from approaching them. And even if they are unable to prevent this;—flying around<sup>f</sup> them, in agony of affection, calling out in their peculiar note, they succour their offspring in whatever manner they are able. And why need we shew by *example of* irrational animals the sympathy which exists towards our children? when even bees, at the season of making honey, drive away those who approach them; and pierce with their sting, as with a sword, those who go near to their hive, and defend themselves even unto death.

## CHAPTER XV.

*An eulogy of the mother, for her most noble behaviour.*

NEVERTHELESS<sup>a</sup>, sympathy for her children 1

verse: “Isti in se singuli  
“sentiendo, illa videndo in  
“omnibus passa est. Facta  
“mater septem martyrum,  
“septies martyr.” (Augustini Sermo de Maccabæis, Op. tom. V. p. 851. ed. Benedictin.)

<sup>e</sup> Gr. πολύπλοκος: there is a various reading, πολύτεκνος:

but the former is to be preferred.

<sup>f</sup> Thus, in that fine simile in the second book of the Iliad, it is said, Μητήρ δ’ ἀμφεποῦσάτο ὄδυρομένη φίλα τέκνα.

<sup>a</sup> The Greek text in these two verses is confused, and probably faulty.

did not move aside *from her fixed purpose* the mother of the young men, who had a spirit<sup>b</sup> equal 2 to that of her *forefather* Abraham. O Principle, sovereign of the passions! and Piety, dearer to a 3 mother than *even* her children! The mother, when two things were set before her; religion, or the saving of her sons for a time, according to the tyrant's promise; rather chose religion, which saveth to eternal life<sup>c</sup> with God.

4 O! in what way can I morally pourtray<sup>d</sup> the affections of parents to their children? which wondrously stamp<sup>e</sup> a similarity, both of mind and form, on that small distinctive character *which each possesses*, namely, of *being* a child! as mothers especially sympathise more strongly than 5 fathers in the sufferings of their children. For inasmuch as mothers are more tender-minded and more fond<sup>f</sup> of that which is born of them, so much more affection do they bear towards their chil- 6 dren. But this mother of the seven *youths* was 7 more fond of her children than all mothers: who, growing in affection towards them through seven child-births, and forced by her many pains with each one to have a sympathy of feeling with

<sup>b</sup> Gr. τὴν Ἀβραὰμ ὁμόψυχον.

<sup>c</sup> How closely does this sentiment correspond with the comforting address of our Saviour to his disciples, as given at Matth. x. 39; xvi. 25; Luke xvii. 33; and John xii. 25. "He that loveth his life shall lose it: and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."

<sup>d</sup> Gr. ἠθολογήσαιμ' ἄν.

<sup>e</sup> The meaning of this pas-

sage is not very clear. The text is, ψυχῆς τε καὶ μορφῆς ὁμοιότητα εἰς μικρὸν παιδὸς χαρακτηριστὰ θαυμάσιον ἑναποσφραγίζοντα, μάλιστα διὰ τὸ πάθος, τοῖς γεννηθείσιν τὰς μητέρας τῶν πατέρων καθεστάναι συμπαθεστέρας. There is some variety of reading in the latter part of the verse.

<sup>f</sup> The Greek varies, between φιλογονώτεραι and πολυγονώτεραι: but the latter can scarcely be maintained.

them; yet through the fear of God regarded not the temporary saving of her sons<sup>g</sup>.

Not but that, on account of her sons' noble conduct, and their obedience to the law, she felt a still greater yearning of affection towards them. For they were both just, and temperate, and 8 brave, and high-minded, and fond of their brothers; and fond of their mother to such a degree that they obeyed her even unto death, by keeping the injunctions of the law. But yet, although there 10 were so many circumstances of affection which drew on a mother to sympathy: in the case of no one of them were the various tortures able to turn astray her principle. But each child separately, 11 and all of them together, the mother *actually* encouraged to the death for religion's sake.

O holy disposition, and charms of parental love, 12 and affectionate feeling<sup>h</sup>, and the influence<sup>i</sup> of having bred up children, and the indomitable affections of mothers! The mother beholding<sup>k</sup> them 13 one by one racked and burned, changed not herself, through religion. She beheld the flesh of 14 her children consuming in the fire, and their toes and fingers quivering on the ground, and the flesh of their heads *stripped off*<sup>l</sup>, even down to the beards, *and* hanging down like masks.

<sup>g</sup> The Greek text of this verse is very faulty, in the edition of 1817.

<sup>h</sup> Gr. *σύνεσις*: but the edit. 1817, reads *γονέυσιω*.

<sup>i</sup> The Greek text gives the single word *τροφέα*, with a conciseness of expression which our language will not reach.

<sup>k</sup> Gregory Nazianzen, in his fine animated oration on

this subject, thus powerfully describes the moral courage of this parent: "Ἦν οὐδὲν ἔκαμψεν οὐδ' ἐμαλάκισεν—οὐκ ἀρθρέμβολα προτεινόμενα, οὐ τροχοὶ—οὐ σάρκες ξανόμεναι, οὐχ αἵματος ὀχετοὶ ῥέοντες. (Orat. XXII. de Maccabæis, p. 400. edit. Paris. fol. 1609.)"

<sup>l</sup> See above, ch. ix. 28.

- 15 O mother, who at this instant wast tried by  
 severer pangs than in thy bearing of them! O  
 thou woman, who alone hast brought forth entire  
 16 holiness! Thy first-born expiring did not move  
 thee: nor the second, piteously regarding thee in  
 his torments: nor the third, yielding up his  
 17 breath. Nor, when thou didst behold the eyes of  
 each of them fiercely glaring on<sup>m</sup> the tortures  
 destined for them, and their nostrils snuffing up  
 the gale<sup>n</sup> of their own death,—didst thou weep!  
 18 When thou beheldest flesh upon flesh of thy  
 children chopped in pieces, hands after hands am-  
 putated, and heads upon heads cut off, and corpse  
 falling upon corpse; and sawest the lately happy  
 band of thy children made a common sepulchre<sup>o</sup>  
 by these tortures,—thou didst not shed one tear.
- 19 Not so powerfully do the melodies of the sirens  
 nor the notes of swans attract the hearers to  
 listening, as did the voices of these children in  
 20 torments calling on their mother. With what  
 and how great tortures was the mother *herself*  
 tormented, while her sons were being tortured by

<sup>m</sup> Gr. ταυρηδὸν ὀρώνας. Thus we read in the *Medea* of Euripides, ἀποτεαύρωται δμῶσιν: and again,—εἶδον ὄμματιν ταυρουμένην: and in *Aristophanes*, (Ran. 804.) ἔβλεψε γοῦν ταυρηδὸν ἐγκύψας κάτω. Also, in the *Phædo* of Plato, Socrates on receiving the cup of hemlock, is described as ὡσπερ εἰώθει ταυρηδὸν ὑποβλέψας πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπον, κ. τ. λ. In this latter passage, however, the sense seems to be *some-what* different, and the expression may refer to a *fixed*

*steady look*, rather than to a fierce or determined one. The Greek classics furnish many cognate expressions: in *Ælian* we have σεμνὸν καὶ βλοσυρὸν ὄραν; and again *τιτανῶδες βλέπειν*. (Var. Hist. XII. 21. et *Fragm.*)—and ἀρρενωπὸν καὶ γοργὸν βλέπειν. (Var. Hist. II. 44. XIII. 1.) &c. &c.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. προσημειομένους, literally, “presignifying.”

<sup>o</sup> Gr. πολυάνδριον. Compare 3 *Macc.* ix. 4, and the note on that passage.

racks and burning irons ! But religious Principle, 21  
 having in the midst of sufferings manfully nerved  
 her mind, gave her energy to look beyond the  
 temporary calls of parental love. Though she 22  
 beheld the destruction of seven sons<sup>p</sup>: the noble  
 mother stripped off all these *feelings*, through her  
 faith towards God. For perceiving in her own 23  
 mind, as in a council-chamber, powerful advisers,  
 namely, nature, and parentage, and maternal affec-  
 tion, and the rackings of her children ; the 24  
 mother, holding two votes<sup>q</sup>, one fatal to her  
 children, the other preservative *of them*, decided  
 not for a preservation which would save her seven  
 sons for a short time ; but, being a true daughter  
 of Abraham, she was mindful of religious con-  
 stancy<sup>r</sup>.

<sup>p</sup> Josephus adds here, “and  
 “ the complicated variety of  
 “ their tortures,” καὶ τὴν τῶν  
 στρεβλῶν πολύπλοκον ποικιλίαν.  
 And the text, if not abso-  
 lutely corrupt, is certainly  
 imperfect without the inser-  
 tion, as may be perceived ;  
 Καίπερ ἐπὶ τὰ τέκνων ὀρώσα ἀπῶ-  
 λειαν,—ἀς πάσας ἡ γενναία μήτηρ  
 ἐξέδυσεν διὰ τὴν πρὸς Θεὸν  
 πίστιν.

<sup>q</sup> In all cases which were  
 to be determined by suffrage,  
 it was customary among the  
 Greeks for each person to  
 have two ψῆφοι, or tickets ;  
 one of which was called ψῆφος  
 σώζουσα, being favourable to  
 the party under judgment, the  
 other ψῆφος καθαίρουσα, which  
 rejected or condemned him,  
 as the case might be. See  
 Lysias, Orat. XIII. There

were also two methods of  
 giving these votes ; one, the  
 ψῆφος φανερά, where the vote  
 was openly and publicly given ;  
 the other, ψῆφος ἀφανής, where  
 the ticket was privately put  
 into an urn, to be afterwards  
 drawn out with many others,  
 but without its being known  
 who had voted either one way  
 or the other. (See the above  
 passage of Lysias ; also an  
 instance of the ψῆφος φανερά,  
 in Thucydides IV. 74.) The  
 former of these modes resem-  
 bles our parliamentary and  
 public votings ; the latter is  
 equivalent to the vote by  
 ballot.

<sup>r</sup> An example of nearly  
 similar heroism is recorded in  
 the fifth book of Maccabees,  
 chapter xx ; where the mother  
 of John Hyrcanus, having

25 O mother of a nation, avenger of the law,  
 champion of religion, and conqueress in a struggle  
 26 of affections! O thou who wast more noble in  
 endurance than males, more manly than men in  
 patience! For, as the ark of Noah in the uni-  
 versal deluge, bearing in it the entire world, sus-  
 27 tained the violent waves: so thou, observer of the  
 law, *though* overwhelmed on all sides by a deluge  
 of troubles, and hard pressed by violent winds,  
*namely*, the tortures of thy sons,—didst nobly  
 sustain the storms for religion's sake.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*The praises of the mother of the seven brethren.*

1 IF then a woman, and she an old one, and the  
 mother of seven children, endured to behold the  
 tortures of her children even unto death: con-  
 fessedly religious Principle is perfect master of the  
 passions.

2 Now I have shewn, that not only men have  
 mastered the passions, but even that a woman  
 3 nobly disregarded the greatest torments. And  
 not so furious were Daniel's lions; nor so fiercely  
 flamed the furnace of Misael with most devouring<sup>a</sup>  
 fire; as the natural love of her children burned *in*

been taken prisoner with two of her sons, by Ptolemy, who had basely murdered their father Simon at a banquet, is brought on the wall of a town where Hyrcanus was besieging Ptolemy, and threatened with her own death and that of her sons, unless Hyrcanus would raise the siege. She however

exhorts him manfully to continue his assault, and accordingly is put to death soon after by the tyrant.

<sup>a</sup> Gr. λαβροτάτω πυρί: which Pindar calls Σέλας λάβρον Ἀφαιστοῦ. (Pyth. III. 69.) The same phrase is used by Oppian.

her, while she beheld her seven sons exposed to torments. But through the principle of religion, 4 the mother quite extinguished such and so powerful affections.

For we must also take this into the account; 5 that if the woman had been faint-hearted, as being a mother, she would have lamented over them; and perhaps might have said thus: “ O 6  
 “ wretched I ! thrice, many times, miserable !  
 “ who, having brought forth seven children, am  
 “ now come to be mother of none ! O useless 7  
 “ seven labours, and unprofitable seven pregnan-  
 “ cies <sup>b</sup> ! and fruitless nursings, and miserable  
 “ givings of suck ! In vain, my children, have I 8  
 “ sustained for you many pangs of childbirth, and  
 “ still more painful anxieties for your bringing  
 “ up. Alas ! of my children, some never mar- 9  
 “ ried ; others married to no purpose : I shall not  
 “ behold your children, nor shall I be deemed  
 “ happy in being saluted as a grandmother <sup>c</sup>. Alas ! 10  
 “ I who had so many <sup>d</sup>, so beautiful children, am  
 “ now a widow, solitary, and oppressed with grief.  
 “ Nor if I die, shall I have a single one of my  
 “ sons to bury me.”

But not one of them did the holy and religious 11 mother bewail with this lament. Nor did she dissuade any one of them from undergoing death, nor grieve for them as they died. But, as if she 12 possessed a mind of adamant, and was again

<sup>b</sup> Gr. ἀνόνητοι ἐπὶ δέκα μην-  
 νοι : where observe the last  
 word, signifying *ten* months  
 instead of nine.

<sup>c</sup> Gr. οὐδὲ μάμμη κληθεῖσα  
 μακαρισθήσομαι.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. ὦ ἡ πολύπαις καὶ καλ-  
 λίπαις ἐγώ. Gregory Nazi-  
 anzen calls this band of  
 brothers, τὸ τῆς μίαις γαστρὸς  
 εὐσεβὲς πολυάνδριον. Orat.  
 XXII. p. 400.

bringing forth<sup>e</sup> the entire number of her sons to an immortal life, she rather besought and exhorted them to a death in the cause of religion.

- 13 O mother, soldier of God for religion! thou, a female, an aged woman, through perseverance hast vanquished a tyrant; and hast been proved both in deeds and words more powerful than a  
 14 man. For when thou wast seized, together with thy children, thou stoodest looking upon Eleazar under torture, and saidst to thy sons in the  
 15 Hebrew tongue; "O my sons, the contest is a  
 " noble one; to which, seeing that you are called,  
 " for a testimony to your nation, exert yourselves  
 " in it with alacrity in defence of your country's  
 16 " law. For indeed *it would be* shameful, that  
 " this old man should bravely endure pains for  
 " religion's sake, but that you, who are younger,  
 17 " should be dismayed at the torments. Remember  
 " that through God you received *admission into*  
 " the world, and have enjoyed existence. And on  
 " this account you owe the endurance of every  
 18 " suffering for God's sake. For whom also our  
 " father Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son  
 " Isaac, *who was to be* the father of our nation<sup>f</sup>:  
 " and Isaac shrank not on seeing the paternal  
 " hand, armed with a knife, descending upon him.  
 19 " And Daniel the Just was cast to the lions: and  
 " Ananias, and Azarias, and Misael, were thrown  
 " violently<sup>g</sup> into the fiery furnace, and endured it

<sup>e</sup> Gr. καὶ εἰς ἀθανασίαν ἀνατίκτουσα [var. lect. ἀνακρίζουσα] τὸν τῶν υἱῶν ἀριθμὸν.

<sup>f</sup> Gr. τὸν ἔθνοπάτορα, a word scarcely to be found except in this book, though a very legi-

time compound.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ἀπεσφενδονίσθησαν, were cast as stones out of a sling. The same figure of speech is found in Scripture, where Abigail says to David,

“ for God’s sake. Do you therefore, having the 20  
 “ same faith towards God, make no complaint.  
 “ For it is unreasonable that they who are in-  
 “ structed in religion should not bear up against  
 “ troubles.”

With these arguments the mother of the seven 21  
 encouraging each one of her sons, persuaded them  
 to die rather than transgress the command of  
 God : especially as they knew this, that those who 22  
 die in God’s cause *really* live to God<sup>h</sup>, as Abra-  
 ham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the patriarchs.

## CHAPTER XVII.

*The praises of the mother continued.*

MOREOVER, some of the guards related, that 1  
 when she herself was about to be seized and put  
 to death, in order that nobody might touch<sup>a</sup> her  
 person, she threw herself<sup>b</sup> upon the pile. O mo- 2  
 ther, who with thy seven sons hast overthrown  
 the tyrant’s violence, and defeated his wicked de-  
 vices ; and hast demonstrated the nobleness of

“ the souls of thine enemies  
 “ the Lord thy God shall  
 “ sling out, as out of the mid-  
 “ dle of a sling.” 1 Samuel  
 xxv. 29.

<sup>h</sup> According to the words  
 of our Saviour, “ Now that  
 “ the dead are raised, even  
 “ Moses shewed at the bush,  
 “ when he calleth the Lord  
 “ the God of Abraham, and  
 “ the God of Isaac, and the  
 “ God of Jacob. For He is  
 “ not a God of the dead, but  
 “ of the living ; for all live  
 “ to Him.” Luke xx. 37.

<sup>a</sup> So in the Hecuba of Eu-

ripides, when Polyxena, the  
 daughter of Priam, is about  
 to be offered as a sacrifice, she  
 desires the surrounding guards  
 to retire, and not venture to  
 touch her : ‘ Εκοῦσα θνήσκω  
 μή τις ἄψηται χροὸς τοῦ ’μοῦ.

<sup>b</sup> The author of the pre-  
 ceding book gives no particu-  
 lars of the death of the mo-  
 ther ; but merely says, “ Last  
 “ of all, after the sons, the  
 “ mother died.” Later writers  
 have asserted that she under-  
 went the same or even greater  
 torments.

3 Faith! For thou, as a house<sup>c</sup> firmly supported on  
 the pillar of thy children, didst bear without bend-  
 4 ing the shock of *the tyrant's* tortures. Be of good  
 cheer, therefore, O holy-minded mother, having a  
 firm hope<sup>d</sup> in God of *a reward* for thy endurance.  
 5 Not so majestic stands the moon in heaven, sur-  
 rounded by the stars; as thou, having robed in  
 the light<sup>e</sup> of religion thy seven sons, equal to  
 stars, art become honourable in God's sight, and  
 6 with them art fixed in heaven. For the genera-  
 tion of thy family was truly from the son<sup>f</sup> of  
*Abraham*.  
 7 Now if it were in my power to pourtray<sup>g</sup>, as in  
 a picture, thy religious story, would not men  
 shudder at beholding the mother of seven children  
 undergoing in the cause of religion various tor-  
 8 tures even unto death? And indeed it would be  
 right moreover to inscribe upon the tomb itself  
 these words, which are set down for a memorial  
 9 to those of *our* nation: "Here are entombed an  
 " aged priest, and an aged woman, and seven sons,  
 " through the violence of a tyrant, who wished to  
 10 " destroy the civil polity of the Hebrews. Who  
 " also have avenged<sup>h</sup> their nation, looking unto  
 " God, and enduring the torments unto death."

<sup>c</sup> Josephus differs here slightly from the text; and his reading gives a less perplexed construction, though the meaning is evidently alike in both.

<sup>d</sup> Gr. τὴν ἐλπίδα τῆς ὑπομονῆς γενναίως [var. lect. βεβαίαν] ἔχουσα πρὸς Θεόν.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. ὡς σὺ τοὺς ἰσαστέρους ἐπτὰ παῖδας φωταγωγήσασα πρὸς τὴν εὐσέβειαν ἔντιμος καθέστηκες

Θεῶν.

<sup>f</sup> The Greek text varies between παιδὸς and πατρός.

<sup>g</sup> Gr. ὡσπερ ἐπὶ πίνακός τινος ζωγραφῆσαι τὴν τῆς ἱστορίας σου εὐσέβειαν [qu. τῆς εὐσεβείας σου ἱστορίαν?] The edition of 1817 is defective here.

<sup>h</sup> Or, have vindicated the character of their nation. Gr. ἐξεδίκησαν. Compare ver. 19, below.

For in truth the struggle which was made by 11 them was divine. For at that time Virtue directed the games<sup>i</sup>, adjudging the victory by endurance, in immortality, in eternal life. And the 13 first combatant<sup>k</sup> was Eleazar: and the mother of the seven children was in the struggle: and the brothers were combatants. Their antagonist was, 14 the tyrant; and the spectators were, the world and the human race. And religion was declared 15 conqueror, and she crowned her own champions.

Who did not admire the champions of divine 16 legislation? Who were not astonished *at them*? The tyrant himself<sup>l</sup>, at all events, and all his council, most exceedingly wondered at their patient endurance. Through which also they now 17 are standing beside the throne of God, and are leading a life of blessedness. For Moses truly 18 has said<sup>m</sup>, “and all his saints are in thy hand.”

They, therefore, having been sanctified through 19 God, have been honoured not only with this honour, but also *with the additional praise* that through their exertions the enemy did not overcome our nation: and that the tyrant was pu- 20 nished, and the country was cleansed *from sin*; they having become as it were a devoted offering<sup>n</sup> for the sin of the nation. And through the blood 21 of those pious men, and their propitiatory death,

<sup>i</sup> Gr. Ἡθλοθέτει γὰρ τότε ἀρετὴ δι' ὑπομονῆς δοκιμάζουσα τὸ νίκος ἐν ἀφθαρσίᾳ ἐν ζωῇ πολυχρονίῳ. The entire imagery is taken from the public games of Greece.

<sup>k</sup> So Gregory Nazianzen expresses himself on the sub-

ject: προηγωνίσαστο πατήρ, ἐπαγωνιούνται παῖδες. Orat. XXII.

<sup>l</sup> See above, ch. i. 11.

<sup>m</sup> At Deuter. xxxiii. 3.

<sup>n</sup> Gr. ἀντίψυχον. Compare ch. i. 11, and vi. 24; with the note there.

Divine Providence effectually saved Israel, which before was overwhelmed with evils.

- 22 For the tyrant Antiochus, beholding the bravery of their virtue, and their patience under torments, proclaimed their constancy by a herald, for  
 23 an example to his own soldiers. And he kept them *in his service* as noble and brave men, both for pitched battle and for siege of cities: and *by their aid* he routed and vanquished all his enemies.

### CHAPTER XVIII.

*The victorious result of their constancy. The mother's speech to her children.*

- 1 O YE Israelites, descendants of the seed of Abraham, obey this law, and in every way ob-  
 2 serve religion. Knowing that religious Principle is lord over the passions: and not only over troubles from within, but likewise over those which are from without.
- 3 By which means those youths, exposing their lives to sufferings for religion, not only were admired by men, but also were deemed worthy of a  
 4 divine inheritance. And through them the nation obtained peace; and having reestablished in the country the wholesome observance of the laws, it  
 5 effectually dislodged its enemies. And the tyrant Antiochus was both punished on earth, and *now*  
 6 after his death is still enduring punishment. For, when he could by no means prevail *so far as* to compel the inhabitants of Jerusalem to adopt Gentile customs<sup>a</sup>, and to live in a manner strange<sup>b</sup> to  
 7 the usages of their country: he forthwith de-

<sup>a</sup> Gr. ἀλλοφυλῆσαι.

<sup>b</sup> Compare book II. ch. i. 44.

parted from Jerusalem<sup>c</sup>, and led his army against the Persians. [B. C. 166.]

<sup>d</sup> That righteous woman, the mother of the 8 seven young men, said thus also to her children :  
 “ I formerly was a pure virgin, and did not go 9  
 “ out from my father’s house ; but kept within <sup>e</sup>  
 “ the walled building. No ravisher, the despoiler 10  
 “ of unprotected innocence, ruined me in the field <sup>f</sup> :  
 “ nor did the seducer, the deceitful serpent <sup>g</sup>, cor-

<sup>c</sup> Compare 2 Macc. iii. 27 — 31. 3 Macc. ix. 1, 2.

<sup>d</sup> All which follows after the seventh verse is believed to have been written by a different author.

<sup>e</sup> Gr. ἐφύλασσον τὴν φόδομημένην πλευράν, the meaning of which expression is ambiguous.

<sup>f</sup> See Deut. xxii. 25.

<sup>g</sup> Is this *merely* a metaphorical expression? or does it cover a less obvious meaning? Can it allude to any of those strange opinions concerning the serpent in Paradise, which are known to have prevailed in various ages of the world?

The heresy of the Ophitæ, who worshipped the serpent as a god, is mentioned by Origen in his sixth book against Celsus, and is described by Epiphanius, (Hæres. 37.) — Tertullian (adversus Valentinianos, cap. 2.) calls it, “ Ille a primordio *Divinæ imaginis prædo.*” Tension, in his Discourse on Idolatry, (4to. 1678, p. 354,) speaks of “ good angels appearing *like the most eminent sort of winged serpents, with beautiful faces,*

*“ it may be, of men,”* &c. And again; “ If the seraphim had not appeared in some such form, it would be very difficult to give any tolerable account of the temptation of Adam and Eve by a dæmon in the shape of a serpent. That serpent is ridiculously painted in the form of a creeping one before the fall: and it is impossible to conceive our first parents so stupid as to have entered into discourse with such a creature without any astonishment.” Ibid.

It is well known to those who are conversant in such matters, that in ancient illuminated biblical manuscripts, the serpent, while tempting Eve, is often drawn *with the face of a very handsome young man.* And there are pictures, by Michael Angelo and others, representing it with a human face, sometimes male, sometimes also female. The same thing is seen on ancient carvings, which decorate both the outsides and insides of our churches.

Mercerus, in his Commentary on Genesis, ch. iii. re-

- rupt my virginity: but I remained with a husband during the flower of my age. And when these my children had grown up, their father died: happy indeed *was he*: for having passed a life of abundance of fine children, he escaped the painful period of being deprived<sup>h</sup> of them.
- 12 Who, while he was yet with you, used to teach  
 13 you the law and the prophets. And he read to us of Abel, who was murdered by Cain: and of Isaac, who was offered for a burnt-offering: and  
 14 of Joseph, who was in prison. He told us also of the zealous Phineas: and he taught you the story of Ananias, Azarias, and Misael. And he used to glorify Daniel, who was in the den of  
 15 lions; whom also he pronounced blessed. And he reminded you of the scripture of Esaias<sup>i</sup>, which says, ‘When thou walkest through the  
 16 fire, the flame shall not burn thee.’ He chanted to you David<sup>k</sup>, the writer of the hymns, who says, ‘Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
 17 and the Lord shall deliver him out of all.’ He recited to us the Proverbs of Solomon, who saith<sup>l</sup>,

lates the opinion of some Jewish doctors, (but to which he himself does not assent,) in the following words: “Hebræorum quidam, quod ego alienum puto, serpentem iniquiant vidisse eos soboli procreandæ operam dantes, et inde eam appetiisse: sed spiritus est Satanas, nec in serpentem ut mulierem appeteret competere poterat.” Whether there be any connexion between this opinion of the rabbins, and the expression in the text, I do not

feel myself able to decide.—  
 Quære. Will the literature of Holland furnish us with any lights upon this subject?

<sup>h</sup> The Greek text has here two elegant and concise expressions, put in opposition to each other; *ἐδρεκνίας βίον*, and *ἀρεκνίας καιρόν*, which we are compelled to paraphrase, our language not furnishing a literal translation of them.

<sup>i</sup> Namely, at ch. xliii. 2.

<sup>k</sup> In Psalm xxxiv. 19.

<sup>l</sup> Viz. at Prov. iii. 18.

“ ‘ He is a tree of life to all those who do his will.’  
 “ He bare witness to Ezechiel<sup>m</sup>, who saith, ‘ Shall 18  
 “ these dry bones live?’ For he did not forget 19  
 “ the song which Moses taught<sup>n</sup>, which teacheth  
 “ and saith; ‘ I will kill, and I will make alive.  
 “ This is your life, and the prolonging<sup>o</sup> of your  
 “ days.’ ”

O! bitter was that day, yet not *really* bitter<sup>p</sup>, 20  
 when the bitter tyrant of the Gentiles kindled the  
 fire under his savage caldrons, and with boiling  
 fury brought to the catapelta and to all his tor-  
 ments the seven sons of the daughter of Abraham.  
 Their eyeballs he blinded; and their tongues he 21  
 cut out; and he slew them with various torments.  
 For which deeds Divine Justice pursued, and will 22  
 pursue, the accursed *sinner*. But the sons of Abra- 23  
 ham, with their victorious mother, are gathered  
 together to the land of their fathers, having re-  
 ceived again pure and immortal souls from God.  
 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 24

<sup>m</sup> Gr. ἐπιστοποιεῖτο. See Ezech. xxxvii. 3.

<sup>n</sup> Namely, at Dent. xxxii. 39, 47.

<sup>o</sup> The Greek varies, between μακρότης and μακαριότης: but the *former* agrees with

the passage as it stands in the book of Deuteronomy.

<sup>p</sup> Gr. ὦ πικρᾶς τῆς τότε ἡμέρας, καὶ οὐ πικρᾶς, a mode of expression familiarly used by the Greek dramatic writers.

THE  
FIFTH BOOK  
OF  
M A C C A B E E S :

CONTAINING

A RECORD OF EVENTS FROM THE TRANSLATION OF THE  
HEBREW SCRIPTURES INTO GREEK UNDER PTOLEMY  
PHILADELPHUS, (B. C. 277,) TO THE DEATH OF HE-  
ROD'S TWO SONS, IN THE FIFTH OR SIXTH YEAR BE-  
FORE CHRIST.

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PREFACE (from the Paris Polyglott Bible.)

**T**HIS book, from the first to the sixteenth chapter inclusive, is entitled, “ The Second Book of “ Maccabees according to the translation of the “ Hebrews,” as may be seen at the end of ch. xvi. The remainder of it is entitled simply, “ The Second Book of Maccabees,” the series of chapters being continued from the preceding portion. But, since the work agrees neither with the Syriac text, which is considered of the highest authority among the Orientals, nor with the Greek, nor with the Vulgate version, (although it exists in almost all the Oriental manuscripts), we have placed it at the end of this Bible, and moreover without its points: both, that it may not be supposed by any one that we include it among the canonical books;

and also, because the Second Book of Maccabees, which is reckoned canonical, still remains to us entire, though under the name of "The First Book."

You have however in this book some particulars extracted from the first and from the second: also some others which perhaps have never yet been made public; which we trust may not be without some degree of pleasure to you: inasmuch as the entire book is a sort of continuation of the history, carried down from the very Maccabees to the reign of Herod and the government of Pilate<sup>a</sup>, and consequently to the time of Christ our Lord.

Lastly, we wish you to understand that we have copied the text with that scrupulous exactness, that we have not changed even those things which easily might have been altered for the better.

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## CHAPTER I.<sup>b</sup>

*The attempt of Heliodorus on the treasury.*

IT was ordained by the kings<sup>c</sup> of the Grecian  
 B. C. Gentiles that large sums of money should  
 184. be sent into the holy city<sup>d</sup> every year, and

<sup>a</sup> This appears to be a mistake, as will be seen on reference to the note at ch. lix. 25.

<sup>b</sup> Compare this chapter with 3 Macc. iii.

<sup>c</sup> Namely, by Seleucus Nicator, Antiochus the Second, Antiochus the Great, and also Seleucus IV, surnamed Soter,

or Philopator, the son of Antiochus the Great.

<sup>d</sup> Among the peculiarities of expression observable in this Fifth Book, are to be reckoned "the house of God," or "the holy house," instead of "the temple;" "the holy city," or "the city of the holy house,"

should be delivered to the priests, that they might add it to the treasury of the house of God, as money for the receivers of alms [orphans] and for widows.

2 Now Seleucus<sup>e</sup> was king in Macedonia<sup>f</sup>: and he had a friend<sup>g</sup>, one of his captains, who was called Heliodorus. This man was sent to spoil the treasury, and to take whatever money was therein. When this was noised abroad, it created great grief among the citizens; and they were afraid lest Heliodorus should proceed to greater lengths; as they had not sufficient power to prevent him from executing his orders. Wherefore they all fly to God *for aid*, and ordained a general fast, and supplicated with humility, bowing of the knees, and great wailing; putting on sackcloth, and rolling themselves in ashes, with Onias<sup>h</sup> the high priest and the other princes and elders, even to the common people, and women and children. And on the next day Heliodorus came into the house of God, with a train of followers; and entered into the house with his foot

for Jerusalem; and “the land (or region) of the holy house,” to designate “Judæa.” The other more usual appellations do sometimes occur, but very seldom. About this title, “the holy city,” a phrase which is used frequently in the Old Testament, and likewise in St. Matthew and the book of Revelation, much has been written by commentators; and the reader, desirous of fuller information on the point, is referred to Calmet

and Prideaux.

<sup>e</sup> Namely, Seleucus IV.

<sup>f</sup> And of Syria also; by which means he possessed the sovereignty of Judæa.

<sup>g</sup> In 3 Macc. iii. Heliodorus is called *treasurer* to the king.

<sup>h</sup> Namely, Onias III.—N.B. I have generally judged it superfluous to make mention, in the notes on *this* book, of persons previously named and described in any of the former books.

soldiers, he himself being on horseback, and was in search of the money. But the great and good 8 God<sup>i</sup> sent a loud, terrible voice upon him; and he saw a person armed with weapons of war, riding on a large horse, *and* advancing against him: wherefore he was seized with fear and trembling: 9 and that person came up to him, and pulled him off from his saddle<sup>k</sup>, and struck him with violence to the earth. So that being exceedingly terror- 10 struck, and frightened out of his senses, he became dumb. But when his attendants saw what had 11 befallen him, and could perceive no one who had done these things unto him, they carried him with all haste down to his own house: and he remained 12 during several days, neither speaking nor taking any food. Wherefore the chief men of his friends 13 went to Onias the priest, beseeching him to be appeased towards him, and to implore the great and good God that He would not punish him. Which thing Onias did; and Heliodorus was 14 healed of his disease. And he saw *in a vision* the 15 person, whom he had seen in the sanctuary, commanding him to go to Onias the priest, and to salute him, and pay him becoming honour; telling him, that the great and good God had heard his prayers, and had healed him at Onias' request. Heliodorus therefore hastened to Onias the priest, 16

<sup>i</sup> This phrase, "Deus Op-  
timus Maximus," occurs  
continually, and is peculiar  
to this one book of Macca-  
bees: the same phrase, as we  
learn from Hottinger, is usual  
in the Samaritan Chronicle.  
(Hottingeri Exercitationes

Antimorin. p. 66. 4to. 1644.)

<sup>k</sup> Or horsecloth, or housing,  
Lat. *sagma*; which is the  
word used by the Latin Vul-  
gate at Leviticus xv. 9. where  
our translators read "sad-  
dle."

whom falling down he saluted ; and gave him money of various kinds<sup>1</sup>, requesting him to add it to that which was in the treasury.

- 17 Then he went from Jerusalem into the country of Macedonia, and related to king Seleucus what had happened to him ; entreating that he would not compel him<sup>m</sup> to become his representative at  
 18 Jerusalem. Wherefore the king wondered at the things which Heliodorus mentioned to him ; and commanded him to publish them to the world.  
 19 And he took care that his men should be removed and sent away from Jerusalem, increasing the gifts which he used to send thither annually, on  
 20 account of what had befallen Heliodorus. And the kings added more to the money which they ordered to be given to the priests, that it might be spent on the orphans and widows ; also to that which was to be spent on the sacrifices.

## CHAPTER II<sup>a</sup>.

*The history of the translation of the twenty-four books out of the Hebrew tongue into the Greek tongue, for Ptolemy king of Egypt.*

- 1 THERE was a man of Macedon named Ptolemy, endowed with knowledge and understand- B. C.  
284.  
 ing ; whom, as he dwelt in Egypt, the

<sup>1</sup> Lat. denarios et drachmas.

<sup>m</sup> Compare ver. 38 of book III. ch. iii.

<sup>a</sup> See a more full and minute account of these transactions in Josephus, Ant. XII. 2. See also the history of the same by Aristeeas, or Justin

Martyr, or Epiphanius ; or consult Ussher, Hodius, or the observations in Calmet.

It is obvious to every reader, that the events of this chapter precede in order of time those related in ch. i. But I give the book exactly as I find it.

Egyptians made king over the country of Egypt. Wherefore he, being possessed with a desire of 2 seeking out *various* knowledge, collected all the books of wise men from every quarter. And be- 3 ing anxious to obtain “the Twenty-four<sup>b</sup> Books,” he wrote to the high priest in Jerusalem, to send  
 B. C. him seventy elders from among those who  
 277. were most skilled in those books ; and he sent to the priest a letter, with a present. So 4 when the king’s letter came to the priest, he chose out seventy learned men, and sent them, together with a man named Eleazar<sup>c</sup>, one excelling in religion, science, and learning : who departed into Egypt. And when their approach was made 5 known to the king, he commanded seventy lodgings to be prepared, and the men to be there entertained. He also ordered a secretary to be ap- 6 pointed for each one, who should take down the interpretation of these books in the Greek character and language. He likewise forbade that any 7 one of these should hold communication with any

<sup>b</sup> It is well known that the Hebrews usually called their scriptures by the name of “the *twenty-two* books,” answering to the number of their letters, but not *twenty-four*, as stated by the author of this fifth book.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus takes no notice of any such person being sent : but the name of the high priest at this period was Eleazar ; so that possibly some confusion of names may have arisen from this circumstance. But see below, ch. iv.

ver. 1. where Eleazar, who is tortured for his religion, is said to have formerly gone with the doctors unto Ptolemy. The chronology however will not permit us to assent to this. Eleazar is indeed there stated to be a man of ninety years of age ; but still, the translation of the Scriptures at Alexandria occurred ninety years before that persecution under Antiochus, in which Eleazar was put to death.

of his fellows; lest they should agree together  
8 to make any change in those books. So the secre-  
taries took down from every one of them the  
9 translation of "the Twenty-four Books." And  
when the translations were finished, Eleazar  
brought them to the king; and compared them  
together in his presence: on which comparison,  
10 they were found to agree. Upon which the king  
was exceeding glad, and ordered a large sum of  
money to be divided amongst the party. But Ele-  
azar *himself* he rewarded with a munificent re-  
compense.

11 He also on that day set free every captive  
which was found in Egypt, of the tribe of Judah  
and of Benjamin, that they might return to their  
12 own country Syria. The number of them was  
13 about one hundred and thirty thousand. More-  
over, he ordered money to be distributed among  
them, so that several denarii came to the share of  
each person; who, receiving these, departed into  
14 their own land. Then he commanded a great  
table to be made of the purest gold, which should  
be large enough to contain a representation of the  
whole land of Egypt, and a picture of the Nile,  
from the commencement of its stream to the end  
of it in Egypt, with its various divisions through  
15 the country, and how it laves the whole land. He  
also ordered the table to be set with many precious  
16 stones. And this table was made; and its carving  
was finished, and it was set with precious stones:  
and it was carried into the city of Jerusalem, a  
17 present to the magnificent house. And, arriving  
in safety, it was placed in the house, according to  
18 the king's command. And truly men never be-

held its like, for the beauty of the pictures, and the excellence of the workmanship.

### CHAPTER III.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the Jews. A relation of what befell the Jews under king Antiochus; and what battles took place between them and his captains; and to what lengths he at last proceeded.*

THERE was a certain man of the kings of Ma- 1  
 cedon, who was called Antiochus<sup>b</sup>; among  
 B.C. 170. whose deeds was this: that when Pto- 2  
 lemy the abovementioned king of Egypt was  
 dead, he went with his armies to attack the se-  
 cond<sup>c</sup> Ptolemy. And, having conquered and slain  
 Ptolemy, he won his country<sup>d</sup> Egypt, and took  
 possession of it. From hence, as his affairs gained 3  
 an accession of strength, he subdued a great part  
 of the earth; the king of Persia and others pay-  
 ing him obedience. Wherefore his heart was 4  
 lifted up: and being puffed up with pride, he  
 commanded images to be made after his own like-  
 ness; that men should worship them, to his glori-  
 fying and honour. And when these were made, 5  
 he sent messengers into all the regions of his em-  
 pire, commanding them to be worshipped and  
 adored. To these commands the nations assented,  
 fearing and dreading his tyranny.

Now there were at that time in Judæa three 6

<sup>a</sup> Compare with this chap-  
 ter 2 Macc. i. 3 Macc. v.  
 Joseph. Antiq. XII. 6, 7.  
 Bell. I. 1.

<sup>b</sup> Namely, Antiochus Epi-  
 phanes.

<sup>c</sup> Or rather, "the succeed-  
 ing:" for as the king in-

tended here is Ptolemy Phi-  
 lomator, the epithet "second"  
 is incorrectly applied, he be-  
 ing in fact the *sixth* of the  
 Ptolemies.

<sup>d</sup> As had been predicted by  
 the prophet Daniel, ch. xi.  
 25.

men, the very worst of all mortals; and each of them had, as it were, a connexion in the same sort of vice. The name of one of these three was Menelaus<sup>e</sup>; of the second, Simeon<sup>f</sup>; of the third, Alcimus<sup>g</sup>. And about that time there appeared<sup>h</sup> certain images, which the citizens of Jerusalem beheld in the air for the space of forty days: they were the appearances of men riding on fiery horses fighting with each other. So those in-  
 8 fighting with each other. So those in-  
 9 pious men went to Antiochus, to obtain from him some authority, that they might perpetrate with ease whatever they wished, of whoredom, *and* plundering of men's goods; and in short, might rule over the rest, and might keep them in subjection.  
 10 And they said to him, "O king, there have ap-  
 11 peared lately in the air over Jerusalem fiery  
 12 horsemen, contending with each other: and on  
 13 that account the Hebrews have rejoiced, saying,  
 14 "that this portended the death of king Antio-  
 15 chus." Which words the king believing, being  
 16 filled with rage, he marched to Jerusalem in the  
 17 shortest possible time; and came upon the nation  
 18 not at all forewarned of his approach. And his  
 19 men attacked the inhabitants, and slew them with  
 20 the sword, making a very great slaughter<sup>i</sup>; many  
 21 also they wounded, and a great multitude they led  
 22 into captivity. But some escaping fled into the

<sup>e</sup> The brother of Jesus, or Jason; for an account of whom see 3 Macc. iv.

<sup>f</sup> Or Simon, mentioned at 3 Macc. iii. and iv.

<sup>g</sup> Who was afterwards made high priest. See 2 Macc. vii.

<sup>h</sup> Compare 3 Macc. v. 2.

<sup>i</sup> The author of the third

book of Maccabees reports, that "there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand; whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict, and no fewer sold than slain," ch. v. 14.

mountains and woods, where they continued a long time, feeding upon herbs.

After this, Antiochus determined to depart from 13  
 B.C. the country. But the evil which he had 14  
 169. done to the nation did not suffice him :  
 but he left as his substitute a man named Fælix<sup>k</sup>,  
 enjoining him to compel the Jews to worship his  
 image, and to eat swine's flesh. Which Fælix did, 15  
 sending for the people to obey the king in the  
 things which he had commanded him. But they 16  
 refused to do the things whereunto they were  
 called ; wherefore he slew a great multitude of  
 them ; preserving those wicked wretches and their  
 family, and raising their dignity.

#### CHAPTER IV.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the death of Eleazar the priest.*

AFTERWARDS was seized Eleazar, who had 1  
 B.C. gone with the doctors unto Ptolemy<sup>b</sup>, and  
 167. was then a very old man, ninety years of  
 age ; and he was placed before Fælix ; who said 2  
 to him, “ Eleazar, truly you are a wise and pru-  
 “ dent man ; and indeed I have loved you for  
 “ many years, and therefore I should not wish  
 “ your death : therefore obey the king, and wor- 3  
 “ ship his image, and eat of his sacrifices, and de-  
 “ part in safety.” To whom Eleazar replied ; 4  
 “ I am not about to forsake my obedience to God,

<sup>k</sup> This appears to be either *Philip*, whom Antiochus is said (at 3 Macc. v. 22.) to have left governor at Jerusalem ; or else, “ the old man “ of Athens” mentioned at 3 Macc. vi. 1, as being sent by

him “ to compel the Jews to “ depart from the laws of “ their fathers.”

<sup>a</sup> Compare this chapter with 3 Macc. vi. 18—31. and with 4 Macc. v. and vi.

<sup>b</sup> See above, ii. 4.

5 “ in order to obey the king.” And Fælix, coming  
up, whispered to him, “ Take care to send for  
“ some one to bring you flesh from your own of-  
6 “ ferings, which place upon my table: and eat  
“ some part of that in the presence of the people,  
“ that they may know that you have obeyed the  
“ king: and you will save your life, without any  
7 “ harm done to your religion.” Eleazar answered  
him, “ I do not obey God under any kind of fraud,  
“ but rather I will endure this *your* violence. For  
“ inasmuch as I am an old man of ninety years,  
“ my bones are now weakened, and my body has  
8 “ wasted away. If I therefore shall with a brave  
“ spirit endure those *torments*, from which even  
“ the bravest young men shrink back in fear; my  
“ people and the youths of my nation will bravely  
9 “ imitate me, and will say; ‘ How is it that we  
“ may not endure the pains, which one, who is in-  
“ ferior to us in strength, and less substantial in  
10 “ flesh and bones, has undergone?’ which indeed  
“ will be better for me, than to deceive them by a  
11 “ feigned obedience to the king: for they will  
“ *then* say, ‘ If that decrepid old man, wise and  
“ prudent as he is, is clinging to life and overcome  
“ by the pain of temporary matters<sup>c</sup>, abdicating  
“ his religion; truly that will be lawful for us  
“ which was lawful for him, since he is an old  
“ man and a wise one, and one whom we ought  
12 “ to follow.’ Wherefore I would rather die, leav-  
“ ing to them a constancy in religion and patience  
“ against tyranny; than live, after having weak-  
“ ened their constancy in obeying their Lord and

<sup>c</sup> Or, “ is afflicted by the painful thought of bidding adieu  
“ to temporal affairs.”

“ following his commands ; so that through me  
“ they may be rendered happy, not unhappy.”

Now when Fælix had heard the determination 13  
of Eleazar, he was violently enraged with him,  
and commanded him to be tortured in a variety  
of ways : so that he came into the most desperate  
*mortal* struggle, and said ; “ Thou, O God, 14  
“ knowest that I might have delivered myself  
“ from the *troubles* into which I have fallen, by  
“ obeying another *rather* than Thee. This how- 15  
“ ever I have not done ; but I have preferred  
“ obeying Thee, and have esteemed all the vio-  
“ lence offered me as light, for the sake of con-  
“ stancy in obedience to Thee. And now I think 16  
“ little of the things which have happened to me  
“ according to thy good pleasure, and support  
“ them as well as I can. I therefore pray Thee, 17  
“ that Thou wilt accept this from me, and cause  
“ me to die before I become weaker in endurance.”  
And God heard his prayers ; and immediately he 18  
died. But he left his people devoted to the wor- 19  
ship of their God, and endued with a sound forti-  
tude, and perseverance in religion, and patience  
*to bear up* against the trials which awaited them.

#### CHAPTER V<sup>a</sup>.

*The history of the death of the seven brethren.*

AFTER this, seven brothers were seized, and their 1  
mother ; and they were sent to the king ; for he  
had not yet gone far away from Jerusalem. And 2  
when they had been carried to the king, one of  
them was brought into his presence ; whom he

<sup>a</sup> Compare with this chapter, 3 Macc. vii. and 4 Macc. viii—xii.

3 ordered to renounce his religion : but he refusing  
said to him, “ If you think to teach us the truth  
4 “ *for the first time*, the matter is not so : for truth  
“ is that which we have learned from our fathers,  
“ and by which we have bound ourselves to em-  
“ brace the worship of God only, and constantly  
“ to observe the law ; and from this we in no  
5 “ wise will depart.” And king Antiochus was  
angry at these words, and commanded an iron  
frying pan to be brought, and to be placed on the  
6 fire. Then he ordered the young man’s tongue to  
be cut out, and his hands and feet to be cut off,  
and the skin of his head to be flayed off, and to  
be placed in the pan : and they did so to him.  
7 Then he commanded a large brazen caldron to  
be brought and set over the fire, into which the  
8 rest of his body was thrown. And when the  
man was near dying, he ordered the fire to be re-  
moved from him, that he might be tortured the  
longer : intending by these acts to terrify his  
9 mother and his brethren. But in fact by this he  
gave them additional courage and strength, to  
maintain their religion with constancy, and to  
bear all those torments which tyranny could in-  
flict upon them.

10 So when the first was dead, the second was  
brought before him : to whom some of the at-  
tendants said, “ Obey those orders which the king  
“ will give you, lest you perish even as your bro-  
11 “ ther perished.” But he answered, “ I am not  
“ weaker in spirit than my brother, nor behind  
“ him in my faith. Bring forward your fire and  
“ sword ; and do not diminish ought of that which  
“ you did to my brother.” And they did to him

as had been done to his brother. And he called 12  
 out to the king, and said to him ; “ Hear, O thou  
 “ monster of cruelty towards men, and know that  
 “ thou gainest nothing of ours except our bodies ;  
 “ but our souls thou dost by no means obtain ;  
 “ and these shortly will go to their Creator, whom 13  
 “ He will restore to their bodies, when He shall  
 “ raise to life<sup>b</sup> the dead men of his nation and the  
 “ slain ones of his people.”

And the third was brought out ; who beckon- 14  
 ing with his hand said to the king ; “ Why dost  
 “ thou frighten us, O enemy ? know that this is 15  
 “ sent upon us from heaven, which also we under-  
 “ go *as such*, giving thanks to God, and from Him  
 “ we hope for our reward.” And the king, and 16  
 those who stood near him, admired the courage of  
 the youth, and the firmness of his mind, and his  
 fair discourse. Then he gave orders, and he was  
 slain.

And the fourth was brought out, who said : 17  
 “ For God’s religion we set our lives to sale, and  
 “ hire them out, that we may require payment  
 “ from Him, on that day when you shall have no  
 “ excuse in the judgment, and shall not be able  
 “ to endure your tortures.” The king commanded, 18  
 and he was put to death.

And the fifth was brought out, who said to him ; 19  
 “ Think not within thyself that God has forsaken  
 “ us, because of the things which He has sent

<sup>b</sup> There appears here a ma-  
 nifest allusion to the words of  
 the prophet Isaiah, ch. xxvi.  
 19, “ Thy dead men shall live,  
 “ together with my dead body  
 “ shall they arise. Awake and

“ sing, ye that dwell in dust :  
 “ for thy dew is as the dew  
 “ of herbs, and the earth shall  
 “ cast out the dead.” Also,  
 to a striking passage in Eze-  
 chiel, ch. xxxvii. 1—14.

20 “ upon us. But truly his will is, to shew us  
“ honour and love by these things; and He will  
21 “ avenge us of thee and of thy posterity.” And  
the king commanded, and he was slain.

22 And the sixth was brought out, who said; “ I  
“ confess indeed my offences to God, but I believe  
“ that they shall be forgiven me through *this* my  
23 “ death. But you have now opposed God, by  
“ slaying those who embrace His religion: and  
“ surely He will repay you according to your  
“ works, and will root you out from his earth.”  
And he gave orders for him, and he was slain.

24 And the seventh was brought out, who was a  
25 boy. Then his mother arose, fearless and un-  
moved, and looked upon<sup>c</sup> the corpses of her chil-  
26 dren: and she said, “ My sons, I know not how I  
“ conceived each one of you, when I did conceive  
“ him. Nor had I the power of giving him  
“ breath; or of bringing him forth to the light  
“ of this world; or of bestowing on him courage  
27 “ and understanding: but indeed the great and  
“ good God himself formed him according to his  
“ own will: and gave to him a form according to  
28 “ his good pleasure: and brought him into the  
“ world by his power; appointing to him a term  
“ of life, and good rules, and a dispensation of *re-*  
29 “ *ligion*, as it pleaseth Him. But you now have  
“ sold to God your bodies which he himself form-  
“ ed, and your souls which he created: and you  
“ have acquiesced in his judgments which he  
30 “ hath decreed. Wherefore, happy are ye, in the  
“ things which happily you have obtained; and

<sup>c</sup> Compare what is related of her firmness and fortitude, in book IV. ch. xv. 13—23.

“blessed are ye, for the things in which you  
“have been victorious.”

Now Antiochus had supposed, when he beheld 31  
her rise up, that she had done this through being  
overcome by fear for her child; and he wholly  
thought that she was about to enjoin him obe-  
dience to the king, that he might not perish as his  
brethren had perished. But when he had heard 32  
her words, he was ashamed, and blushed, and  
commanded the boy to be brought to him; that  
he might exhort him, and persuade him to love  
life, and deter him from death: lest all those 33  
should be seen to oppose his authority, and very  
many others should follow their example. There- 34  
fore, when he was brought to him, he exhorted  
him by discourse, and promised him riches, and  
sware to him that he would make him viceroy to  
himself. But when the boy was not at all moved 35  
by his words, and took no heed of them; the  
king turned to his mother, and said to her;  
“Happy woman, pity this thy son, whom alone 36  
“thou hast surviving; and exhort him to comply  
“with my orders, and to escape those *sufferings*  
“which have happened to his brethren.” And 37  
she said, “Bring him hither, that I may exhort  
“him in the words of God.”

And when they had brought him to her, she 38  
went aside from the crowd: then she kissed him,  
and laughed to scorn the things which had been  
said to her by Antiochus: and then said to him; 39  
“My son, come now, be obedient to me, because  
“I have brought you forth, and suckled you, and  
“educated you, and taught you divine religion.  
“Look up now to the heaven, and the earth, and 40

- “ the water, and the fire; and understand that  
 “ the one true God himself created these; and  
 “ formed man of flesh and blood, who lives a  
 41 “ short time, and then will die. Wherefore fear  
 “ the true God, who dieth not: and obey the true  
 42 “ *Being*, who changeth not his promises: and fear  
 “ not this mere giant<sup>d</sup>: and die for God’s religion,  
 43 “ as your brothers have died. For if you could  
 “ see, my son, their honourable dwelling-place,  
 “ and the light of their habitation<sup>e</sup>, and to what  
 “ glory they have attained, you would not endure  
 44 “ not to follow them: and in truth I also hope  
 “ that the great and good God will prepare me,  
 “ and that I shall closely follow you.”  
 45 Then said the boy; “ Know ye that I *will* obey  
 “ God, and will not obey the commands of Anti-  
 “ ochus: wherefore, delay not to let me follow  
 “ my brothers; hinder me not from departing to  
 46 “ the place whither they have gone.” Then to  
 the king he said; “ Woe to thee from God! whither  
 “ wilt thou fly from Him? where wilt thou seek  
 “ for refuge? or whose help wilt thou implore,  
 “ that He may not take vengeance on thee?

<sup>d</sup> Lat. “ Gigantem vulga-  
 “ rem.”

<sup>e</sup> This circumstance, as be-  
 tokening a state of comfort  
 and happiness, is frequently  
 brought forward in the holy  
 Scriptures. Thus, while ac-  
 tual darkness overspread the  
 land of Egypt, we read that  
 “ all the children of Israel  
 “ had *light* in their dwell-  
 “ ings.” Exod. x. 23. And  
 the same expression, in a fi-  
 gure, is of constant occur-

rence: “ that David my ser-  
 “ vant may have a *light* al-  
 “ ways:”—“ the *light* shall  
 “ shine on thy ways:”—  
 “ Lord, lift thou up the *light*  
 “ of thy countenance upon  
 “ us:”—“ The Lord is my  
 “ *light*,” &c. &c. &c. So St.  
 Paul speaks of “ the inherit-  
 “ ance of the saints in *light*.”  
 But I do not purpose to quote  
 the *New Testament* here. See  
 below, verse 48.

“ Truly thou hast done us a kindness, when thou 47  
 “ hadst designed to do us evil: thou hast done  
 “ evil to thine own soul, and hast destroyed it,  
 “ while thou thoughtest to do it good. Now we 48  
 “ are on our way to a life which death shall never  
 “ follow; and shall dwell in light which dark-  
 “ ness shall never put away. But your dwelling 49  
 “ shall be in the infernal regions, with exquisite  
 “ punishments from God. And I trust, that the 50  
 “ wrath of God will depart from his people, on  
 “ account of what we have suffered for them: but 51  
 “ that you He will torment in this world, and  
 “ bring you to a wretched death; and that after-  
 “ wards you will depart into eternal torments.”

And Antiochus was angry, seeing that the boy 52  
 opposed his authority; wherefore he commanded  
 him to be tortured even more than his brothers.  
 And this was done, and he died. But their mo- 53  
 ther intreated God, and besought Him that she  
 might follow her sons; and immediately she died.

Then Antiochus departed into his country Ma- 54  
 cedonia: and he wrote to Fælix, and to the other  
 governors <sup>f</sup> in Syria, that they should slay all the  
 Jews, except those who should embrace his reli-  
 gion. And his servants obeyed his command, 55  
 putting a multitude of men to death.

## CHAPTER VI<sup>a</sup>.

*The history of Mattathias the high priest, the son of  
 Jochanan, who is the son of Hesmāi<sup>b</sup> the priest.*

A CERTAIN man named Mattathias, the son of 1

<sup>f</sup> See 3 Macc. v. 22—24.

<sup>a</sup> Compare this chapter with “ samonæus:” compare the  
 2 Macc. ii.; Joseph. Antiq. XII. 8.; Bell. I. 1.

<sup>b</sup> Called by Josephus, “ As-  
 note on book II. ch. ii. 1.

Jochanan, fled to one of the mountains which were fortified. And the men who were scattered abroad fled thither to him : and some concealed  
2 themselves in secluded places. But after that Antiochus had departed to a greater distance from the country, Mattathias sent his son Judas se-  
3 cretly into the cities of Judah ; to certify them of his own and his people's health, and to desire that as many as were inspired with courage, magnanimity, and zeal for religion, for their wives, and their children, should come unto him.

4 And certain of the higher orders of the people, who had stayed behind, went out to him : who,  
5 when they were come to him, said to them ; “ No-  
“ thing is left to us, but prayer to God, and con-  
“ fidence in Him, and a fight with our enemies, if  
“ perhaps God will give us assistance and the vic-  
6 “ tory over them.” And the people assented to the opinion of Mattathias, and they acted according to it.

7 And it was told to Fælix ; and he marched  
8 against them with a great army. And word was brought to him, while on his march, that about a thousand of the people of the Jews, men and women mixed, were assembled together, and dwelling in a certain cave, that they might be enabled  
9 to preserve their own way of worship. And he turned aside to them with some part of his troops, sending the commanders of his men with the rest  
10 of the army against Mattathias. Now Fælix demanded from those who were in the cave, that they should come out to him, and consent to enter  
11 into his religion ; but they refused. Whereupon

he threatened that he would put smoke<sup>c</sup> under them; and they endured that, and did not come out to him; and he put smoke under them, and they all died.

And when the generals of his army were march- 12  
ing against Mattathias, and came even to him, he  
being ready for battle; one of the generals, of 13  
noble blood, went to him, proposing to him to  
obey the king, and that he should not oppose his  
authority; so that he himself might live, and  
those who were with him, and might not perish.  
To whom he said; "I indeed obey God the true 14  
"king: but do you obey your king, and do what-  
"soever seems good to you." And he ceased from  
speaking. And they began to lay snares for him. 15  
And there came a certain man, of the worst of 16  
the Jews who were with them, and excited them  
to march against him and to prepare war. And 17  
Mattathias rushed on him with his drawn sword,  
and cut off the Jew's head: then he struck the  
general<sup>d</sup>, to whom the Jew was speaking, and  
slew him also.

But Mattathias' companions, seeing what he 18  
had done, hastened to him; and they burst into  
the camp of the enemy, slaying great numbers of  
them, and put them to flight: afterwards they  
pursued the fugitives, until they slew the whole  
of them.

After this, Mattathias blew the trumpet, and 19

<sup>c</sup> Namely, that he would kindle fires in the cave's mouth, and thus smother them with the smoke.

<sup>d</sup> Josephus states the name of this general (or "commissioner," as he is called at 2 Macc. ii. 25) to be Apelles.

proclaimed an expedition against Fælix. And he and his companions entered into the land of Judah, and took possession of very many of their  
 20 cities. And the most high God gave them rest by his hands from the generals of Antiochus: and they returned to the observance of their own religion: and the bands of their enemies retreated from before them.

CHAPTER VII<sup>a</sup>.

*The account of the death of Mattathias, and the acts of Judas his son after him.*

- 1 Now Mattathias became infirm. And when he was near to death, he called his sons, B. C.  
 2 who were five, and said unto them: "I 166.  
 " know of a certainty that very many and great  
 " wars will be kindled in the land of Judah, for  
 " the sake [or, by reason] of those matters for  
 " which the great and good God has stirred  
 3 " us up to wage war against our enemies. But  
 " I charge you that you fear God, and trust  
 " in him, and be zealous of the law, and the  
 4 " sanctuary, and the people also; and prepare  
 " yourselves to wage war against its enemies:  
 " and fear not death, because, without doubt, this  
 5 " is decreed unto all men. So that, if God shall  
 " make you victorious, you have at once obtained  
 " that which you were longing for: but if you  
 " fall, that is no loss to you in his sight."  
 6 And Mattathias died and was buried; and his sons did according to that which he had com-

<sup>a</sup> Compare this chapter Antiq. XII. 8—11. Bell. with 2 Macc. ii. 49, &c. iii. I. 1. iv. 3 Macc. viii. Joseph.

manded them. And they agreed to make their brother Judas their leader. Now Judas their brother was the best in counsel, and bravest in strength of them all. And an army was sent against them by Fælix<sup>b</sup>, under a man who was called Seron<sup>c</sup>, whom Judas with his company put to flight, and he slew great numbers. And the fame of Judas was spread abroad, and increased greatly in the ears *of men*: and all the nations which were round about him feared him exceedingly.

And it was told to king Antiochus what Mattathias and his son Judas had done. News of this came also to the king of the Persians; so that he played false with Antiochus, departing from his friendship, following the example of Judas. Which giving Antiochus a great deal of uneasiness, he called to him one of his household officers named Lysias<sup>d</sup>, a stout and brave man, and said to him; “ I have now determined to go into the land of Persia to make war; and I wish to leave behind me my son in my stead; and to take with me the half of my army, and to leave the remainder with my son: and behold I have given to you the governance of my son, and the governance of the men whom I leave with him. And verily you know what Mattathias and Judas have done to my friends and my subjects. Wherefore, send one to lead a powerful army

<sup>b</sup> The second book of Maccabees, ch. iii. 10. calls him Apollonius.

<sup>c</sup> He is called “ a prince of the army of Syria,” at

2 Macc. iii. 13.

<sup>d</sup> “ A nobleman, and one of the blood royal,” book II. ch. iii. 32.

“ into the land of Judah ; and command him to  
“ attack the land of Judah with the sword, and to  
“ root them out, and to demolish their dwellings,  
“ and to destroy all traces of them.”

17 Then Antiochus departed into the country of  
18 Persia. But Lysias made ready three hardy and  
brave generals, skilled in war ; of whom one was  
named Ptolemy<sup>e</sup>, a second Nicanor, and the third  
19 Gorgias. And with them he sent forty thousand  
chosen troops and seven thousand horsemen. He  
also charged them to bring with them an army of  
Syrians, and Philistines ; and ordered them to  
20 root out the Jews entirely. And they marched  
forth, carrying with them a multitude of mer-  
chants, that they might sell to them the captives  
which they were about to obtain from among the  
Jews.

21 But tidings of this came to Judas the son of  
Mattathias ; and he went to the house of the  
22 great and good God ; and assembled his men, and  
enjoined them a fast, and supplications, and  
prayers to the great and good God ; and charged  
that they should beseech Him for victory against  
their enemies ; which thing they did.

23 After this, Judas collecting his men, appointed  
over each thousand a chief<sup>f</sup>, and likewise over  
each hundred, and over each fifty, and over each  
24 ten. Then he commanded proclamation to be  
made by trumpet throughout his army, that who-  
soever was fearful, and whomsoever God com-  
manded to be dismissed from the army, he should

<sup>e</sup> At book II. ch. iii. 38, “ friends.”  
these three generals are styled, <sup>f</sup> Compare 2 Macc. iii. 55,  
“ mighty men of the king’s 56.

return home. And great numbers returned ; and 25  
there remained with them seven thousand stout  
and brave men, skilled in wars and accustomed  
thereto ; nor had any one of them ever fled : and  
they marched against their enemies. But when 26  
they had drawn nigh to them, Judas prayed to his  
Lord, intreating Him that He would turn away  
from him the malice of his enemy ; and that He  
would assist him, and render him victorious.  
Then he commanded the priests to sound the 27  
trumpets, which they did : and all his men called  
upon God, and rushed upon the army of Nicanor.  
And God gave them victory over them, and they 28  
turned him and his men to flight, killing of them  
nine thousand men, and the rest were dispersed.  
And Judas and his company returned to Nicanor's 29  
camp, and made spoil of it ; and plundered very  
much property of the merchants, and sent it to be  
divided among the sick.

This battle took place on the sixth day of the 30  
week ; wherefore Judas and his men remained on  
the same spot until the sabbath-day had passed.  
Then they marched against Ptolemy and Gorgias, 31  
whom they found and defeated, and gained a  
victory over them, slaying twenty thousand of  
their troops. And Ptolemy and Gorgias fled ; 32  
whom Judas and his company pursued ; yet he  
could not overtake them, because they betook  
themselves into a city of two idols<sup>g</sup>, and fortified  
themselves therein with the remnant of their  
army. And Judas attacked Fælix ; and he was 33  
put to flight before him. And Judas pursued him.

<sup>g</sup> The corresponding part of book III. states, that the place  
to which Nicanor fled was *Antioch*.

Who, coming to a certain house which was nigh  
 at hand, entered into it and closed the doors, for  
 34 it was a fortified house. And Judas commanded,  
 and he set fire to it; and the house was burned,  
 and Fælix was burned<sup>h</sup> in it. So Judas took  
 vengeance on him for Eleazar and the others  
 35 whom Fælix had put to death. Afterwards the  
 people returned to the slain, and took their spoils  
 and their armour; but the best of the prey they  
 36 sent into the Holy Land. But Nicanor departed  
 in disguise unknown, and returned to Lysias, and  
 told him all which had happened to him and his  
 company.

CHAPTER VIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The relation of Antiochus' return, and of his going into  
 the land of Judah, and of the disease which fell on him,  
 of which he died in his journey.*

1 BUT Antiochus returned out of the country of  
 Persia, flying, with his army disbanded. B. C.  
 2 And when he had learned what had hap- 164.  
 pened to his army which Lysias had sent forth,  
 and to all his men, he went out with a large  
 3 army, marching to the land of Judah. Now when  
 in his progress he had reached the middle of his  
 journey, God smote his troops with most mighty  
 4 weapons: but this could not stop him from his  
 journey; but he persisted in it, uttering all sorts  
 of insolence against God, and saying that no one  
 could turn him aside, nor hinder him from his de-

<sup>h</sup> At 3 Macc. viii. 33, the  
 person burned is called Cal-  
 listhenes!

<sup>a</sup> Compare with this chap-  
 ter 2 Macc. vi; 3 Macc. ix;  
 Joseph. Antiq. XII. 13.

terminated purposes. Wherefore the great and good 5  
 God smote him also with ulcers which attacked  
 the whole of his body: but even yet he did not  
 desist, nor refrain from his journey; but was 6  
 more filled with wrath, and inflamed with an  
 eager desire to obtain what he had determined on,  
 and to carry his resolution into effect.

Now there were in his army very many ele- 7  
 phants. It so happened that one of these ran  
 away, and made a bellowing: upon which the  
 horses which were drawing the couch on which  
 Antiochus lay, ran off, and threw him out. And, 8  
 as he was fat and corpulent, his limbs were bruised,  
 and some of his joints were dislocated. And the bad 9  
 smell of his ulcers, which already sent forth a fœ-  
 tid odour, was so much increased, that neither he  
 himself could longer endure it, nor could those  
 who came near him. So when he fell, his ser- 10  
 vants took him up, and carried him upon their  
 shoulders: but as the foul smell grew worse, they  
 threw him down and departed to a distance.

Therefore, perceiving the evils which sur- 11  
 rounded him, he believed for certain that all that  
 punishment had come upon him from the great  
 and good God; by reason of the injury and the  
 tyranny which he had used towards the Hebrews,  
 and the unjust shedding of their blood. In fear 12  
 therefore he turned himself to God, and, confess-  
 ing his sins, said; “ O God, in truth I deserve  
 “ the things<sup>b</sup> which Thou hast sent upon me:

<sup>b</sup> See Josephus' remark upon Polybius' account of the cause of Antiochus' death; in ch. 13 of his XIIth book of

Antiquities. In fact, both Polybius and Josephus recognize the same principle, while they attribute this death to

“ and indeed just art Thou<sup>c</sup> in thy judgments ;  
 13 “ Thou humblest him who is exalted, and bring-  
 “ est down him who is puffed up : but thine is  
 “ greatness, and magnificence, and majesty, and  
 14 “ prowess. Truly, I own, I have oppressed the  
 “ people, and have both acted and decreed tyran-  
 15 “ nically against them. Forgive, I pray Thee, O  
 “ God, this my error ; and wipe out my sin, and  
 “ bestow on me my health : and my care shall be  
 “ to fill the treasury of thy house with gold and  
 16 “ silver : and to strew<sup>d</sup> the floor of the house of  
 “ thy sanctuary with purple vestments ; and to  
 “ be circumcised ; and to proclaim throughout all  
 “ my kingdom, that Thou only art the true God,  
 “ without any partner, and that there is no God  
 “ besides thee.”

17 But God did not hear his prayers, nor accept  
 his supplication : but his troubles so increased on  
 him that he voided his bowels : and his ulcers in-  
 creased to that degree, that his flesh dropt off  
 18 from his body. Then he died, and was buried in  
 his place. And his son reigned in his stead,  
 whose name was Eupator.

different causes : Polybius, a  
 Greek heathen, considered it  
 a just recompense for his at-  
 tempt to plunder the temple  
 of Diana ; while Josephus, a  
 Jew, regarded it as an ex-  
 ample of Divine vengeance,  
 punishing his spoliation of the  
 temple of God at Jerusalem.

<sup>c</sup> The author here borrows  
 the words of the 119th Psalm :

“ Righteous art Thou, O  
 “ Lord, and upright are Thy  
 “ judgments.”

<sup>d</sup> Similar to this act of  
 thanksgiving was the *Lectis-  
 ternium* of the Romans, when  
 after a victory couches were  
 solemnly placed and spread  
 for the images of their gods,  
 as if about to partake of a  
 feast.

CHAPTER IX.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the eight days of dedication.*

WHEN Judas had put to flight Ptolemy, and 1  
 B. C. Nicanor, and Gorgias, and had slain their  
 165. men; he himself and his troops returned  
 into the country<sup>b</sup> of the holy house. And he com- 2  
 manded all the altars to be destroyed which An-  
 tiochus had ordered to be built: and he removed 3  
 all the idols which were in the sanctuary: and  
 they built up a new altar, and he commanded sa-  
 crifices to be offered upon that. They prayed also 4  
 to the great and good God, that He would bring  
 forth the holy fire<sup>c</sup> which might remain upon the  
 altar: and fire came out from some stones of the 5  
 altar, and burned up the wood and the sacrifices;  
 and from it fire continued on the altar until the  
 third carrying into captivity<sup>d</sup>. And then they 6  
 kept the festival of the new altar<sup>e</sup> for eight days,  
 beginning on the twenty-fifth day of the month  
 Casleu. And then they placed bread<sup>f</sup> on the table 7  
 of the house of God, and lighted the lamps of the

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. iv. 36, &c. 3 Macc. x. Joseph. Antiq. XII. 11. There is an irregularity here in the order of the narrative; this cleansing and dedication having preceded the death of king Antiochus, and indeed having contributed to his trouble of mind, as is shewn at 2 Macc. vii. 7.

<sup>b</sup> Concerning this phrase, see the note upon chap. i. 1. above.

<sup>c</sup> Compare 3 Macc. i. 19—22: and ii. 10.

<sup>d</sup> There can be little doubt that the author alludes to the last general captivity under Titus; although the expression, "the third," is often applied to an earlier visitation of that kind. (See Calmet.) This phrase may serve in some degree to mark the probable age of the book. Compare ch. xxi. 30. and liii. 8.

<sup>e</sup> The same festival which Josephus calls "the feast of lights." Ant. XII. 7.

<sup>f</sup> Namely, the shew-bread.

8 candlestick. And on each of these eight days they assembled together for prayer and praise: and moreover they appointed it an ordinance for every year to come.

CHAPTER X.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Judas' battles with Gorgias and Ptolemy.*

1 Now after the days of dedication, Judas marched into the country of the Idumæans, to the mountain Sarah<sup>b</sup>: for Gorgias was staying  
 2 there. And Gorgias went out against him with a great army, and there were sore battles betwixt them; and there fell of Gorgias' men twenty thousand. And Gorgias fled to Ptolemy<sup>c</sup> into the land of the west<sup>d</sup>, (for Antiochus had made him governor of that country, and there he was stay-  
 3 ing,) and told him what had befallen him. Whereupon Ptolemy went forth with an army, in which were a hundred and twenty thousand men of Ma-  
 4 cedonia and the east. And he went on until he came to the country of Giares, (*that is to say, Gilead,*) and the parts adjacent; and he slew great  
 5 numbers of the Jews. So they wrote to Judas, telling him what had happened to them, begging him to come and defeat Ptolemy and drive him  
 6 away from them. And their letter reached him at the same time that a letter came to him from

<sup>a</sup> Compare this with 2 Macc. v; 3 Macc. x; Joseph. Antiq. XII. 12.

<sup>b</sup> Perhaps a continuation of that chain which in Scripture is called "mount Seir:" compare ch. xxi. 29. xxxv. 4: and read the note at ch. xlix. 20. By the parallel passages, in book II. ch. v. 65, and book

III. ch. x. 14, 15, we know that Gorgias at this time was in the neighbourhood of Idumæa.

<sup>c</sup> The Third Book of Maccabees calls him *Timotheus*, throughout the chapter, and so does Josephus.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Philistia, and the western coast of Judæa.

the inhabitants of the mountain<sup>e</sup> of Galilee likewise, informing him how the Macedonians who were at Tyre and Sidon had now united against them, and had attacked them, killing several.

Now when Judas had read both the letters, he 8 called together his men, and shewed them the contents of the letters, and appointed a fast and supplication. After this, he ordered his brother Si- 9 meon to take with him three thousand men of the Jews, and to march with all speed to the mountain of Galilee, and to quell the Macedonians who were there. And Simeon went. But Judas 10 hastened to encounter Ptolemy. And Simeon at- 11 tacked the Macedonians unexpectedly, and slew of them eight thousand men, and gave rest to the Galilæans.

But Judas marched on until he came up with 12 Gorgias and Ptolemy; pressing them and besieging them: and *the two armies* encountered, and very fierce battles took place betwixt them. For Ptolemy headed a numerous, stout, and brave 13 body of men. But Judas was accompanied by a very small band: yet, as the people who were 14 with him consisted of the bravest and strongest *troops*, he steadily resisted, and the battle between them lasted long, and grew very sore. Wherefore 15 Judas called out to the great and good God, and invoked his *aid*. And he related<sup>f</sup> that he had 16 seen five youthful horsemen, three of whom fought

<sup>e</sup> Or rather, "the mountainous district."

<sup>f</sup> Lat. "Meminit." The third book states, not that Judas alone saw this vision,

and related it to his troops; but that the thing itself was seen by the whole of the enemy's army.

against Ptolemy's army, and two stood near him-  
 17 self. Whom when he viewed attentively, they  
 18 seemed to him to be angels of God. Wherefore  
 his heart was comforted, and the hearts of his  
 companions; and making frequent assaults upon  
 the enemy, they put them to flight, and slew  
 19 great multitudes of them. And the number of  
 those who were slain of Ptolemy's army, from  
 the beginning of this battle until the end, was  
 twenty thousand and five hundred.

20 After these things, Ptolemy and his men fled  
 to the sea-coast; while Judas pursued them, and  
 21 slew as many of them as he caught. But Ptolemy  
 fled to Gaza, and remained there; and the men  
 22 of Chalisam<sup>g</sup> came to him. And Judas marched  
 against them; and when he found them, he de-  
 feated them: and Ptolemy's men were dispersed,  
 but he himself fled to Gaza<sup>h</sup>, and there fortified  
 23 himself. And Judas' men pursued the flying body,  
 and slew great numbers of them. And Judas and  
 the men who were with him marched straight to  
 Gaza, and he pitched his camp and besieged it.  
 24 And Judas' men returned to him; and they who  
 were left of Ptolemy's forces went up upon the  
 fortification, and abused Judas with much revil-  
 25 ing. And the fighting between them and Judas'  
 troops lasted for five days. But when the fifth

<sup>g</sup> Who these are, I am not able to specify with any certainty: perhaps the inhabitants of Kulzum, a small town on the sea-coast of Egypt.

<sup>h</sup> Probably Gazara, as stated at 3 Macc. x. 32. Yet both Gaza and Gazara were near to the

sea-coast: and at 2 Macc. v. 65, we read that Judas proceeded from Hebron into the land of the Philistines, and passed through Samaria: in which case he might have visited both of these towns.

day was come, the people continued to cast reproaches upon Judas, and to revile his religion: whereupon twenty of Judas' men grew angry; 26 who taking shields on their left hands, and swords in their right, and having with them a man bearing a ladder which they had made, marched until they came to the wall: and eighteen of them 27 stood and threw darts at those who were on the wall; and two, hastening to the wall, raised up the ladder, and by it mounted. But certain of those 28 who were there, perceiving that they had ascended, and that their companions had followed, and also had gone down from the wall into the city, descended from the wall after them: whom *Judas' men* defeated, slaying great numbers of their enemies. But the army of Judas pressed forward 29 to the gate of the city; and the twenty began to run toward the gate that they might open it: but they were driven thence most fiercely; wherefore they called out with loud cries. Judas therefore 30 and his men knew that they had come near to the gate: and the battle grew sore both without the gate and within. And Judas and his men at- 31 tacked the gate with fire, and it fell down; and the people perished, and the men who had reviled Judas, were taken, and he commanded them to be brought out and burned<sup>i</sup>. Moreover he com- 32 manded the city to be utterly smitten with the sword; and the slaughter continued in it for two days, and then it was wasted with fire.

But Ptolemy fled; nor were tidings of him 33

<sup>i</sup> These particulars of the siege and capture of this place are expressly assigned, not to Gaza but Gazara, in book III. x. 32—36.

heard at that time; because that he had changed his clothes, and concealed himself in one of the  
 34 pits<sup>k</sup>, and no account of him was had. But his  
 two brothers were taken, and brought to Judas;  
 35 and he ordered them to be beheaded. After this  
 he went into the land of the sanctuary, with  
 abundance of spoil; and both he and his com-  
 pany offered prayers therein, giving thanks to  
 God for the benefits which they had received.

CHAPTER XI.<sup>a</sup>

*The relation of the battle between Judas and Lysias the general of Eupator, after the death of king Antiochus.*

- 1 THE name of Antiochus, of whom mention has  
 been made above, was Epiphanius: but B. C.  
 the name of his son who reigned after him 163.  
 was Eupator, who also was named Antiochus.  
 2 And when the battles of Judas with these gene-  
 rals had taken place, they<sup>b</sup> wrote on the subject  
 to Eupator; who sent with Lysias, his cousin's  
 son, a large army, in which were eighty thousand  
 3 horsemen and eighty elephants. Who coming to  
 a city which is called Bethner<sup>c</sup>, pitched their  
 camp around it, and besieged it, because it was  
 4 a large city, and much people was therein. And  
 Lysias raised engines of war around it, and began  
 5 to besiege the inhabitants: which being told to

<sup>k</sup> Compare book III. x. 37. "of Israel, who joined them-

<sup>a</sup> Compare with this the "selves unto them," as re-  
 account given at 3 Macc. xi. lated at 2 Macc. vi. 18—27.  
 and xii.

<sup>b</sup> Namely, some of the "The same place as Beth-  
 king's troops who still held sura, so often mentioned in  
 the tower in Jerusalem, toge- books II. and III. and Beth-  
 ther with "some ungodly men zur, named in the books of  
 Joshua and Chronicles.

Judas, he himself and his company went out to some fortified mountains<sup>d</sup>; and there they abode; 6 lest if they remained in any city, Lysias should come and besiege it, and should overpower them. Judas therefore collected his company, and resolved to march with them to Lysias' camp, after they should have gone to the house of God and offered sacrifices in it; beseeching the great and 8 good God to turn away from them the malice of their enemies, and to grant them victory over them: which thing they did. After this, they 9 marched from the region of the holy house to Bethner. For they had designed to come upon the army suddenly, and to defeat it without a struggle.

Now men say, that there appeared to *Judas* 10 a certain personage between heaven and earth, riding on a fiery horse, and holding in his hand a large spear, with which he smote the army of the Gentiles<sup>e</sup>. So that what they had seen gave 11 them additional courage and spirits. And they made haste and charged the army, and slew great numbers of its men. Wherefore the *enemy's* army 12 was troubled and thrown into the greatest confusion, and the whole of it betook itself to a confused flight. And the sword of Judas and his 13 company pressed sore upon them; and he slew of them eleven thousand footmen, and sixteen hundred horsemen. Lysias also was chased, with 14 his company, to a distant place, in which he remained in safety.

And he sent to Judas, *desiring him* to be sub- 15

<sup>d</sup> Probably in the neighbourhood of Bathzacharias, mentioned at 2 Macc. vi. 32.

<sup>e</sup> Literally, "of the Greeks."

ject to the king, retaining his own and his people's religion: to whom Judas consented in this matter, until word could be written to the king, and an answer of his agreeing thereto could be received. *And Judas wrote concerning this business:* Lysias also wrote to the king, informing him of what had happened, and what proof he had had of the strength and bravery of the Jewish nation; and that a continuation of wars with them would exterminate *his* men, as these before-mentioned had been exterminated: he told him also their agreement, and his own waiting until he should receive a letter to say what he must do. To whom the king replied, that it seemed right to him to make peace with the nation *of the Jews*, taking away that stumblingblock concerning the exercise of their religion: for that this very thing had incited them to the revolts, and to the attacks made on his predecessors. He also commanded him to make with them a treaty of peace and obedience; so that no obstacles should be thrown in their way in the matter of religion. He wrote also to Judas, and to all the Jews who were in the land of Judah, according to this effect: and this *peace* continued between them for some space of time.

## CHAPTER XII.

*An account of the beginning of the power of the Romans, and of the enlargement of their empire.*

1 AT this same time, of which we have been speaking, the affairs of the Romans began to be exalted: that the great and good God might fulfil that which Daniel the prophet (to whom be-

peace<sup>a</sup>) had foretold<sup>b</sup> concerning the fourth empire. There was also at this time a certain most 2 munificent king in Africa, whose name was Annibal<sup>c</sup>. And the royal seat of his empire was Carthage. He determined to take possession of the kingdom of the Romans: wherefore they united 3 to oppose him, and wars were multiplied between them, so that they fought eighteen<sup>d</sup> battles in the space of ten years; and they were not able to drive him out of their country, by reason of his innumerable army and people. They determined 4 therefore to raise a large force selected from their bravest troops and armies, and to attack Annibal in war, and to persevere until they should turn away his forces from them. Which thing truly 5 they did: and they placed at the head of their armies two most renowned men; the name of one was Æmilius, and of the other Varro. Who 6 meeting Annibal engaged with him; and there were slain of their army ninety thousand men; and of Annibal's army forty thousand men were slain. Æmilius also was killed in that battle<sup>e</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> This same expression occurs in the Samaritan Chronicle: and it is remarked by Hottinger, that this formula of blessing is constantly added by the Arabian writers, after mentioning the name of any prophet. (*Hottingeri Exercitationes Antimoriniane*, 4to. 1644. p. 65, 66.)

<sup>b</sup> Namely, in ch. xi. of his prophecy.

<sup>c</sup> For confirmation or correction of this whole account, respecting the beginning and enlargement of the power of

Rome, the reader who is desirous of particular information, will, of course, refer to the approved Roman historians.

<sup>d</sup> In fact, the engagements between the contending powers were far more numerous than is here stated; the author of the book perhaps considered alone those battles which were attended by important results.

<sup>e</sup> The battle mentioned is that of Cannæ, well known to have been attended by the

7 But Varro fled into a certain very large and strong city called Venusia: him Annibal did not pursue; but he marched to Rome, to take it, and  
8 there to remain. So he lay before it for eight days, and began to build houses opposite to it;  
9 which when the citizens saw, they deliberated on entering into a peace and treaty with him, and on surrendering the country.

10 But there was among them a certain young man named Scipio, (for the Romans at that time were without a king, and the entire administration of their affairs was committed to three hundred and twenty<sup>f</sup> men, over whom presided a  
11 person who was called senior<sup>g</sup> or elder.) Scipio therefore comes to these, and persuaded them not to trust to Annibal nor to submission to him. To whom they answered, that they did not trust him,  
12 but that they were unable to resist him. To whom he said; the country of Africa is wholly destitute of soldiers, because that they are all *here* with Annibal: give me therefore a troop of chosen  
13 men, that I may go into Africa: and I will perform such feats in it, that when tidings of them shall reach him, perhaps he will quit you, and you will be freed from him, and will be in peace: and having retrieved and strengthened your resources, if he should prepare to return, you will be able to oppose him.

14 And the advice of Scipio appeared to them to

most disastrous results to the Romans; the consuls Æmilius Paulus and Terentius Varro being defeated with immense loss, and the former falling on the field of battle.

<sup>f</sup> See 3 Macc. viii. 15. and

the note there.

<sup>g</sup> His title was *princeps senatus*, a post of great dignity and honour, but unaccompanied by any extraordinary power.

be right ; and they committed to him thirty thousand of their bravest men. And he proceeded <sup>15</sup> into Africa. And Asdrubal the brother of Annibal met him, and fought with him ; whom Scipio defeated<sup>h</sup>, and cut off his head, and took it, with the rest of the prey, and returned to Rome.

And mounting upon the rampart, he called to <sup>16</sup> Annibal, and said : How will you be able to prevail against this our country, when you are not able to expel me from your own land, to which I have gone : I have destroyed it, and have killed your brother, and have brought away his head. Then he threw the head to him. Which being <sup>17</sup> brought to Annibal and recognised by him, he was increased in fury and anger against the people, and swore that he would not depart till he had taken Rome.

But the citizens, to withdraw him from them, <sup>18</sup> and keep him in check, took counsel to send back Scipio to besiege and attack Carthage. And Scipio returned with his army into Africa : and they pitched their camp around Carthage, and besieged it with a most active siege. Wherefore the inhabitants wrote to Annibal, saying, You are coveting a foreign country, which you know not whether you will be able to win or not : but there has come to your own country one who is endeavouring to gain possession of it. Wherefore, if you <sup>21</sup> delay coming, we will surrender to him the country, and will give up your family and all your

<sup>h</sup> It will be immediately perceived that there is considerable incorrectness in this narrative : Hasdrubal was defeated and slain, not in Africa,

but in Italy ; and not by Scipio, but by the two consuls Marcus Livius and Claudius Nero.

substance and your treasures; that we and our property may go unhurt.

22 Now when this letter was brought to him, he  
 departed from Rome; and hastened till he came  
 23 into Africa: and Scipio went forward and met  
 him, and fought a most fierce battle with him  
 three times, and there were slain fifty thousand of  
 24 his men. But Annibal, being put to flight, re-  
 tired into the land of Egypt<sup>i</sup>; whom Scipio pur-  
 sued, and took him prisoner<sup>k</sup>, and returned to  
 25 Africa. And when he was there, Annibal dis-  
 dained to be seen by the Africans; wherefore he  
 took poison and died.

26 And Scipio won the country of Africa, and pos-  
 sessed himself of all the goods, and servants, and  
 27 treasures of Annibal. By which means the fame  
 of the Romans was magnified, and their power  
 from that time began to receive increase.

### CHAPTER XIII.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the letter of the Romans to Judas, and of  
 the treaty which took place between them.*

1 “FROM the elder and three hundred and twenty  
 “governors, unto Judas, general of the army, B. C.  
 2 “and to the Jews. Health be to you. We <sup>161</sup>.

<sup>i</sup> Here again is an error of the author: Hannibal did not fly into Egypt, but sailed for Tyrus to Antiochus, king of Syria; whom not finding there he followed, till he joined him at Antioch.

<sup>k</sup> This part of the narrative again is incorrect. Hannibal was not taken prisoner by Scipio; nor did he die in Africa; but on being likely

to be delivered up to the Romans by Prusias, king of Bithynia, at whose court he had taken shelter after the defeat of his friend Antiochus, he took poison, rather than fall into the hands of his old inveterate enemies.

<sup>a</sup> Compare with this 2 Macc. viii. 24, &c. Joseph. Antiq. XII. 17.

“ have already heard of your victories, and cou-  
 “ rage, and endurance in war ; whereof we rejoice.  
 “ We have also understood that you have entered  
 “ into an agreement with Antiochus. We write 3  
 “ to you to this effect, that you should be friends  
 “ to us, and not to the Greeks who have done  
 “ you harm : moreover we intend to go to An-  
 “ tioch, and to make war upon its inhabitants :  
 “ wherefore make haste to acquaint us with whom 4  
 “ you are at enmity, and with whom you have a  
 “ league of friendship ; that we may act accord-  
 “ ingly.”

#### THE COPY OF THE TREATY.

“ This is the treaty made by the elder and 5  
 “ three hundred and twenty<sup>k</sup> governors with Ju-  
 “ das, general of the army, and the Jews ; that  
 “ they should be joined to the Romans, and that  
 “ the Romans and Jews may be of one mind in  
 “ wars and victories for ever. Now if war should 6  
 “ come upon the Romans, Judas and his people  
 “ shall help them, giving no aid to the enemies of  
 “ the Romans, by provisions or by any kind of  
 “ weapons. And when war shall come upon the 7  
 “ Jews, the Romans shall help them to the utmost  
 “ of their power, giving no aid to their enemies  
 “ by assistance of any kind. And as the Jews are 8  
 “ bound to the Romans, so likewise are the Ro-  
 “ mans to the Jews, without any increase or de-  
 “ crease.”

And Judas and his people accepted this ; and 9  
 the treaty stood, and continued between them and  
 the Romans for a long time.

<sup>k</sup> See the note on 3 Macc. viii. 15.

CHAPTER XIV.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the battle which took place between Judas, Ptolemy, and Gorgias.*

- 1 AFTER this, Ptolemy collected an hundred and twenty thousand men, and a thousand horse-  
men, and they went after Judas. And Judas B. C.  
163.  
met him with ten thousand men, and routed him,  
2 and *many* of Ptolemy's men were slain. And he besought Judas, and humbly entreated him to let him escape with his life; and swore that he would never more make war against him, and that he would shew kindness to the Jews who were in all  
3 his countries. And Judas had compassion on him, and let him go; and Ptolemy adhered to his oath.
- 4 But Gorgias having collected three thousand men from mount Sarah<sup>b</sup>, (*that is, of Idumæa*), and four hundred horsemen, met Judas, and slew the captain of his army and certain of his men.
- 5 Then Judas and his men advanced towards them; and Gorgias was put to flight, and the greater part of his army was killed or fled: and he was sought for, and no tidings were heard of him; but it is reported that he fell in the battle.

<sup>a</sup> Quære, whether the latter part of this chapter relates to the occurrences detailed at 3 Macc. xii. 32—37? The battle recorded in the former part, I do not trace in the other books: but something like it occurred, not indeed

with Ptolemy, but with Antiochus Eupator, at book III. ch. xiii. 6—24. That transaction, however, seems rather to be referred to in the following chapter of this book.

<sup>b</sup> See above, ch. x. 1.

CHAPTER XV.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the dissolution of the treaty which Antiochus had made with Judas, and of his march (together with Lysias his cousin's son) with a great army, and of his wars.*

BUT when word was brought to Antiochus 1 Eupator that Judas' affairs had gained strength, and what victories he had gained, he was very angry; and broke the treaty which he had made 2 with Judas, and collected a large army, in which were twenty-two elephants: and he marched with 3 Lysias his cousin's son into the country of Judah, directing his course to the city Beth-ner<sup>b</sup>, before which he pitched his camp, and besieged it. Now 4 when this was reported to Judas, he and all the elders of the children of Israel met together, and prayed to the great and good God, offering many sacrifices; which being finished, Judas proceeded 5 with the leaders of his forces, and came into the camp by night, and made a sudden attack upon it, and slew of the enemy four thousand men and one of the elephants: and he returned to his own camp until the dawn of day should begin to break. Then each army was drawn out, and the battle 6 grew fierce between them. And Judas perceived 7 one of the elephants with golden trappings, and he supposed that the king was sitting upon him: so he called his men, and said to them, Which of

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. vi; 3 Macc. xiii; Joseph. Ant. XII. 14, 15; Bell. I. 1.

<sup>b</sup> See above, ch. xi. 3, 9. There can be no doubt that

the place meant is Bethsura, as in the corresponding passages of the second and third books.

8 you will go out and kill this elephant? And a young man, one of his servants<sup>c</sup>, who was called Eleazar, went out and rushed upon the *enemy's* line, slaying on the right and left, so that the men  
9 turned aside out of his view; and he went forward until he came even to the elephant; and creeping under him, he cut open his belly; and the elephant fell down upon him, and he died. So the king perceiving this, commanded to sound  
10 a retreat; and it was done. And the amount of men of the higher rank slain that day in the battle was eight hundred men, besides those of the common men who were slain, and those who had been killed during the night.

11 Then it was told the king, that a certain man of his friends named Philip<sup>d</sup> had revolted from him: and that Demetrius<sup>e</sup> the son of Seleucus had gone forth from Rome with a great army of Romans, intending to take the kingdom out of his  
12 hand. At which being much affrighted, he sent to Judas concerning making peace between them: to which Judas assented; and Antiochus and Lysias his cousin's son sware to him, that they  
13 would never more make war upon him. And the king displayed a large sum of money, and gave it  
14 to Judas for a present to the house of God. The king also commanded Menelaus to be seized, one

<sup>c</sup> This appears to be erroneous, as from all other accounts we are informed that this exploit was performed by his own *brother*, Eleazar, surnamed Avaran.

<sup>d</sup> Compare the account

given of this Philip and his connexion with the king, at 2 Macc. vi. 14 and 55; and 3 Macc. ix. 29.

<sup>e</sup> For particulars concerning him, see 2 Macc. vii. 1, and the note there.

of the three<sup>f</sup> wicked men who had brought evil on the Jews in the days of Antiochus his father; and he ordered him to be carried up to a lofty tower, and to be thrown headlong thence; which was done. For by this the king designed to gratify the Jews, since this man was one of their chief enemies, and had slain great numbers of them. 15

#### CHAPTER XVI.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the arrival at Antioch of Demetrius the son of Seleucus; and of his defeating Eupator.*

AFTER these things, king Eupator marched 1  
 B. C. into the country of Macedonia, and then  
 162. returned to Antioch. Whom Demetrius 2  
 attacked with an army of Romans, and defeated,  
 and slew, together with Lysias his cousin's son;  
 and he reigned at Antioch. But to him went 3  
 Alcimus, the leader of those three<sup>b</sup> wicked men;  
 who, coming into his presence, prostrated himself  
 before him, and wept most vehemently, and said;  
 " O king, Judas and his company have been slay- 4  
 " ing great numbers of us; because, having desert-  
 " ed their religion, we have embraced the religion  
 " of the king. Wherefore, O king, assist us  
 " against them, and avenge us on them." Then 5  
 he made the Jews go to him, and incensed him;  
 suggesting to them such things as might provoke  
 Demetrius, and irritate him to fit out an army to  
 vanquish Judas. To whom the king giving heed, 6

<sup>f</sup> See above, ch. iii. 6. The particulars of his death are related more at large at 3 Macc. xiii. 3—8.

Macc. xiv. xv; Joseph. Ant. XII. 17.

<sup>b</sup> See above, ch. iii. 6, and xv. 14.

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. vii; 3

sent a general named Nicanor<sup>c</sup>, with a great army  
7 and an abundant supply of weapons of war. And  
when Nicanor had come into the Holy Land, he  
sent messengers to Judas to come to him; and  
did not disclose that he had come to conquer the  
8 nation, but stated that he came only on account  
of the peace which was made between him and  
the nation, and that they<sup>d</sup> *also* were under obedi-  
9 ence to the Romans. And Judas went out to him  
with a certain number of his men, who were en-  
dued with strength and courage: and he com-  
manded them not to go far from him, lest Deme-  
trius<sup>e</sup> might lay a snare for him.

10 When therefore he had met Demetrius, he sa-  
luted him; and, a seat being placed for each of  
them, they sat down, and Demetrius conversed  
with him as he pleased: afterwards each of them  
went into a tent which *the troops* had erected for  
him.

11 And Nicanor and Judas departed into the Holy  
City, and there dwelt together: and a firm friend-  
12 ship grew up between them: which being made  
known to Alcimus, he went to Demetrius and  
incensed him against Judas, and persuaded him to  
write and command Nicanor to send Judas to him  
13 bound in chains. But tidings of this came B. C.  
161.  
to Judas, and he went out from the city by  
night, and departed to Sebaste<sup>f</sup>, and sent to

<sup>c</sup> Compare 3 Macc. xiv. 12.

<sup>d</sup> That is to say, that Demetrius, as well as the Jews, was in amity with the Romans; so that no danger was to be apprehended by them from him.

<sup>e</sup> Probably we ought to

read here, and in the following verse, *Nicanor*; as it does not appear from the history that Demetrius was present in person. Compare the other accounts, as given in 2 Macc. vii. and 3 Macc. xiv.

<sup>f</sup> That is, *Samaria*; it had

his companions to come to him. And when 14 they were come, he sounded the trumpet, and commanded them to prepare themselves to attack Nicanor. But Nicanor sought Judas with great 15 diligence, and could learn no tidings of him. Wherefore he went to the house of God, requiring 16 of the priests to give him up to him, that he might send him bound in chains to the king: but they swore that he had not come into the house of God. Whereupon he abused both them and the 17 house of God, and spake insolently of the temple, and threatened that he would demolish it from the very foundations; and departed in a rage. He also took care to search all the houses of the Holy City. Likewise he sent his men to the 18 house of a certain excellent man<sup>g</sup>, who had been seized in the time of Antiochus, and put to extreme torture; but after the death of Antiochus the Jews increased his authority and greatly honoured him. And when the messengers of 19 Nicanor came to him, he feared lest he should meet with the same treatment which he had received from Antiochus; wherefore he laid hands on himself. When this was told to Judas, he was 20 very sorry and much afflicted: and he sent to Nicanor, saying; “Do not seek me in the city, for “I am not there: therefore come forth to me, that “we may meet each other, either in the plains or “in the mountains, as you chuse.” And Nicanor 21 went forth to him, and Judas met him with

not yet obtained this appellation, but at a subsequent period was so named by Herod the Great. See below, ch.

xxi. 28.

<sup>g</sup> Namely Rhazis, mentioned at 3 Macc. xiv. 37.

these words : “ O God, it was Thou who didst ex-  
 “ terminate the army of king Sennacherib ; and  
 “ he indeed was greater than this man, in fame,  
 22 “ in empire, and in the multitude of his host : and  
 “ Thou didst deliver Ezechiah king of Judah  
 “ from him, when he had trusted in Thee and  
 “ prayed to Thee : deliver us, I pray thee, O God,  
 “ from his malice, and make us victorious over  
 “ him.”

23 Then he made ready himself for battle, and ad-  
 vanced to Nicanor, saying, “ Take care of your-  
 24 “ self, it is to you I come.” And Nicanor turned  
 his back and fled : and Judas pursuing smote him  
 on the shoulders, which he divided ; and his men  
 25 were put to flight. And there fell of them on  
 that day thirty thousand : and the inhabitants of  
 the cities went out and slew them, so that they  
 26 left not one of them. And they decreed that that  
 day should be every year a day of thanksgiving  
 to the great and good God, and a day of gladness,  
 and of feasting, and of drinking.

[Thus far is finished the Second<sup>h</sup> Book from the trans-  
 lation of the Hebrews.]

## CHAPTER XVII.<sup>a</sup>

### *An account of the death of Judas.*

1 BUT when nearly the same season of the year  
 came round, Bacchides went forth with thirty

<sup>h</sup> Here indeed ends the  
 history, so far as is contained  
 in the third (usually *second*)  
 book : the second (first) book  
 carries the accounts down to

the death of Simon, the bro-  
 ther of Judas.

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. ix. 1—  
 22. Joseph. Antiq. XII. 18,  
 19.

thousand of the bravest of the Macedonians ; and 2  
came upon Judas without any tidings thereof  
coming to him, when he was in a certain city  
called Lalis<sup>b</sup>, with three thousand men : where- 3  
fore most of those who were with him fled ; and  
there remained with him eight hundred men, and  
his brothers Simeon and Jonathan. But those 4  
who remained with Judas were the strongest and  
bravest, and who had already endured much in  
the several battles which he had fought. And 5  
Judas and his company went out to *meet* Bac-  
chides and his army.

And Bacchides divided his army, placing fifteen 6  
thousand on the right hand of Judas and his com-  
pany, and fifteen thousand on their left. Then 7  
each part shouted against Judas and his company.  
Who attentively regarding each, perceived that  
the *enemy's* strongest and bravest troops were on  
the right, and found out that Bacchides himself  
was there among them. Judas likewise divided 8  
his company, and took the bravest of them with  
him, and gave the rest to his brothers. Then he  
made a charge upon those on the right, and he  
with his company slew about two thousand men.  
Then perceiving Bacchides, he directed his eyes 9  
and steps towards him, and slew all the bravest  
men who were about him. And he in person 10  
with his company sustained the multitudes which  
pressed upon him, felling to the ground the greater  
part of them, and he came near to Bacchides.

<sup>b</sup> At book II. ch. ix. 5, this is called *Eleasa* : where the Vulgate reads *Laisa*, as if it might be *Laish*, mentioned in the book of Isaiah.—According to

Calmet, it is a place near to Bercea, or rather Berzetho, a small city of the tribe of Benjamin.

- 11 Whom when Bacchides saw coming towards him like a lion, brandishing in his hand a large sword stained with blood, he was excessively afraid of  
 12 him, and trembled, and fled out of his sight. And Judas with his company pursued him, and they slew his people with the sword, so that they put to death the greater part of those fifteen thousand : and Bacchides fled even to Ashdod<sup>c</sup>.
- 13 And the fifteen thousand which were on Judas' left, followed him, and attacked Judas, to whom by this time were come his brothers and those  
 14 who were with them, greatly fatigued. And those fifteen thousand rushed upon them, and a very great battle took place between them and Judas ; and there fell on both sides a certain number of slain, in which number was Judas.
- 15 Whom his brothers carried and buried beside the sepulchre of Mattathias his father, [God be merciful to them] ; and the children of Israel bewailed  
 16 him many days. Now the time of his governing was seven years, and Jonathan his brother succeeded him in the government.

CHAPTER XVIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Jonathan the son of Mattathias.*

- 1 AND Jonathan succeeded his brother, and he went to Jordan with a small number of *men* ; B. C. 160. which when Bacchides heard of, he marched

<sup>c</sup> Josephus says, " to a certain mountain called Aza," which appears a preferable reading ; as the town of Ashdod (Azotus) may perhaps be thought too distant from the field of battle. But compare

2 Macc. ix. 15. and xvi. 10.

<sup>a</sup> Compare 2 Macc. ix. 28—72. See the acts of Jonathan detailed more at large at 2 Macc. ix. 28, to xii. and in Joseph. Antiq. XIII. 1—10.

to him with a large army. And when Jonathan 2 saw him, his men swam over Jordan; and Bacchides and his army followed them, and surrounded them. But Jonathan rushed on Bac- 3 chides; and as the men gave way to Jonathan, he and his company went out from the midst of them, and departed to Beersheba <sup>b</sup>: and his bro- 4 ther Simeon joined him, and they abode there; and they repaired whatever of the fortifications had fallen down, and they fortified themselves there.

But Bacchides marched to them, and besieged 5 them: and Jonathan and his brother, and <sup>B. C.</sup> <sup>158.</sup> they which were with them, went out to him by night, and slew great numbers of his army, and burned the battering rams and engines of war; and 6 his army was dispersed, and Bacchides fled into the desert. And Jonathan and Simeon, and the men who were with him, pursued and took him. Who, 7 when he saw Jonathan, knew that his death was near: wherefore he proclaimed peace with Jonathan, and swore that he would never more make war upon him, and moreover, that he would restore the whole of the captives which he had taken of the army of Judas. And Jonathan gave 8 him his hand, and departed from him: nor after this was there any more war between them. And not long after this <sup>c</sup>, Jonathan died, and his brother Simeon succeeded him.

<sup>b</sup> Quære whether we ought to read Bethbasi, as the place mentioned at 2 Macc. ix. 62?

<sup>c</sup> This is not expressed with sufficient accuracy; nor indeed is the chronology satis-

factorily settled. Jonathan is said to have lived thirteen or fourteen years after making peace with Bacchides, and to have been slain by Tryphon in the year B. C. 144. And

CHAPTER XIX.<sup>a</sup>*The history of Simeon the son of Mattathias.*

- 1 THEN Simeon the son of Mattathias succeeded  
to the government; and he gathered to-  
gether all those who remained of the army B. C.  
144.
- 2 of Judas: and his affairs prospered, and he sub-  
dued all those who had exercised hostility against  
the Jews after the death of his brother Judas;  
and he behaved well towards his people, and the  
matters of his country were rightly ordered.
- 3 Wherefore Antiochus<sup>b</sup> attacked him, and also  
Demetrius the son of Seleucus; and sent a great  
4 army against him: to meet which, Simeon and  
his two sons went out; and he divided his army  
into two parts, one of which he kept with himself,  
5 and gave the other to his sons. Then he and they  
which were with him went to the army; and he  
sent his two sons and their followers by another  
way, and appointed with them to attack the army  
6 at a given time. After this, he met the army of  
Antiochus, and attacked it, and began to prevail  
against it: and his two sons came when the battle  
had now begun, and the fight grew fierce, and they  
7 came round the rear of the army. And Antio-  
chus' army, being placed between two armies, was  
cut to pieces, nor did a single man of them escape:  
nor did Antiochus return any more to fight with

yet Josephus, Antiq. XIII.  
11, states that he ruled only  
*four* years! Compare the  
account of his settlement of  
the affairs of Jerusalem for  
some years, at 2 Macc. ix. 73.  
to xii. 48.

<sup>a</sup>. Compare 2 Macc. xiii—  
xvi. Joseph. Antiq. XIII. 11  
—14.

<sup>b</sup> Simon was first attacked  
by Tryphon; and subsequent-  
ly by Cendebæus under orders  
from Antiochus.

Simeon. And peace and quietness continued 8 among the Jews all the days of Simeon. And the time of his government was two years<sup>c</sup>. Then 9 Ptolemy his son-in-law rushed on him, and slew him, at a certain feast<sup>d</sup> where he was present. And he seized his wife and his two sons. And Simeon's son, whose name was Hyrcanus, was set in his father's place.

[Here ends the history as given in the two books usually attached to our Bibles.]

## CHAPTER XX.<sup>a</sup>

### *The history of Hyrcanus the son of Simeon.*

Now Simeon, while he was yet alive<sup>b</sup>, had ap- 1  
 B. C. pointed Jochanan his son to be captain;  
 135. and having gathered to him very many troops, he sent him to vanquish a certain man who had come out against him, and was called Hyrcanus<sup>c</sup>. Now he was a man of great fame, 2 powerful in strength, and of an ancient sovereignty. Whom Jonathan encountered, and de- 3 feated : wherefore Simeon named his son Jochanan Hyrcanus ; on account of his slaying Hyrcanus, and gaining a victory over him.

<sup>c</sup> Instead of this, we rather ought to read *nine* years, namely, from 144 to 135 B. C.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, at the castle of Docus near Jericho, as related at 2 Macc. xvi. 15.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Antiq. XIII. 15.

<sup>b</sup> See 2 Macc. xiii. 53.

<sup>e</sup> Others say that he gained

the name by a victory over the Hyrcanians. See Eusebii Chronicon, and Sulpitius Severus. Calmet thinks that the person designated by the name Hyrcanus was Cendebeus, the general of king Antiochus ; whom John defeated near Modin, as is related at 2 Macc. xvi.

4 But when this Hyrcanus had heard that Pto-  
 lemy had killed his father, he was afraid of Pto-  
 lemy, and fled to Gaza<sup>d</sup>: and Ptolemy pursued him  
 5 with many followers. But the citizens of Gaza  
 helped Hyrcanus, and shut the gates of their city,  
 and hindered Ptolemy from reaching Hyrcanus.  
 6 And Ptolemy returned, and departed to Dagon<sup>e</sup>,  
 having with him the mother of Hyrcanus and his  
 two brothers. Now Dagon had at that time a  
 strongly fortified castle.

7 But Hyrcanus went to the Holy House<sup>f</sup>, and  
 offered sacrifices, and succeeded his father: and he  
 collected a large army and went to *attack* Ptolemy.  
 Wherefore Ptolemy shut the gate of Dagon upon  
 himself and his company, and fortified himself  
 8 therein. And Hyrcanus besieged him, and made  
 an iron ram to batter the wall, and to open it:  
 9 and the battle between them lasted long, and Hyr-  
 canus prevailed against Ptolemy, and went up  
 10 close to the castle, and almost took it. When  
 Ptolemy therefore saw this, he commanded the  
 mother of Hyrcanus and his two brothers to be  
 brought out upon the wall, and to be tortured  
 11 most severely; which was done to them. But  
 Hyrcanus, seeing this, stood still; and fearing that  
 they would be put to death, desisted from fighting.  
 12 To whom his mother called out, and said; “ My

<sup>d</sup> Here, as in many former places, the names of Gaza and Gazara appear to have been interchanged. Compare 3 Macc. xvi. 19, 21.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus states this to be “ one of the fortresses above “ Jericho.” It was also called Docus, and was the place

where Simon was slain by Ptolemy his son-in-law. See 2 Macc. xvi. 15.

<sup>f</sup> Hottinger remarks, that this is the expression used to designate the temple of Jerusalem by all Oriental writers, sacred and profane. (Exercitt. Antimorin. 4to. 1644. p. 66.)

“ son, do not be moved by love and filial piety  
 “ towards me and your brethren, in preference to  
 “ your father: nor on account of our captivity be 13  
 “ weakened in your desire of avenging him; but  
 “ demand satisfaction for the rights of your father  
 “ and mine, to the utmost of your power. But 14  
 “ that which you fear for us from that tyrant, he  
 “ will necessarily do to us at all events: wherefore  
 “ press forward your siege without any intermis-  
 “ sion.”

When therefore Hyrcanus had heard the words 15  
 of his mother, he urged on the siege: wherefore  
 Ptolemy increased the tortures of his mother and  
 his brothers; and swore that he would throw  
 them headlong from the castle, as often as Hyrcanus  
 came near to the wall. Therefore Hyrcanus 16  
 feared, lest he should be the cause of their death;  
 and he returned to his camp, still continuing the  
 siege of Ptolemy. Now it happened, that the 17  
 feast of tabernacles was at hand<sup>g</sup>; wherefore Hyrcanus  
 went into the city of the Holy House, that  
 he might be present at the feast and the solemnity  
 and the sacrifices. And when Ptolemy knew that 18  
 he had departed to the Holy City, and was detained  
 there, he seized upon the mother of Hyrcanus and  
 his brothers, and slew them; and he fled into a  
 place<sup>k</sup> whither Hyrcanus could not come.

<sup>g</sup> Josephus states, that the  
 departure of Hyrcanus, and  
 the consequent protraction of  
 the siege, was owing to the  
 coming on of *the sabbatical*  
*year.*

<sup>h</sup> Namely, to Philadelphia;  
 where a friend of his called  
 Zeno (and Cotylas) had seized  
 upon the sovereignty. [Jose-  
 phus.]

CHAPTER XXI.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the going up of Antiochus to the city of the Holy House, to fight with Hyrcanus.*

1 Now when Antiochus had heard that Simeon  
was dead, he collected an army, and marched  
2 until he came to the city of the Holy House: and  
he encamped around it, and besieged it, designing  
to take it by force: but he could not, by reason of  
the height and strength of the walls, and the mul-  
3 titude of warriors who were in it. But by God's  
will he was restrained from *winning* it: for he  
had betaken himself to the northern side of the  
city, and had built there an hundred and thirty  
4 towers opposite to the wall; and had caused men  
to mount them, to fight with those who should  
5 endeavour to go up upon the walls of the city. He  
also appointed men to dig up the earth in a cer-  
tain spot, till they came to the foundation of the  
wall: which finding to be of wood, they burned it  
with fire, and a very large portion of the wall fell  
down.

6 And Hyrcanus' men opposed them, and pre-  
vented them from entering, keeping guard over  
7 the ruined portion; and Hyrcanus went out with  
the better part of his fighting men against the  
army of Antiochus, and defeated them with great  
8 slaughter. And Antiochus and his men were  
routed; whom Hyrcanus with his troops pursued,  
till they had driven them away from the city.  
9 Then, returning to the towers which Antiochus  
had built, they destroyed them; and abode in the

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, *Antiq.* XIII. 16, 17.

city, and around it. But Antiochus encamped in 10 a certain place, which was distant from the city of the house of God about two furlongs.

And at the approach of the feast of tabernacles 11 Hyrcanus sent ambassadors to him, to treat for a truce until the solemnity should be passed; which he granted him; and sent victims, and gold and silver<sup>b</sup>, to the house of God. And Hyrcanus com- 12 manded the priests to receive what Antiochus had sent; and they did so. Now when Hyrcanus and 13 the priests saw the reverence of Antiochus towards the temple of God, he sent ambassadors to him, to treat for peace. To which Antiochus 14 agreed; and he went to Jerusalem: and Hyrcanus meeting him, they entered the city together. And 15 Hyrcanus made a feast for Antiochus and his princes; and they did eat and drink together; and he made him a present of three hundred talents of gold: and each of them agreed<sup>c</sup> with his 16 companion about peace and rendering assistance, and Antiochus departed into his own country.

But it is related, that Hyrcanus opened the 17 treasury<sup>d</sup>, which had been *made* by some kings of the sons of David, [to whom be peace,] and he brought out thence a great sum of money, and left

<sup>b</sup> Josephus forcibly contrasts this behaviour of the king with that of Antiochus Epiphanes, when he had become master of the city. See 2 Macc. i. 44—60. From this exhibition of liberality, the Jews gave to Antiochus the surname of Pivs.

<sup>c</sup> Namely, on certain conditions, which may be seen in

Diodorus Siculus, and Josephus.

<sup>d</sup> Josephus states, that he opened the sepulchre of David, and took thence three thousand talents; with which he hired a body of mercenary troops; being the first Jewish prince who did this. Compare also Joseph. Antiq. VII. 12.

as much in it, consigning it to its former state of  
 18 secrecy. Then he built up and repaired that part  
 of the wall which had fallen down; and he pro-  
 vided carefully for the convenience and advantage  
 of his flock, and behaved himself uprightly to-  
 wards them.

19 Now when Antiochus had come into his own  
 country, he determined to go and fight <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 with the king of Persia<sup>e</sup>, for he had re- <sup>131.</sup>  
 20 volted from the time of the first Antiochus: and  
 he sent ambassadors to Hyrcanus, that he should  
 go to him; and Hyrcanus went with him, and  
 21 departed into the country of Persia. And an  
 army of the Persians met him, and fought with  
 him; whom Antiochus putting to flight defeated  
 22 and put to the sword. Then he stayed in the  
 place where he was, and erected a wonderful  
 building<sup>f</sup>, that it might be a memorial of him in  
 23 their country. And after some time he went for-  
 ward to meet the king of the Persians; and Hyrc-

<sup>e</sup> Rather, Phraates king of *Parthia*, who still detained Demetrius Nicator a prisoner. It is observable that the author of this book, in common with almost all the later Greek and Roman historians, uses the terms *Persians* and *Parthians* as synonymous. Indeed it has been contended that the difference is more nominal than real; since the Parthians originally were comprised within the Persian empire; and after that had been brought under the sway of the Macedonian princes, Arsaces revolted with a large district, and established him-

self as an independent monarch; and the family of the Arsacidæ, having acquired both wealth and power, held possession of their throne during a period of no less than 482 years. On the indifferent use of the words *Persian* and *Parthian*, see archbishop Ussher, in *Notis ad Ignatij Acta*, p. 36. (4to. Lond. 1647.) And for the origin and a short history of that people, consult Justin's *History*, books 41 and 42.

<sup>f</sup> He erected a trophy on the banks of the river Lycus, where he had conquered Indates the Parthian general.

canus remained behind, by reason of the sabbath; which Pentecost immediately followed. And the 24 king of Persia and Antiochus met; and very great battles took place between them, in which Antiochus and many of his army were slain<sup>g</sup>.

And when news of this was brought to Hyrcanus, he marched<sup>h</sup> into the country of Syria, and on his journey besieged Halampus<sup>i</sup>: and the citizens surrendered to him, paying him tribute; and he departed from them, and returned into the Holy City, and remained there for some days.

Then he departed into the country of Samaria, and fought against Neapolis<sup>k</sup>; but the citizens hindered him from entering into it. And he destroyed whatever buildings they had on mount Jezabel<sup>l</sup>, and the temple; which was done two hundred years after that Sanballat<sup>m</sup> the Samaritan had built it. He also slew the priests who were in Sebaste<sup>n</sup>. And he marched into the country of Idumæa, that is, the mountains Sarah<sup>o</sup>,

<sup>g</sup> Authors are not agreed whether he fell in battle or afterwards: he was succeeded by his brother Demetrius Nicator, whom Phraates had set free at the time of Antiochus' invasion. [Josephus.]

<sup>h</sup> From this period the Jews refused to acknowledge any Macedonian or Syrian king.

<sup>i</sup> The town now called Aleppo.

<sup>k</sup> The town which anciently was called Shechem, or Sichem, being the principal city of Samaria. It still bears the name of Napolose, or Na-

plouse. See a description of its present state in "Clarke's Travels."

<sup>l</sup> That is, mount Ebal, or more properly Garizim.

<sup>m</sup> See the history of this transaction in Josephus, Antiq. XI. 8.

<sup>n</sup> The city of Samaria obtained this name under the reign of Herod the Great, who enlarged, adorned, and fortified it. See Joseph. Ant. XV. 11; Bell. I. 16.

<sup>o</sup> Probably the same as "Seir," so often mentioned in Scripture. See above, ch. x. 1; xiv. 4; also xlix. 20.

- and they surrendered to him: with whom he stipulated that they should be circumcised and adopt the religion of Torah (*or the Mosaic law*).
- 30 And they agreed with him, and were circumcised, and became Jews, and were confirmed in this *practice* even till the destruction of the second house <sup>p</sup>.
- 31 And Hyrcanus went on to all the surrounding nations; and they all submitted to him, and at the same time entered into an agreement of peace and obedience.
- 32 He also sent ambassadors to the Romans, writing to them concerning the renewal of the
- 33 league <sup>q</sup> which was between them. When <sup>B. C. 128.</sup> therefore his ambassadors had come to the Romans, they honoured them; and appointed them a seat of dignity; and gave attention to the embassy on account of which they had come; and despatched their business, and replied to his letter.

CHAPTER XXII.<sup>a</sup>*The copy of the Romans' letter to Hyrcanus.*

- 1 "FROM the elder, and his three hundred and  
 " twenty governors, to Hyrcanus the king <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 2 " of Judah, health. Your letter has even <sup>127.</sup>  
 " now reached us, on reading which we rejoiced;  
 " and we have questioned your ambassadors con-  
 3 " cerning the state of your affairs. Also we have  
 " acknowledged their place of dignity in science,

<sup>p</sup> This expression clearly informs us that the author of this book, whoever he may have been, lived after A. D. 70.

<sup>q</sup> See above, 2 Macc. viii.

and xii.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 17; but his account varies in some particulars from that which is given here.

“ moral discipline, and the virtues; and we have  
 “ honoured them, and made them sit in the pre-  
 “ sence of our elder: who has been careful to 4  
 “ transact all their business, giving command that  
 “ all the cities which Antiochus had taken away  
 “ by force should be restored to you; and that 5  
 “ every obstacle to the exercise of your religion  
 “ should be removed; and that all should be  
 “ made void which Antiochus had decreed against  
 “ you. He has also commanded that all the cities 6  
 “ which he had taken should continue faithful *to*  
 “ *you*; he has likewise given orders by letter to  
 “ all his provinces, that your ambassadors should  
 “ be treated with respect and honour. Moreover 7  
 “ he has sent with them an ambassador to you  
 “ named Cynæus, bearing a letter; to whom also  
 “ he has entrusted an embassy, that he might  
 “ treat with you in person.”

Therefore when this epistle of the Romans had 8  
 B. C. reached Hyrcanus, he began to be styled  
 126. king, being formerly called high priest:  
 and thus the royal and sacerdotal dignities were  
 united in him. And he was the first who was 9  
 called king among the chiefs of the Jews in the  
 time of the second house.

#### CHAPTER XXIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the wars of Hyrcanus with the Samaritans.*

Now Hyrcanus marched to Sebaste, and be- 1  
 sieged the Samaritans<sup>b</sup> who were therein, for a

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 18.

<sup>b</sup> They were subjects of Syria; whose two princes, An-

tiochus Gryphus and Antiochus Cyzicenus, being engaged in continual quarrels with each other, gave Hyrcan-

long time; till he reduced them to such straits, that they were compelled to feed upon every  
 2 kind of dead carcass. Nevertheless they <sup>B.C. 111.</sup>  
 bore this patiently, fearing his sword, and trusting to the Macedonians and Egyptians, whose aid  
 3 they had implored. In the mean time comes on the great fast, at which Hyrcanus must be present in the Holy House, to offer sacrifices on that day.  
 4 Wherefore he substituted his two sons, Antigonus and Aristobulus, as commanders of the army; leaving them orders to besiege the Samaritans,  
 5 and reduce them to extremities. Likewise he commanded the army to obey his sons, and to execute their orders: and he departed to the city of the Holy House.  
 6 Moreover Antiochus<sup>c</sup> the Macedonian marched to help the inhabitants of Sebaste; and tidings of it were brought to the two sons of Hyrcanus;  
 7 who, having substituted a general to conduct the siege of Sebaste, went to meet Antiochus; whom they encountered and routed, and returned to Se-  
 8 baste. There came likewise out of Egypt Lythras<sup>d</sup>, the son of queen Cleopatra, to help the  
 9 Samaritans. When news of this was brought to Hyrcanus, he went to meet him, the solemnity being now past: whom when he met, he encoun-

nus opportunity of revenging himself for some former injuries alleged to have been committed by the Samaritans upon the Jews.

<sup>c</sup> Namely, Antiochus IX. surnamed Cyzicenus.

<sup>d</sup> That is, Ptolemy Lathyrus, the son of Ptolemy Phys-

con and Cleopatra: he began to reign, conjointly with his mother, in the year B.C. 116. He brought about 6000 soldiers with him, and began by plundering several parts of Judæa; hoping thereby to draw off Hyrcanus from the siege.

tered most fiercely, and slew very many of his  
 B. C. men : and Lythras was put to flight ; nor 10  
 110. did the Egyptians any more after this re-  
 turn to give assistance to the Samaritans. And 11  
 king Hyrcanus returned to Sebaste, and pressed  
 sore on it, till he took it with the sword, and slew  
 those of its citizens who were remaining, and ut-  
 terly destroyed it, and pulled down its walls.

#### CHAPTER XXIV.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Lythras the son of Cleopatra, and of his  
 marching out against his mother in Egypt.*

LYTHRAS the son of Cleopatra, having become 1  
 B. C. strong in goods and in men, revolted from  
 105. Cleopatra his mother ; the chief men of  
 the kingdom being his abettors. Therefore Cleo- 2  
 patra, having sent for two Jews, one of whom  
 was called Chelcias, and the other Hananias<sup>b</sup>,  
 placed them at the head of those princes of Egypt  
 who remained on her side, and made them both  
 generals of the Egyptian army. Now they ma- 3  
 naged all matters well with the common people,  
 and conducted the affairs of the empire with wis-  
 dom. Them Cleopatra sent to fight with Lythras ; 4  
 who going to him made war, and routed him,

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Ant. XIII. 18. See also XIII. 20.

<sup>b</sup> Josephus states these to be the sons of that Onias, who, by leave of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, had built in Egypt a temple to God, after the pattern of the temple of Jerusalem ; being moved to this by remembering the prophecy

of Isaiah at ch. xix. 19 : “ In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.” See the particulars of the history detailed at Joseph. Ant. XIII. 6.

putting his men to flight : and he fled to Cyprus, and there remained, with a few who adhered to him.

### CHAPTER XXV.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the Jewish sects at this time.*

1 AT that time there were three sects among the  
 Jews. One, of the Pharisees, that is, “ the B. C.  
 2 “ separated,” or religious ; whose rule it 108.  
 was, to maintain whatever was contained in the  
 law, according to the expositions of their fore-  
 3 fathers. The second, that of the Sadducees ; and  
 these are followers of a certain man of the doctors,  
 4 by name Sadoc ; whose rule it was, to maintain  
 according to the things found in the text of the  
 law, and of which there is demonstration in the  
 Scripture itself ; but not that which is not extant  
 5 in the text, nor is proved from it. The third sect  
 was that of the Hasdanim<sup>b</sup>, or those who stu-  
 died the virtues : but the author of *this* book<sup>c</sup> did  
 not make mention of their rule, *nor do we know*  
*it except in* so far as it is discovered by their  
 6 name : for they applied themselves to such prac-  
 tices as came near to the more eminent virtues ;  
 namely, to select from those two other rules what-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 9 ; XVII. 3 ; XVIII. 2 ; and especially Bell. II. 7.

<sup>b</sup> Or Assidæans, mentioned at 2 Macc. ii. 42 ; vii. 13 ; 3 Macc. xiv. 6. Some think them to be the same with the *Essenes*, described by Josephus (Bell. II. 7.) and by others ; for whose collected observations the reader is referred to Calmet's Dictionary

of the Bible. In the eighth volume of the *Critici Sacri* (edit. 1660) is a specific tract on the subject, by J. Drusius, which deserves to be consulted.

<sup>c</sup> This expression is to be remarked, but I cannot furnish the solution. See it again at ch. xxv. 5 ; and at the close of the book, ch. lix. 96.

ever was most safe in belief, most sure and guarded.

Hyrchanus at first was one of the Pharisees ; 7 afterwards he went over to the Sadducees ; be- 8 cause that one of the Pharisees had said to him, it is not lawful for you to be high priest, because your mother was a captive before she bare you, in the days of Antiochus : but it becometh not that the son of a captive should be high priest. And this conversation took place in the presence 9 of the chief men of the Pharisees ; which was the cause of his going over to the rule of the Sadducees. Now the Sadducees were at enmity with 10 the Pharisees ; wherefore they kept up differences betwixt one another, and they prevailed on him so far, as to slay great numbers of the Pharisees. And the trouble came to such a height, that wars 11 and many evils continued among them for a great length of time.

#### CHAPTER XXVI.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of Hyrchanus' death, and of the time of his reign.*

HYRCANUS had three sons, namely, Antigonus, 1  
B. C. Aristobulus, and Alexander. And Hyrca- 2  
10 $\frac{7}{8}$ . nus loved Antigonus and Aristobulus ; but  
Alexander was odious to him. And on a time he 3  
saw in a dream, that of his sons, Alexander would  
reign after his death ; and this gave him uneasi-  
ness. And he did not think fit, while he lived, to 4  
set up either of the sons whom he loved, on ac-  
count of his vision ; nor to appoint Alexander

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 18 ; Bell. I. 3.

5 king, because he was disliked by him. Wherefore he deferred the business; that after his death it might take that turn which should please the great and good God.

6 Now the Jews had been, in the time of his father and uncles, united in affection towards them; and prompt to obey them, on account of their subduing of their enemies, and the excellent feats  
7 which they performed. They also continued united in affection to Hyrcanus; until the B.C. slaughter of the Pharisees was committed 10<sup>6</sup>.  
by him, and the rooting out of the Jews, and the  
8 civil wars on account of religion. From hence sprung perpetual enmities, and ceaseless evils, and many murders. Which was the reason why many  
9 detested Hyrcanus. Now the time of his reign was thirty-one<sup>b</sup> years, and he died.

## CHAPTER XXVII.<sup>a</sup>

### *The history of Aristobulus the son of Hyrcanus.*

1 HYRCANUS being dead, his son Aristobulus succeeded him on the throne; who dis- B.C. played haughtiness, pride, and power; and 10<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub>.  
placed on his head a large crown, in contempt of  
2 the crown of the sacred priesthood. Now he was affectionately inclined towards his brother Antigonus, whom he preferred<sup>b</sup> to all his friends: but his brother Alexander he kept in prison, as also

<sup>b</sup> Josephus, in one book, says thirty-one years; in another, thirty-three: but archbishop Ussher allows him only twenty-nine<sup>m</sup> years' reign; <sup>n</sup>in which case we must place his

death in B. C. 107.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Ant. XIII. 19; Bell. I. 3.

<sup>b</sup> And advanced him to a share of the regal power.

his mother<sup>c</sup>, by reason of her love for Alexander. And he sent<sup>d</sup> his brother Antigonus, who fought 3 against him, and conquered him, with all his abettors and troops, which he put to flight, and returned into the city of the Holy House. This happened while Aristobulus lay sick. When there- 4 fore Antigonus was on his way to the city, the sickness of his brother was reported to him; who, entering the city, went to the house of God, to give thanks for the mercy shewn in his deliverance from the enemy, and to beseech the great and good God to restore health to his brother. Therefore certain of those who were adversaries 5 and haters of Antigonus go to Aristobulus and say; In sooth the news of your sickness was car- 6 ried to your brother, and behold he is coming with his partisans, armed; and is now gone into the sanctuary to make to himself friends, that he may come suddenly upon you and slay you. And 7 king Aristobulus was afraid to take any hasty step against his brother respecting that which had been told him, till he should know the correctness of the intelligence. Wherefore he com- 8 manded all his attendants to post themselves arm-

<sup>c</sup> Josephus adds, that he suffered her to die of hunger while in prison!

<sup>d</sup> There is every appearance of an hiatus between the second and third verses of this chapter: against *whom* did Aristobulus send his brother Antigonus? not against Alexander, for he was in prison. But we read in Josephus, that at this particular

time Antigonus made an expedition into Ituræa, part of which he conquered and added to Judæa; so that possibly a sentence (or more) may have been omitted, in which was mentioned the leader of the Ituræans whom Antigonus encountered with such success. The text, as it stands at present, is scarcely intelligible.

ed in a certain place, from which whoever came  
9 to his palace could not turn aside. He likewise  
ordered it to be publicly proclaimed, that no one  
wearing arms of any kind should come to the  
10 king into the court, without being bidden. After  
this, he sent to Antigonus, ordering him to come  
to him: whereupon Antigonus took off his arms  
11 in obedience to the king. In the mean time there  
comes to him a messenger from the wife of his  
brother<sup>c</sup> Aristobulus, (who hated him,) saying to  
12 him; The king says to you, "I have now heard  
"of the beauty of your dress when you entered  
"the city, and am desirous of beholding you thus  
"habited; wherefore come to me in that form,  
13 "that I may be gratified in seeing you." And  
Antigonus doubted not that this message was  
from the king, as the messenger had reported;  
14 and that he did not wish to put him on the same  
footing with others as to the laying aside their  
arms: and he went to him in that manner and  
15 dress. And when he had come to that place in  
which king Aristobulus had commanded his men  
to post themselves, with orders to kill any person  
16 who should come thither armed; and when the  
men saw him wearing his arms;—they rushed on  
him, and instantly slew him; and his blood flowed  
17 over the marble *pavement* on that spot. And the  
cry of men grew loud, and their weeping and la-  
mentation was magnified, grieving over the death  
of Antigonus, for his beauty, and the elegance of  
his discourse, and his exploits.

18 So the king, hearing the noise of the men,

<sup>c</sup> Salome, called also Alexandra.

enquired concerning it; and found that Antigonus had been slain; which caused him the greatest 19 sorrow, both for the affection which he bare towards him, and because he did not deserve this fate: and he perceived that a snare had been laid for his brother: and he cried aloud, and wept 20 exceedingly; and smote his breast unceasingly; so that some blood-vessels of his breast were burst, and the blood flowed out of his mouth. But his attendants and the chief of his friends 21 came to him, consoling him, and appeasing and soothing him, so as to restrain him from this action; being apprehensive that he would die, as 22 he was weak, and was almost expiring under that which he had *already* done.

And they took a golden basin, to receive the 23 blood which gushed forth at his mouth; and they 24 sent the basin, with the blood which was in it, by one of the attendants to a physician, that he might see it, and advise what was to be done for him. And the page went with the basin: and 25 when he came to the place where Antigonus had been slain, and his blood had flowed about, the page slipped, and fell; and spilled the king's blood which was in the basin over the blood of his murdered brother. And the page returned 26 with the basin, and told the courtiers what had happened; who abused and reviled him; while he justified himself, and sware that he had not designedly or voluntarily done this. But when the 27 king heard them quarrelling, he asked to be told what they were saying: and they held their tongues: but when he threatened them, they told him. Who then said, "Praise be to the Just 28

“ Judge, who hath shed the blood of the oppressor  
 29 “ over the blood of the oppressed.” Then he  
 groaned, and forthwith expired. And the time of  
 30 his reign was one full year. And all his flock  
 lamented him; for he was noble-minded, vic-  
 torious<sup>e</sup>, and liberal: and his brother Alexander  
 reigned in his stead.

### CHAPTER XXVIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of Alexander the son of Hyrcanus.*

1 AFTER that Aristobulus was dead, his brother  
 Alexander was released from his fetters; and being brought out of prison, succeeded <sup>B.C.</sup> 105.  
 2 to the throne. Now the governor of the city  
 Acche<sup>b</sup> (*which is Ptolemais*) had rebelled; and  
 had sent messengers to Lythras the son of Cleo-  
 3 patra, requesting that he would aid him, and take  
 him under his protection; but he for a long time  
 refused, fearing *a recurrence of the things which*  
 4 he had before suffered<sup>c</sup> from Hyrcanus. But  
 the messenger gave him courage by means of the  
 succours promised by the lord of Tyre, of Sidon,  
 and others. And Lythras marched with thirty  
 5 thousand men: and the report of it was brought  
 to Alexander, who anticipated him at Ptolemais,  
 and attacked it; and the citizens of Ptolemais  
 shut the gate in his face, and endeavoured to keep

<sup>e</sup> He became memorable for subduing Ituræa, a part of Arabia Petræa, lying on the eastern side of Jordan, and compelling its inhabitants to adopt the customs of the Jews. See above, v. 3.—Ituræa is mentioned at Luke iii. 1. and its renown in

archery is celebrated by the Roman poets. See also Strabo, lib. XVI.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIII. 20, 21. Bell. I. 3.

<sup>b</sup> See the note on 2 Macc. v. 22.

<sup>c</sup> See above, ch. xxiii. 10.

him out. Wherefore Alexander straitened them, 6 and continued to besiege them ; until he was informed of the marching of Lythras : then he retired from before them, Lythras with his troops being at hand.

Now there was among the citizens of Ptole- 7 mais an old man<sup>d</sup> of acknowledged authority, who persuaded the citizens not to permit Lythras to enter their city, nor to take on themselves obedience to him, since he was of a different religion. He also said to them, Far more advantageous to 8 you in every way will be submission to Alexander, who is of the same religion, than submission to Lythras : nor did he cease, until they agreed to his sentiments. And they prevented 9 Lythras from entering Ptolemais, refusing submission to him. And Lythras was perplexed in his affairs, nor did he take counsel what was best for him to do.

And this was told to the king of Sidon<sup>e</sup>, and 10 he sent messengers to him, that he should help him in the war against Alexander ; that either they might defeat him, or *take* some of his cities, and thus punish him ; and thus Lythras might 11 return into his own country, after performing deeds which might render him formidable ; which in truth would be more to his advantage than to return without having effected his purpose. And 12 this was told to Alexander ; who sent to Lythras an honourable embassy with a very valuable pre-

<sup>d</sup> Josephus informs us that the name of this sage counsellor was Demænetus.

<sup>e</sup> This appears from Josephus to be Zoilus, who had

also taken possession of the neighbouring posts, Strato's Tower, (afterwards called Cæsarea,) and Dora.

sent, and proposed to him not to aid the king of  
 13 Sidon. And Lythras accepted Alexander's pre-  
 14 sent, agreeing to his request. But Alexander  
 marched to Sidon, and fought against its sovereign;  
 and God made him victorious over him, and he  
 slew great numbers of his men; and having put  
 him to flight, gained possession of his country.

15 After this, Alexander sent messengers to Cleo-  
 patra, that she should come with an army B. C.  
 against Lythras her son; and that he also 104.

would march with his army against him, and would  
 16 deliver him a prisoner to her. Which when Lythras  
 found out, he departed into the mountain of Gali-  
 lee<sup>f</sup>, and slew great numbers of the inhabitants,  
 and carried away ten thousand captives: a great  
 17 number of his own men also were slain. From  
 thence he marched even till he came to Jordan,  
 and there encamped; that his men and horses  
 might rest themselves, and afterwards he might  
 march to Jerusalem to fight with Alexander.  
 18 This was told to Alexander; who went against  
 him with fifty thousand men, of whom six thou-  
 sand had shields of brass: and it is said that each  
 19 of those could resist any number of men. And  
 he attacked him at the Jordan, and engaged with  
 him there; but did not obtain the victory, be-  
 cause he trusted in his men, and had placed his  
 confidence in their number.

20 But with Lythras there were men very skilful  
 in battles<sup>g</sup> and in drawing up armies; who ad-

<sup>f</sup> Where falling suddenly upon a town called Asochis, he mastered it, and departed, loaded with abundance of captives and other spoil. (Josephus.)  
<sup>g</sup> Josephus particularly names Philostephanus, as the

vised him to divide his forces into two parts, so that one might be with Lythras and his company prepared for battle, and the other part might be with another captain of their company. And he 21 fought even until noon, and great numbers of his men were slain. And his friend advanced, with the 22 remainder of the army which was with him, whose strength was yet entire, against Alexander and his men, who were by this time overcome with fatigue: and he dealt with them as he 23 pleased, and slew great multitudes of them; and Alexander and the men who had remained with him fled into the city of the Holy House.

Lythras also departed towards evening into a 24 certain town near at hand; and by chance some Jewish women with their children met him; and 25 he commanded some of the children to be killed, and their flesh to be dressed, pretending that there were some in his army who fed on human flesh; designing by these acts to strike the inhabitants of the country with a dread of his troops.

After this came Cleopatra; whom Alexander 26 met, and told her what Lythras had done to his army, and appointed to go with her in search of him. Which being told to Lythras, he fled to a 27 place where was a station of his ships; going on board which, he returned to Cyprus; and Cleopatra returned into Egypt.

But at the end of the year Alexander marched 28 against Gaza; because its chief<sup>h</sup> had revolted from him, and had sent to a certain king of the

man whose skilful tactics eventually gained Ptolemy the battle.

Apollodotus; and the brother, who treacherously slew him, (ver. 31,) was called Lysimachus.

<sup>h</sup> Josephus records his name,

29 Arabians named Hartas<sup>i</sup> to assist him ; who con-  
 30 sented to do so, and marched towards Gaza : this  
 was told to Alexander ; who leaving some of his  
 men before Gaza, marched against Hartas, and  
 31 engaged him, and put him to flight. Then he re-  
 turned to Gaza, and lying sore upon it, took it at  
 the end of a year. But the cause of his <sup>B. C.</sup>  
 taking it was the brother of that chief; who <sup>97.</sup>  
 32 coming suddenly on him, slew him. When the  
 citizens sought to kill him, he collected his friends,  
 and went to the gate of the city, and addressed  
 Alexander, begging that on giving security for  
 his life and the lives of his friends, he would enter  
 33 the city ; which Alexander promising, entered  
 Gaza, and slew its inhabitants, and overthrew  
 the temple which was in it, and burned the gilded  
 idol which was in the temple.  
 34 After which he departed to the city of the Holy  
 House, and there celebrated the feast of taber-  
 35 nacles. And when the feast was past, he made  
 himself ready against Hartas, whom he encoun-  
 36 tered, and slew a great number of his men : and  
 Hartas' affairs were much straitened and crippled,  
 and he feared his own utter extinction. Where-  
 fore suing to Alexander for his life, he yielded  
 37 him obedience, and paid him tributes. And Alex-

<sup>i</sup> Such is the spelling given ; but the name is properly *Aretas*. This appears to have been an appellative name among the Arabian sovereigns ; as we read of an Aretas in 3 Macc. v. 7, at the year B. C. 170 : of another, B. C. 66. (see below, ch. xxxv) : and a grandson of this last occurs in St. Paul's second Epistle to

the Corinthians ; who, having married the daughter of Herod Antipas, held the sovereignty of Damascus, and endeavoured to intercept the apostle ; whose friends secured him by letting him down in a basket from the city-wall. See 2 Cor. xi. 32 ; and Acts ix. 24.

ander departed from him, and marched against Hemath<sup>k</sup> and Tyre, and took them; and having received tribute from the inhabitants, he returned into the city of the Holy House.

### CHAPTER XXIX.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the battles which took place between the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

AFTERWARDS evils arose between the Phari- 1  
 B. C. sees and Sadducees, and continued by the  
 94. space of six years<sup>b</sup>. And Alexander helped 2  
 the Sadducees against the Pharisees, of whom  
 there were slain within six years fifty thousand.  
 Wherefore between these two sects the state of 3  
 things was reduced to utter destruction<sup>c</sup>, and their  
 enmity was completely confirmed. So Alexander, 4  
 having sent for the elder men of each sect, spake  
 kindly to them, and advised a reconciliation. But 5  
 they answered him, "In truth you, in our opinion,  
 "are worthy of death<sup>d</sup>, for the abundance of in-  
 "nocent blood *which you have shed*: wherefore  
 "let there be nothing between us but the sword."  
 Then after this, they began to shew their enmity 6  
 openly, sending messengers to Demetrius<sup>e</sup> *the king*

<sup>k</sup> Josephus calls it Amathus, "the strongest of all the fortresses on the river Jordan." Some chronologists place this event three years before the capture of Gaza.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Antiq. XIII. 21, 22. Bell. I. 3.

<sup>b</sup> Tacitus is supposed to allude to this civil strife, in the fifth book of his Histories, ch. 8.

<sup>c</sup> Or, "these two sects were

"bent on nothing less than the extermination of each other."

<sup>d</sup> Josephus relates, that when he asked the Jews what he could do to oblige them, they unanimously desired him "to go and kill himself."

<sup>e</sup> Namely, Demetrius III. who, conjointly with Philip, was at that time sovereign of Syria; or, as in the text, of Macedon.

of Macedon, that he should come to them with an  
7 army; promising that they would assist him  
against Alexander and his party, and would re-  
duce the Hebrews to submission to the Macedo-  
nians. And Demetrius marched to them with a  
large army.

- 8 Which also was told to Alexander; who sent a  
person to hire six thousand Macedonians, B. C.  
whom joining to his own forces he ad- 89.  
9 vanced against Demetrius. Many also of the  
10 Jews, Pharisees, went over to Demetrius. And  
Demetrius sent secretly persons to those Macedo-  
nians who were with Alexander, to seduce them  
from him; but they hearkened not unto him.  
11 Alexander also sent secretly men to the Jews who  
were with Demetrius, to turn them to his side;  
but neither did these do as he would have them.  
12 And Alexander and Demetrius met, and fought a  
battle; in which all Alexander's men fell, and he  
13 escaped alone into the land of Judah. But when  
his men heard it whispered that he had escaped  
in safety, and found out the place where he was;  
14 there assembled unto him about six thousand men  
of the bravest of the sons of Israel; and many of  
those, who had revolted to Demetrius, joined them-  
15 selves to him. Afterwards men flocked to him  
from every side; and he returned to give battle to  
Demetrius with a numerous force, and put him to  
flight: and Demetrius returned into his own  
country.
- 16 And Alexander marched against him to An-  
tioch, and besieged it three years: and B. C.  
when Demetrius came out to fight, Alex- 84.  
17 ander conquered him and slew him: and he de-

parted from the city, and returned to Jerusalem to his citizens ; who magnified him, honouring and praising him for having defeated his enemies. And the Jews agreed to submit to him, and his heart was at rest : and he sent his armies against all his enemies, whom he put to flight, and gained the victory over them. He also gained possession of the mountains of Sarah, and the country of Ammon, and Moab, and the country of the Philistines, and all the parts which were in the hands of the Arabians who fought with him, even to the bounds of the desert. And the affairs of his kingdom were ruled aright ; and he placed his people and his country in a state of safety.

#### CHAPTER XXX.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of the death of Alexander the son of Hircanus.*

AFTERWARDS king Alexander fell sick with a quartan fever, for three whole years. But when the governor of a city named Ragaba<sup>b</sup> revolted from him, he led thither a powerful army, taking with him his wife and family, and besieged the city. But when it was on the point of being taken, his disease increased and his strength declined ; and his wife, who was named Alexandra, lost all hope of his recovery : who going up to him said ; “ You know now what differences there are between you and the Pharisees : and your two sons are little boys, and I am a woman, and altogether we shall not be

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIII. 23. tress beyond Jordan, in the country of the Gerasenes.

<sup>b</sup> Josephus calls it a for-

“able to resist them : what advice therefore do  
5 “you give to me and them?” He said to her,  
“My advice is, that you persevere against the  
6 “city till it be taken, which will be shortly. And  
“when it shall have been won, establish its go-  
“vernment according as the other cities have  
7 “been established. But towards all these people,  
“pretend that I am sick ; and whatever you do,  
“pretend that you do it at my suggestion ; and  
“reveal my death to those servants on whom you  
8 “can depend. And when you shall have finished  
“these matters, go into the city of the Holy House,  
“having previously dried and embalmed my  
“body with spices ; and fill the place where I lie  
“with many perfumes, that no unpleasant smell  
9 “may proceed from me. And when the affairs of  
“the country are settled, go thence, and roll me  
“up in abundance of perfumes, and carry me into  
10 “the palace, as if sick : and when I am there,  
“send for the principal men of the Pharisees ;  
“and when they come, honour them, and speak  
11 “good words to them : then say, Alexander is al-  
“ready dead, and behold I give him up to you,  
“do with him whatever seems good to you : and  
“I from henceforth will behave to you as you  
12 “shall please. For if you do this, I know very  
“well that they will do nothing to me and you,  
“except that which is good ; and the people will  
“follow them, and your affairs will be ordered  
“aright after my death, and you will reign se-  
“curely until your two sons be grown up.”  
13 After this, Alexander died ; and his wife con-  
cealed his death ; and when the city was taken,  
she returned to Jerusalem ; and having sent for

the chief men of the Pharisees, she addressed them as Alexander had advised her. To whom they 14 replied, that Alexander had been their king, and they had been his people; and they spoke to her with all affection, and promised to place her at the head of their government. Then they went 15 out and collected men; and taking Alexander's body, they carried it forth magnificently to its burial: and they sent for men to appoint Alexandra queen; with whose concurrence she was so appointed. And the years of Alexander's reign 16 were twenty-seven.

#### CHAPTER XXXI.<sup>a</sup>

##### *The history of queen Alexandra.*

Now while Alexandra reigned, she called to 1  
 B. C. her the chief men of the Pharisees, and  
 77. commanded them to write to all those of  
 their sect who had fled<sup>b</sup> into Egypt and other  
 parts, in the days of Hyrcanus and of Alexander,  
 that they should return into the land of Judah.  
 And she shewed them her favourable inclination 2  
 towards them, and did not oppose herself to their  
 rites, nor forbid their ceremonies, as Alexander  
 and Hyrcanus had forbidden them. She also re- 3  
 leased all of them who were detained in prison.  
 And they came together from every quarter; and 4  
 the Sadducees forbore offering them any violence.  
 And their affairs were well ordered, and their 5  
 condition became improved by the removal of  
 quarrels.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 24. Bell. I. 4.

<sup>b</sup> See Josephus, Ant. XIII. 22.

6 But when Hyrcanus and Aristobulus the two  
 sons of Alexander grew up, *the queen* made Hyrcanus high priest, for he was meek, mild, and  
 7 honest: but Aristobulus she made general of the  
 army, for he was stout, brave, and high-spirited; and she also gave to him the army of the Sadducees: but she did not think it meet to appoint  
 8 him king, as he was still a boy. Moreover she  
 sent to all those who paid tribute to Alexander, and took their kings' sons, whom she detained near her as hostages; and they continued uninterruptedly in their obedience to her, paying tribute  
 9 every year. And she walked uprightly with her people, distributing justice, and commanding her people to do the same. Wherefore there was a lasting peace between the parties, and she gained their good-will.

#### CHAPTER XXXII.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of the things which were done to the Sadducees by the Pharisees in the time of Alexandra.*

1 THERE was among the Sadducees a chief man, who had been promoted by Alexander, B.C. named Diogenes, who formerly had in- <sup>71.</sup>  
 duced him to slay eight hundred<sup>b</sup> men of the Phari-  
 2 risees. Therefore the leaders of the Pharisees come to Alexandra, and remind her of what Diogenes had done, asking her leave to slay him; which she gave: and they, having it, slew many  
 3 Sadducees together with him. Which the Sadducees taking very much to heart, went to Aristo-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 24. Bell. I. 4. massacre in Josephus, Ant. XIII. 22.

<sup>b</sup> See the account of this

bulus; and, taking him with them, went to the queen, and said to her: “ You are aware what 4  
 “ terrible and heavy things we have undergone,  
 “ and the many wars and battles which we have  
 “ fought, in aid of Alexander and his father Hyr-  
 “ canus. Wherefore it was not meet to trample 5  
 “ on our rights, and to lift up the hand of our  
 “ enemies over us, and to lower our dignities; for 6  
 “ a matter of this kind will not be hidden from  
 “ Hartas and others of your enemies; who have  
 “ experienced our bravery, and have not been able  
 “ to resist us, and their hearts have been filled  
 “ with the fear of us. When therefore they shall 7  
 “ perceive what you have done to us, they will  
 “ imagine that our hearts are devising plans  
 “ against you; of which when they shall be cer-  
 “ tified, trust that they will play false towards  
 “ you. Nor will we endure to be killed by the 8  
 “ Pharisees, like sheep. Therefore, either restrain 9  
 “ their malice from us, or allow us to go out from  
 “ the city into some of the towns of Judah.” And 10  
 she said to them, “ Do this, that their annoyance  
 “ to you may be prevented.” And the Sadducees 11  
 went forth of the city; and their chiefs departed  
 with the men of war who adhered to them; and  
 went with their cattle to those of the towns of  
 Judah which they had selected<sup>c</sup>, and dwelt in  
 them; and there were joined to them those who 12  
 were devoted to virtue, (i. e. *the Hasdanim*<sup>d</sup>.)

<sup>c</sup> Josephus relates that she confided to them the fortresses throughout the country, with the exception of three,

wherein her chief valuables were deposited.

<sup>d</sup> See above, the note on ch. xxv. 5.

CHAPTER XXXIII.<sup>a</sup>*The account of the death of Alexandra.*

1 AFTER these things, Alexandra fell into a dis-  
 2 ease, of which she died. And when her B. C.  
 recovery was almost despaired of, her son 70.

Aristobulus went out from Jerusalem by night,  
 3 attended by his servant: and he departed to Ga-  
 batha<sup>b</sup>, to a certain chief man among the Saddu-  
 4 cees, one of his friends; and taking him with  
 him, he proceeded to the cities where the Saddu-  
 cees dwelt; and opened to them his purpose, and  
 exhorted them to go out with him, and to be his  
 allies in war against his brother and the Phari-  
 5 sees, and to appoint him king. To whom they  
 assenting<sup>c</sup>, openly played false with Alexandra,  
 collecting men from every quarter to join Aristobulus.

6 When the fame of these things reached Hyrcanus  
 the son of Alexandra, the high priest, and the  
 elders of the Pharisees, they went to Alexandra,  
 sick as she was, and related the matter to her;  
 7 pressing on her the great fear which they had for  
 her and her son Hyrcanus, from Aristobulus and  
 8 those who were with him. To whom she answered;  
 “ I truly am near death, so that it is  
 “ more proper and profitable for me to attend to  
 “ my own affairs; what therefore can I do, being

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIII. 24. Bell. I. 4.

<sup>b</sup> Josephus says, *Agaba*; and that the name of his friend was Galcestes.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus states, that his proposal was so well received, that within fifteen days he gained over to his cause two and twenty towns.

“ situated thus? But my men, and my goods, and 9  
 “ my arms, are with you and in your hands ;  
 “ therefore order the business as it seemeth to  
 “ you right, imploring the aid of God upon your  
 “ matters, and asking deliverance from Him.”  
 Then she died. The amount of her age was se- 10  
 venty-three years ; and the time of her reign nine  
 years.

CHAPTER XXXIV.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of Aristobulus' attack on his brother Hyrcanus, after Alexandra's death.*

WHEN Aristobulus departed from Jerusalem in 1  
 B.C. the days of Alexandra, he left his wife and  
 67. children in Jerusalem. But when the news 2  
 of his departure reached Alexandra, she confined  
 them in a certain house, setting a guard over  
 them. But when Alexandra was dead, Hyrcanus 3  
 called them to him, and behaved kindly to them,  
 and took care of them ; that they might deliver  
 him from his brother, if haply he should conquer  
 him. Then Aristobulus led out a great army as 4  
 far as to Jordan ; and Hyrcanus went out against  
 him with an army of Pharisees. And when the 5  
 two armies had encountered, great numbers of  
 Hyrcanus' army were slain ; and Hyrcanus, and  
 the remainder of his army, took to flight. Whom 6  
 Aristobulus and his troops pursuing, slew every  
 one whom they caught, excepting those who sur-  
 rendered themselves. Then Hyrcanus retreated 7  
 into the Holy City ; whither also arrived Aristo-  
 bulus and his army ; and he surrounded it on  
 every side with his tents, and attempted by stra-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIV. 1. Bell. I. 4.

8 tagem to destroy the fortification. And the elders  
of Judah, and the elders of the priests, went out  
to him, and forbade his doing what he had de-  
signed; requesting him to dismiss from his mind  
whatever hostile feeling he had towards his bro-  
9 ther: to which proposal he assented. Then it  
was agreed between them that Aristobulus should  
be king over Judah, and Hyrcanus should be high  
priest<sup>b</sup> in the house of God, and next to the king  
10 *in dignity*. And Aristobulus assented to these  
terms, and entered the city, and had an interview  
with his brother in the house of God; and they  
took an oath together to ratify those terms which  
11 the elders had mutually agreed on. So Aristo-  
bulus was made king, and Hyrcanus was ranked  
12 next unto him. And men were at peace, and the  
affairs of these two brothers were rightly ordered,  
and the state of their people and of their country  
became one of tranquillity.

#### CHAPTER XXXV.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of Antipater, (that is, Herod the king,) and  
of the seditions and battles which he kindled between  
Hyrcanus and Aristobulus.*

1 **THERE** was a man of the Jews, of the sons<sup>b</sup> of  
certain of those who went up out of Babylon with

<sup>b</sup> It is observable, that Josephus takes no notice of this circumstance; but states, that Hyrcanus consented to live *entirely* as a private person.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIV. 2, 3. Bell. I. 5.

<sup>b</sup> See Josephus on this point: also Abp. Ussher's

observation at the year B. C. 72, in his "Annals." In truth, the Jews could never bring themselves to regard Herod as one of their own blood and brethren, notwithstanding all his acts of munificence and public splendour.

Ezra the priest, *named* Antipater. And he was 2 wise, prudent, acute, brave, and high-minded, of a good disposition, kind, and courteous; also rich, and possessing many houses, goods, and flocks.

This man king Alexander had made governor 3 of the country of the Idumæans, from whence he had taken a wife; by whom he had four sons, namely, Phaselus, Herod, who reigned over Judah, Pheroras, and Josephus. Afterwards, being 4 removed from the mountains of Sarah<sup>c</sup>, that is, the country of the Idumæans, in the days of Alexander, he dwelt in the city of the Holy House: and 5 Hyrcanus loved him, and was much inclined towards him: wherefore Aristobulus sought to kill him; which, however, he did not accomplish.

So Antipater was excessively afraid of Aristobulus, and for that reason began secretly to plot against Aristobulus' kingdom. He went there- 7 fore to the principal men of the kingdom, and having gotten from them a pledge of secrecy respecting the matters which he was about to communicate, he began to talk to them of the infamous life of Aristobulus, his tyranny, his impiety, and the bloodshed which he had caused, and his usurpation of the throne, of which his elder brother was more worthy. Then he bade them be- 9 ware of the great and good God, unless they took away the tyrant's ruling hand, and restored what was due to their rightful sovereign. Nor was 10 there left a single one of the chief men, whom he did not overreach, and incline to submit to Hyrcanus, seducing them from their obedience to Aris-

<sup>c</sup> See above, ch. x. 1. and the note there.

tobulus, Hyrcanus knowing nothing of the matter: but Antipater ascribed<sup>d</sup> all this to him, being unwilling to tell him before he had established the thing.

12 Therefore, when he had fully settled this business with the people, he went to Hyrcanus, and  
 13 said to him; Truly your brother is greatly afraid of you, because he sees that his estate will be no-  
 wise secure while you are alive; on which account he is seeking about for an opportunity to  
 14 slay you, and will not suffer you to live. But Hyrcanus did not give credence to him, because  
 of the goodness and sincerity of his heart. Wherefore Antipater repeated this discourse to him  
 15 again and again. Also he gave large sums of money to the persons in whom Hyrcanus placed  
 confidence, and agreed with them that they should tell him similar things to what Antipater had  
 16 mentioned; only *taking care* that he should not imagine that they knew that Antipater had been  
 17 speaking to him *on the subject*. So Hyrcanus believed their words; and was induced to devise a  
 plan by which he might be delivered from his brother.

18 When therefore Antipater spoke again to him of the matter, he informed him that the B.C.  
 truth of his words was now manifest to <sup>66.</sup>  
 him, and that he knew that he had advised him well; and he asked his counsel in this affair.  
 19 And Antipater advised him to go out of the city

<sup>d</sup> That is to say, he sounded all these chief men of the kingdom, causing them to believe that it was done with the privity, if not by the express command, of Hyrcanus.

to some one in whom he could confide, and who might be able to aid and assist him. And Antipater went to Hartam<sup>e</sup>, and agreed with him that he should receive Hyrcanus as a guest when he came, since he was rather afraid of dwelling with his brother. At which Hartam rejoiced, and came into the plan, and agreed with Antipater that in no case would he deliver up Hyrcanus and Antipater to their enemies, and that he would assist and protect them. And he returned to Jerusalem, and made known to Hyrcanus what he had done, and *how* he had agreed with Hartam concerning their going to him. Wherefore both of them went out of the city by night, and went to Hartam, and remained with him for some time.

Then Antipater began to persuade Hartam to lead forth an army with Hyrcanus, to reduce and capture his brother Aristobulus. But Hartam declined prosecuting this plan, fearing that he had not strength to resist Aristobulus. But Antipater ceased not to shew him that the business with Aristobulus was easy, and to urge him to it by arguments of the treasure *to be gained*, and by the greatness of glory *which he would acquire*, and the memory *which he would leave behind*

<sup>e</sup> Or Hartas. In this manner is the name spelled throughout; but the person designated is Aretas, king of Arabia Petraea; whose capital city was Petra, once a place of consequence, now an almost unknown heap of wondrous ruins. Its early history is briefly touched by Diodorus Siculus, II. c. 48, and XIX.

c. 95. [See it described, under the name of Wadi-moosa, by the recent travellers, Legh and Burckhardt.] Aretas was afterwards defeated and made prisoner by Pompey. On the name, see note on ch. xxviii. 28.—Plutarch calls him βασιλεὺς τῶν περὶ τὴν Πέτραν Ἀράβων.

27 *him* : until he consented to march ; yet upon con-  
dition that Hyrcanus would restore to him what-  
ever cities and towns<sup>f</sup> belonging to him his father  
28 Alexander had taken away. To which Hyrcanus  
agreeing and completing the treaty, Hartam  
marched (and Hyrcanus with him) with fifty  
thousand horse and foot soldiers, bending his  
course to the country of Judah : against whom  
29 Aristobulus went forth and engaged them. And  
when the fight had become fierce, many of Aristo-  
30 bulus' army went over to Hyrcanus. Which  
Aristobulus perceiving, sounded a retreat, and re-  
turned to his camp, fearing lest his whole army  
should gradually slip away *to the enemy*, and thus  
31 he himself should be taken prisoner. But when  
night was coming on, Aristobulus departed from  
32 the camp alone, and went to the Holy City. And  
when on break of day his departure became  
known to the army, the greater part of them  
joined themselves to Hyrcanus, and the rest dis-  
33 persed and went their ways. But Hyrcanus,  
Hartam, and Antipater, went straight to the city  
of the Holy House, carrying with them a large  
34 army ; and they found Aristobulus already pre-  
pared for a siege ; for he had closed the gates of  
the city, and had placed men on the ramparts to  
35 defend them. And Hyrcanus and Hartam en-  
camped with their forces against the city, and be-  
sieged it.

<sup>f</sup> Josephus tells us that these were twelve in number, and he recites their names.

CHAPTER XXXVI.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Gneus, general of the army of the Romans.*

Now it happened, that Gneus<sup>b</sup>, general of the 1  
 B. C. army of the Romans, went forth to fight  
 64. with Tyrcanes<sup>c</sup> the Armenian: for the 2  
 citizens of Damascus, and Hames<sup>d</sup>, and Halepum<sup>e</sup>,  
 and the rest of them of Syria who are belonging  
 to the Armenians, had lately rebelled against the  
 Romans: and on that account Gneus had sent 3  
 Scaurus to Damascus and to its territories, to take  
 possession of them; which thing was told to Ari-  
 stobulus and Hyrcanus. Therefore Aristobulus 4  
 sent ambassadors to Scaurus, and much money,  
 requesting him to come to him with an army, and  
 assist him against Hyrcanus. Hyrcanus also sent 5  
 ambassadors to him, requesting his aid against  
 Aristobulus; but he did not send him a present.

But Scaurus refused to go to either of them: 6  
 but he wrote to Hartam, ordering him to retire  
 with his army from the city of the Holy House,  
 and forbade him to give help to Hyrcanus against  
 his brother; and threatened that he would come 7  
 into his country with an army of Romans and  
 Syrians, unless he obeyed. Now when this letter 8  
 had reached Hartam, he immediately retired from  
 the city: Hyrcanus also retreated; whom Aristo- 9

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 4—8. Bell. I. 5.

<sup>b</sup> That is, Cneius Pompeius.

<sup>c</sup> That is, Tigranes, who had been elected king of Syria, after the joint reign of Demetrius III. and Philip, in

preference to any prince of the Syrian line.

<sup>d</sup> Probably Hamath, or E-mesa, a city on the river Orontes.

<sup>e</sup> Aleppo, as above mentioned at ch. xxi. 25.

bulus pursued with a certain number of his troops, and overtook them, and engaged them<sup>f</sup>: and a great number of the Arabians were slain in that battle, and very many of the Jews: and Aristobulus returned into the Holy City.

- 10 In the mean time, Gneus reached Damascus; to whom Aristobulus sent, by the hand of a man named Nicomedes<sup>g</sup>, a garden and vineyard<sup>h</sup> of gold, altogether weighing five hundred talents, with a most rich present; and besought him to  
 11 assist him against Hyrcanus. Hyrcanus also sent  
 12 Antipater to Pompey, with the like request. And Pompey (who is Gneus) was inclined to help Ari-  
 13 stobulus. Which when Antipater saw, he watched an opportunity that he might speak with Pompey  
 14 alone, and said to him: “In truth, that *present*  
 “ which you have received from Aristobulus needs  
 “ not be restored to him, even though you should  
 15 “ not assist him; yet Hyrcanus offers *you* twice  
 “ so much: and Aristobulus will not be able to  
 “ bring the Jews into subjection to you, but this  
 16 “ Hyrcanus will do.” And Pompey supposed the matter to be so as Antipater had said; and rejoiced *to think* that he could bring the Jews under  
 17 his dominion. Wherefore he said to Antipater,  
 “ I will assist your friend against Aristobulus; al-

<sup>f</sup> At a place called Papyro. (Josephus).

<sup>g</sup> Josephus calls him Nicodemus.

<sup>h</sup> Josephus states, that he himself had seen this ornament and read the inscription on it, in the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus at Rome. From this splendid ornament,

or rather, perhaps, from the magnificent vine of gold and jewels with which Herod decorated the outer gate of his newly erected temple, may have sprung the idea which is mentioned by Tacitus, in the fifth book of his History, that the Jews were worshippers of Bacchus.

“ though I may pretend to help him against you,  
“ that he may entrust himself to me. For I am 18  
“ sure, that as soon as he shall find out that I am  
“ giving aid to his brother against him, he will  
“ play false with all his men, and will take care  
“ of himself, and his business will be much longer  
“ delayed. But I will send for him, and will go 19  
“ with him into the Holy City, and then will so  
“ act that your friend shall obtain his right; but  
“ with this condition, that he shall pay us an an-  
“ nual tribute.”

#### THE MESSENGER OF ARISTOBULUS.

After this, having sent for Nicomedes, he said 20  
to him; “ Go to your master, and tell him, that I  
“ have consented to his request; and carry him  
“ my letter, and say to him, that he must come to  
“ me in haste without delay, for I am waiting for  
“ him.” And he wrote a letter to Aristobulus, of 21  
which this is a copy :

“ From Gneus, general of the army of the Ro- 22  
“ mans, to king Aristobulus, heir to the throne  
“ and high-priesthood, health be to you. Your 23  
“ garden and vine of gold have arrived; and I  
“ have received them, and have sent them to the  
“ elder and governors; which they have accepted  
“ and have placed in the temple<sup>i</sup> at Rome, return-  
“ ing you thanks. They have written, moreover, 24  
“ that I should assist you, and appoint you king  
“ over the Jews. If therefore you think fit to 25  
“ come to me with all speed, that I may go up

<sup>i</sup> Namely, of Jupiter Capi- which is related in the note  
tolinus; agreeably to that on verse 10, above.

“ with you to the Holy City, and fulfil your  
 “ wishes, I will do so.”

26 And Nicomedes departed to Aristobulus with the  
 letter of Gneus. And Antipater, returning B.C.  
 to Hyrcanus, told him of the promise of <sup>63.</sup>

27 Gneus, advising him to go to Damascus. So Hyr-  
 canus went to Damascus: Aristobulus went also:  
 and they met at Damascus in the audience-room of  
 Pompey, (that is, Gneus;) and Antipater and the  
 28 elders of the Jews said to Gneus; “ Know, most  
 “ illustrious general, that this Aristobulus has  
 “ been dealing falsely towards us, and has usurped  
 “ by the sword the kingdom of his brother Hyr-  
 “ canus, who is more worthy of it *than he*, seeing  
 “ that he is the elder brother, and of a better and  
 29 “ more correct way of life. And it was not enough  
 “ for him to oppress his brother, but he has op-  
 “ pressed all the nations which are round about  
 “ us; shedding their blood and pillaging their  
 “ goods unjustly, and keeping up enmities be-  
 “ tween us and them, a thing which we abhor.”

30 Then stood up a thousand aged men, attesting the  
 truth of his words.

31 And Aristobulus said, “ Truly this my brother  
 “ is a better man than I; but I did not seek for  
 “ the throne, until I saw that all those who had  
 “ been subject to our father Alexander were deal-  
 “ ing falsely with us after his death, knowing the  
 32 “ inability of my brother. Which when I looked  
 “ into, I perceived that it was my duty to under-  
 “ take the sovereignty, in that I was better *than*  
 “ *he* in matters of war, and by that was better  
 33 “ suited for preserving the monarchy: and I  
 “ went to war with all those who dealt falsely

“ with us, and reduced them to obedience : and  
“ this was the command of our father before his  
“ death.” And he brought forward witnesses 34  
who attested the truth of his words.

After these things Pompey departed from the 35  
city Damascus, journeying to the Holy House.  
But Antipater sent privately to the inhabitants 36  
of the cities which Aristobulus had won, exciting  
them to complain to Gneus, setting forth the  
tyranny which he had exercised over them ;  
which thing they did. And Gneus ordered him 37  
to write them a testimonial of their freedom, and  
*to say* that he would in no wise trouble them  
more ; which truly he did, and the nations were  
released from their obedience to the Jews.

But when Aristobulus saw what Gneus had 38  
done to him, he and his men departed by night  
from Gneus' army without acquainting him with  
it, and went on to the city of the Holy House :  
and Gneus followed him till he came to the city 39  
of the Holy House, around which he encamped.  
But when he beheld the height of the walls, and 40  
the strength of its buildings, and the multitude of  
men who were in it, and the mountains which  
encircled it, he perceived that flattery and cunning  
would be more serviceable against Aristobulus  
than acts of provocation : wherefore he sent am- 41  
bassadors to him, that he should come out to him,  
promising him safe conduct : and Aristobulus  
went out to him ; whom Gneus received kindly,  
not saying a word about his former doings.  
After this Aristobulus said to Gneus, “ I wish 42  
“ that you would aid me against my brother,  
“ giving my enemies no power over me ; and for

“ this you shall have whatsoever you wish.”  
43 Gneus replied, “ If you wish this, bring to me  
“ whatever money and precious stones are in the  
“ temple, and I will put you in possession of  
“ what you wish.” And Aristobulus said to him,  
44 “ Undoubtedly this I will do.” And Gneus sent  
a captain named Gabinius<sup>j</sup> with a great number  
of men, to receive whatever of gold and jewels  
45 there was in the temple. But the citizens and  
the priests refused to permit this : wherefore they  
resisted Gabinius, killing many of his men and of  
46 his friends, and drove him out of the city. Upon  
which, Gneus, being wrath with Aristobulus,  
threw him into prison.  
47 Then he marched with his army, to force his  
way into the city and enter it. But a great body  
of the citizens going forth, hindered him from  
doing this, by slaying great numbers of his men.  
48 And in truth, the numbers, the spirit, and the  
bravery of the nation, which he had seen, fright-  
ened him ; so that, being alarmed at these, he  
had resolved to retire from them, had not mis-  
chievous quarrels arisen in the city between the  
49 friends of Aristobulus and the friends of Hyr-  
canus. For some of them wished to open the  
gates to Pompey, but others were averse to this.  
Wherefore they came to blows on this account ;

<sup>j</sup> Aulus Gabinius attained the dignity of consul : being a friend of Pompey, he was employed in Judæa : for the act of replacing Ptolemy on the throne of Egypt, as related below at ch. xl. 15—20, he was accused at Rome, and at Pompey’s request was

publicly defended by Cicero. That oration is not now extant ; but we are made acquainted with the circumstance by what is said in the oration for Rabirius Posthumus, which in fact is a sort of second part of the same cause or trial.

and as this state of things increased *rather than diminished*, the war continued. Which Pompey 50 noticing, beset with his army the gate of the city: and as some of the people opened a wicket to him, he entered<sup>k</sup>, and took possession of the king's palace; but could not gain the temple, because the priests had closed the doors, and had secured the approaches by *armed* men. Against 51 these he sent men to attack them from every side, and they put them to flight. And his friends coming to the temple, mounted the wall and descended into it, and opened its gates, after slaying a multitude of priests. Then Gneus came, and 52 entered into it<sup>l</sup>, and greatly admired its beauty and magnificence which he beheld, and was astonished when he saw its riches and the precious stones which were in it: and he forebore to take 53 any thing out of it<sup>m</sup>; and he commanded the

<sup>k</sup> The historian Appian states, that Pompey not only captured, but also *destroyed* Jerusalem: he uses the strong expression *κατέσκαψεν*, *he rased it to its foundations*: but the incorrectness of this is evident. Compare the following note.

<sup>l</sup> Josephus speaks feelingly on this profanation: but he gives Pompey due credit for the forbearance which he shewed, amidst so great temptation to plunder: *οὐδένοσ ἤψατο δι' εὐσεβειαν*. We shall see in the next note, that the motives of the Roman general were not rated *quite so high* by one of *his own* countrymen. However, we may hence correct the statements

of the later historians, as Dio Cassius, who asserts that on the capture of the temple a general plunder took place, *πάντα τὰ χρήματα διεπράσθη*.

<sup>m</sup> It is remarked, that Cicero has praised Pompey for thus respecting the temple and its contents: "At Cneius Pompeius, captis Hierosolymis victor ex illo fano nihil attigit. In primis hoc, ut multa alia, sapienter, quod in tam suspiciosa ac maledica civitate locum sermoni obtrectatorum non reliquerit. Non enim, credo, religionem, et Judæorum et hostium, impedimento præstantissimo Imperatori, sed pudorem, fuisse." Orat. pro L.

priests to cleanse the house from the slain, and to offer sacrifices according to the ceremonies of their country.

### CHAPTER XXXVII.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of the appointment of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander to be king of the Jews, and of the return to Rome of the general of the Roman army.*

1 HAVING arranged these matters, Pompey appointed Hyrcanus to be king<sup>b</sup>; and carried away  
2 his brother Aristobulus in chains: he also ordered that the Jews should have no dominion<sup>c</sup> over those *nations* who had been subdued by their  
3 kings before his arrival; and he exacted a tribute from the city of the Holy House; and covenanted  
4 from the Romans every year. And he departed<sup>d</sup>, taking with him Aristobulus, and two of his sons, and his daughters: and he had a son remaining, named Alexander, whom Pompey could not seize,

Flacco, cap. 28. For my part, I doubt whether this be *praise*: as the orator openly attributes the act, not to principle, but to policy; not to any sense of religion, but solely to motives of private and personal interest.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 8. Bell. I. 5.

<sup>b</sup> Josephus only states that he appointed him high priest. In point of fact, the whole power was really lodged in the Roman governor of Cœlo-Syria, Scaurus.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus eloquently laments the evils which the un-

happy quarrels of Aristobulus and Hyrcanus had brought and fixed upon their country: its labours wasted—its bounds curtailed—its power diminished—its treasures spoiled—its glory sunk—its sanctuary profaned—its liberty taken away—and itself reduced to the sad condition of a Roman province!

<sup>d</sup> See a summary of the proceedings of Pompey at Jerusalem, as detailed by various heathen (not Jewish) authors, given in Ussher's Annals, at the year B. C. 63.

because he had fled. So Pompey placed in his 5 room in the city of the Holy House, Hyrcanus, and Antipater, and with them his own colleague Scaurus.

### CHAPTER XXXVIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Alexander the son of Aristobulus.*

WHEN Pompey had set out for Rome, Hyrcanus and Antipater marched against the 1  
B. C. 62. Arabians, to bring them under the domination of the Romans. To which the Arabians 2 submitted, trusting to their intimacy with Antipater, and paying great regard to his advice; by which acts Antipater designed to reconcile the Romans to him.

Therefore when Alexander the son of Aristobulus perceived the expedition of Hyrcanus, Antipater, and Scaurus, against the 3  
B. C. 58. Arabians, and that they had departed to a great distance from the Holy City; he journeyed till he 4 arrived there; and entering into the palace, he brought out thence money for the expence of repairing the city-wall which Pompey had broken down. And he raised for himself an army, and 5 arranged all those matters which he wished, before Hyrcanus and his party should return to the city of the Holy House: and when they returned, 6 he went out to meet them, and engaged them, and put them to flight.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 9, 10. Bell. I. 6.

CHAPTER XXXIX.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Gabinius and of Alexander the son of Aristobulus.*

- 1 Now Gabinius<sup>b</sup> had gone out from Rome, to dwell in the land of Syria, to take care of B.C.  
 2 it; and it was told him what Alexander 57.  
 the son of Aristobulus had done, by building up that which Pompey had pulled down, and by opposing his successor, and slaying his friends.  
 3 Wherefore he went straight until he came to Jerusalem; and Hyrcanus and his party joined him.  
 4 Against whom Alexander went out with ten thousand foot and fifteen hundred horse, and encountered them: and they routed him, and slew a certain number of his friends; and he fled into a certain city in the land of Judah, called Alexandrium<sup>c</sup>, in which he fortified himself with his  
 6 company. And Hyrcanus, and Gabinius, and their forces, marched against him and besieged  
 7 him. And Alexander went out against them, and engaged them, and slew great numbers of  
 8 their men. And Marcus<sup>d</sup>, who is called Antonius, marched against him, and forced him to flee *again* into Alexandrium.  
 9 And Alexander's mother went out to Gabinius, deprecating *his anger*, and imploring him to grant  
 10 her son Alexander his life: to whom Gabinius as-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Ant. XIV. 10. Bell. I. 6.

<sup>b</sup> He was appointed governor of Syria by the Romans.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus describes this as an elegant fortress built

on the summit of a steep hill, near to Coreæ, on the northern border of Judæa. (Antiq. XIV. 6.)

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Mark Antony, the celebrated triumvir.

sented in this point; and Alexander went out to him; and Gabinius put him to death<sup>e</sup>; and thought proper to divide the territories of Judah into five portions. One is, the country of Jerusalem and the parts adjacent; and over this part Hyrcanus was made governor. Another portion is Gadira<sup>f</sup>, and the places about it. The third is, Jericho and the plains. The fourth is, Hamath<sup>g</sup> in the land of Judah. And the fifth is, Sephoris<sup>h</sup>. By these means he intended to remove wars and seditions out of the land of Judah; but they were by no means removed.

CHAPTER XL.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the flight of Aristobulus and his son Antigonus from Rome, and their return into the land of Judah: also, an account of the death of Aristobulus.*

THEN Aristobulus devised plans, till he had succeeded in escaping from Rome with his son Antigonus, and had arrived in the city of Judah. And when Aristobulus shewed himself in public, a great multitude of men flocked round him; out of whom he selected eight thousand, and marched against Gabinius, and engaged him; and there were slain of the Roman army a very great number: there fell also of his own men seven thou-

<sup>e</sup> Josephus, at this part of the history, takes no notice of Gabinius putting Alexander to death: and, some chapters later, alludes to the fact of his having been slain by order of Scipio.

<sup>f</sup> Or Gadara, a strong town on the eastern side of Jordan, the capital of Peræa.

<sup>g</sup> That is, Amathus, a city

on the eastern side of Jordan. (Josephus.)

<sup>h</sup> A large and considerable city, which for some time was considered the capital of Galilee, erected (says Josephus) in a position naturally very strong.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 11. Bell. I. 6, 7.

sand, but one thousand escaped ; and the enemy's army pursued him ; but he and they who were left to him ceased not to resist even till the total  
 4 destruction of his men ; nor was there one left but he alone ; and he fought most furiously until he fell overpowered by wounds, and was taken and led to Gabinius ; who ordered him to be taken  
 5 care of until he was healed. Then he sent him in chains to Rome.

[And he remained shut up in prison until the reign of Cæsar ; who brought <sup>b</sup> him out of prison,  
 6 and loaded him with gifts and favours ; and giving to him two generals and twelve thousand men, sent him into the land of Judah, [B. C. 49.] to detach the Jews from Pompey's party, and bring them over to obey Cæsar : for Pompey at that time was governor of the land of Egypt.

7 And the report of Aristobulus and his party reached Hyrcanus ; who was greatly afraid, and wrote to Antipater to avert his power from him  
 8 by his customary devices. So Antipater sent some of the chief men of Jerusalem, giving to one of them poison, charging him to administer it  
 9 craftily to Aristobulus. And they met him in the land of Syria, as though they were ambassadors to him from the Holy City : and he received them joyfully, and they did eat and drink with  
 10 him. And those men laid plots till they gave him the poison ; and he died, and was buried in  
 11 the land of Syria. Now the time of his reign <sup>c</sup>, until he was taken prisoner the first time, was

<sup>b</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 13.

<sup>c</sup> Compare Josephus : and

see Ussher's remark on the passage, in his Annals.

three years and a half; and he was a man of courage, weight, and excellent disposition.]

Now Gabinius had written to the senate, to 12 send away his two sons to their mother, since she had requested it; which they did. But it came 13 to pass, that when Pompey had departed to a great distance from Jerusalem, they broke their engagement of obedience to the Romans: where- 14 fore Gabinius went against them, encountered them, and conquered them, and reduced them again to submission to the Romans.

In the mean time the land of Egypt rebelled 15  
 B. C. against Ptolemy<sup>d</sup>, and expelled him from  
 55. his royal city, refusing to pay tribute to the Romans. Whereupon Ptolemy wrote to Gabi- 16 nius that he should come and help him against the Egyptians, that he might bring them again into subjection to the Romans. And Gabinius march- 17 ed out of the country of Syria; and wrote to Hyrcanus to meet him with an army, that they might go to Ptolemy. And Antipater went with a large 18 army to Gabinius, and met him at Damascus, congratulating with him on the victory which he had gained over the Persians<sup>e</sup>: and Gabinius ordered 19 him to hasten to Ptolemy, which he did, and fought against the Egyptians, and slew of them a very great number. Afterwards Gabinius com- 20 ing up, replaced Ptolemy on his throne, and went back to the Holy City, and renewed Hyrcanus' sovereignty, and returned to Rome.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Ptolemy, sur- be their king.  
 named Dionysius Novus. In  
 opposition to him the Egyp-  
 tians had chosen Archelaus to

<sup>e</sup> That is, *Parthians*, as be- fore.

CHAPTER XLI.<sup>a</sup>*The history of Crassus.*

1 WHEN Gabinius had returned to Rome, the  
 2 Persians<sup>b</sup> played false to the Romans; and B. C.  
 Crassus<sup>c</sup> marched with a large army into 54.  
 Syria, and came to Jerusalem, requiring of the  
 priests that they should deliver to him whatever  
 3 money there was in the house of God. To whom  
 they made answer, how will this be lawful for  
 you, when Pompey, Gabinius, and others have  
 deemed it unlawful? But he answered, I must  
 4 do it at all events. And Eleazar the priest said  
 to him, Swear to me that you will not lay your  
 hand upon any thing which belongs to it, and I  
 5 will give you three hundred minæ of gold. And  
 he sware to him that he would take nothing from  
 the treasure of the house of God, if he would deli-  
 6 ver to him what he had mentioned. And Eleazar  
 gave him a bar of wrought gold, the upper part of  
 which had been inserted into the wall of the trea-  
 sury of the temple, upon which were placed every  
 year the old veils of the house, new ones being  
 7 substituted for them. And the bar weighed three  
 hundred minæ<sup>d</sup> of gold, and it was covered with

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 12.

<sup>b</sup> *Parthians*, as before.

<sup>c</sup> Marcus Licinius Crassus, whose history and fame are well known, after having served under Sylla, and obtained great glory by his timely defeat of Spartacus and the revolted slaves, became consul, censor, triumvir with Cæsar and Pompey, and

thus governor of the province of Syria. His subsequent attempts against the Parthians, his defeat and death, are recorded by Plutarch and other writers.

<sup>d</sup> Josephus states here, "the minæ with us weighs two pounds and a half:" from whence the immense value of this bar may be understood.

the veils which were accumulated during a long course of years, being known to no one besides Eleazar. Crassus then, having received this bar, 8 broke his word, going back from the agreement made with Eleazar; and he took all the treasures of the temple, and plundered whatever money was therein, to the amount of two thousand talents: for this money had been accumulating from the 9 building of the temple until that time, out of the spoils of the kings of Judah and their offerings, and also from the presents which the kings of the Gentiles<sup>e</sup> had sent; and they were multiplied and 10 increased in the lapse of years; all which he took. Then that *vile* Crassus went off with the mo- 11 ney and his army into the country of the Persians; and they defeated him<sup>f</sup> and his army in battle, slaying them in a single day: and the Per- 12 sian army took as spoil every thing which was in the camp of Crassus.

After this feat, they marched into the country of 13  
 B. C. Syria, which they won, and detached from  
 53. its submission to the Romans. Which the 14  
 Romans learning, sent a renowned general named Cassius<sup>g</sup> with a great army: who, arriving in the country of Syria, drove out those of the Persians who were in it. Then proceeding to the Holy City, 15 he delivered Hyrcanus from the war which the Jews were waging against him, reconciling the parties. Afterwards, passing the Euphrates<sup>h</sup>, he fought 16

<sup>e</sup> See above, ch. I. 1.

<sup>f</sup> For the miserable end of this expedition against the Parthians, which cost the life of Crassus, and the destruction of his whole army, see the Roman historians.

<sup>g</sup> He was first treasurer to Crassus; after whose death he was made governor of Syria. Subsequently he became conspicuous as one of the murderers of Julius Cæsar.

<sup>h</sup> Ussher remarks, that

with the Persians, and brought them back to their  
 17 subjection to the Romans: he also reduced to  
 submission the two and twenty kings<sup>i</sup> whom  
 Pompey had subdued; and reduced under obe-  
 dience to the Romans every thing in the countries  
 of the east.

CHAPTER XLII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Cæsar, king of the Romans.*

- 1 It is reported that there was at Rome a certain  
 woman who was pregnant, who, being near B. C.  
 to her delivery, and racked with most vio- 52.  
 2 lent pains of childbirth, died: but as the child was  
 in motion, the belly of the mother was opened, and  
 it was brought forth thence and lived, and grew, and  
 was named Julius, because he was born in the fifth  
 3 month; and was called Cæsar<sup>h</sup>, because the belly  
 of his mother, from whence he was extracted, was  
 4 ripped open. (Lat. *cæsa*.) But when the elder  
*of Rome* sent Pompey into the east, he likewise  
 sent Cæsar into the west, to subdue certain na-  
 5 tions which had revolted from the Romans. And  
 Cæsar went, and conquered them, and reduced  
 them to obedience to the Romans, and returned to

there is a mistake in this as-  
 sertion: as the Roman histo-  
 rians mention indeed the suc-  
 cesses of Cassius against the  
 Parthians *in Syria*, but say  
 not a word of his having pur-  
 sued them back into their  
 own country.

<sup>i</sup> The historian Orosius,  
 after reciting Pompey's ex-  
 ploits in Asia, states; "Hoc  
 "bellum orientis cum viginti  
 "et duobus regibus sese ges-

"sisse ipse Pompeius pro  
 "concione narravit." Histor.  
 VI. c. 6.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq.  
 XIV. 14, 15. Bell. I. 7.

<sup>b</sup> On this point, which has  
 been contested, see Suidas,  
 in voce *Ἰούλιος*; and for the  
 various accounts given of the  
 name, consult Hoffmann's  
 lexicon, and the authors there  
 cited.

Rome with great glory: and his fame increased, 6  
 and his affairs became much renowned, and exces-  
 sive pride took hold on him; wherefore he re-  
 quested the Romans to name him king. But the 7  
 elder and governors answered him, "Truly our  
 " fathers took an oath in the days of Tarquin the  
 " king,—who had taken by force another man's  
 " wife, who laid hands on herself that he might  
 " not enjoy her,—that they would not give the 8  
 " title of king to any of those who should be  
 " placed at the head of their affairs; on account  
 " of which oath (*said they*) we are not able to gra-  
 " tify you in this particular." Wherefore he 9  
 stirred up seditions, and waged furious battles at  
 Rome, slaying many people, until he seized on  
 the throne of the Romans, and entitled himself  
 king, putting a diadem on his head. From thence- 10  
 forth they were called kings of the Romans, from  
 their kingdom: they were also called Cæsars.

When therefore Pompey heard this news of Cæ- 11  
 sar, and that he had slain the three hundred  
 B. C. 49. and twenty<sup>c</sup> governors, he collected his  
 armies and marched into Cappadocia: and Cæsar 12  
 going to meet him engaged him, conquered<sup>d</sup> and  
 slew him, and gained possession of the whole terri-  
 tory of the Romans. After this, Cæsar went into the 13  
 province of Syria; whom Mithridates<sup>e</sup> the Arme-  
 nian met with his army, assuring him that he was  
 come with peaceful designs, and was ready to at-

<sup>c</sup> See above, 2 Macc. viii. 15; also 5 Macc. xii. and xiii.

<sup>d</sup> At the battle of Pharsalia. Shortly afterwards Pompey was treacherously mur-

dered on the coast of Egypt, whither he was fleeing for succour.

<sup>e</sup> Namely, king of Pergamus; not one of the kings of Parthia.

- tack whatsoever enemies he should command.
- 14 *Cæsar* ordered him to depart into Egypt; and Mithridates marched till he came to Ascalon.
- 15 Now Hyrcanus feared *Cæsar* very much, because his submission to Pompey, whom *Cæsar* had
- 16 slain, was known. Wherefore he despatch-<sup>B. C. 48.</sup> ed hastily Antipater with a brave army to assist Mithridates: and Antipater marched to him, and aided him against a certain one of the cities of
- 17 Egypt<sup>f</sup>, and they took it. But as they departed thence, they found an army of the Jews who dwelled in Egypt, making a stand at the entrance, to prevent Mithridates from entering Egypt.
- 18 And Antipater produced to them a letter from Hyrcanus, commanding them to desist, and not oppose Mithridates, the friend of *Cæsar*. And
- 19 they forbore. But the *others* marched till they came to the city of the then reigning king; who came out to them with all the armies of the Egyptians, and when they engaged with him, he con-
- 20 quered and routed them; and Mithridates turned his back and fled; whom, when he was surrounded by the Egyptian troops, Antipater saved
- 21 from death: and Antipater and his men ceased not to resist the Egyptians in battle, whom he routed and conquered, and won the whole country of Egypt.
- 22 And Mithridates wrote to *Cæsar*, shewing him what Antipater had done, and what battles he had endured, and what wounds he had received;
- 23 and that the winning *of the country* was to be ascribed not to him but to Antipater, and that

<sup>f</sup> Namely, Pelusium.

<sup>g</sup> Namely Ptolemy Diony-

sus II, together with Cleopatra.

he had reduced the Egyptians to obedience unto Cæsar. And when Cæsar had read the letter of 24 Mithridates, he commended Antipater for his exploits, and resolved to advance and exalt him. After these acts, Mithridates and Antipater went 25 to Cæsar, who then was at Damascus; and he obtained from Cæsar whatsoever he liked, and he promised him whatever he wished for.

### CHAPTER XLIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of the coming of Antigonus the son of Aristobulus unto Cæsar, complaining of Antipater who had caused his father's death.*

BUT Antigonus the son of Aristobulus came to 1  
 B.C. Cæsar, and related to him the expedition  
 47. of Aristobulus his father to attack Pompey, and how obedient and obsequious he was to him. Then he told him that Hyrcanus and An- 2  
 tipater had secretly sent a man to his father to destroy him by poison<sup>b</sup>, intending (*said he*) to assist Pompey against your friends.

Cæsar therefore sent to Antipater, and ques- 3  
 tioned him on this matter; to whom Antipater replied; “Certainly I did obey Pompey, because 4  
 “then he was the ruling person, and conferred  
 “benefits on me; but I did not now fight with  
 “the Egyptians for the sake of Pompey, who is  
 “already dead; nor did I go through difficulties 5  
 “in defeating them and reducing them to obedi-  
 “ence to Pompey; but I did this out of duty to  
 “Cæsar, and that I might reduce them to obedi-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. is stated above, at chap. xl. XIV. 15. Bell. I. 8. 7—10.

<sup>b</sup> According to that which

- 6 “ence to him.” Then Antipater uncovered his head and his hands, and said; “These wounds, which are on my head and body, testify that my affection and obedience to Cæsar are greater than my affection and obedience to Pompey;
- 7 “for I did not expose myself in the days of Pompey, to the things to which I have exposed myself in the days of king Cæsar.” And Cæsar said to him, “Peace be to thee, and to all thy friends, O bravest of the Jews: for thou hast truly shewn this fortitude, magnanimity, obedience, and affection towards us.”
- 9 And from that time Cæsar increased in affection towards Antipater, and advanced him above all his friends, and promoted him to be general of his armies, and took him with him into the country of the Persians: and he saw from his bravery and his successful exploits, that he more *and more* excited in him a longing and affection for him:
- 10 at length he brought him back into the land of Judah, covered with honours and crowned with a post of authority<sup>c</sup>.
- 12 And Cæsar marched to Rome, having settled the affairs of Hyrcanus<sup>d</sup>; who built the walls of the Holy City, and conducted himself towards the people in a most excellent manner: for he was a good man, endued with virtues, of irreproachable life, but his inability in wars was notorious to all men.

<sup>c</sup> It appears that Cæsar confirmed Hyrcanus in the high-priesthood; but committed *really* the chief civil power to the hands of Antipater, creating him procurator or governor of Judæa.

<sup>d</sup> Cæsar ordained that Hyrcanus and his descendants should perpetually retain the principality (*ἐθναρχία*) and high-priesthood of the Jews, according to the ancient usage of the country.

CHAPTER XLIV.<sup>a</sup>

*The account of the embassy of Hyrcanus to Cæsar, asking for a renewal of the treaty between them; and of the copy of the treaty which Hyrcanus sent to him.*

THEREFORE Hyrcanus sent ambassadors to 1  
 B. C. Cæsar, with a letter concerning a renewal  
 47—45. of the treaty which was between him and  
 the Romans. And when Hyrcanus' ambassadors 2  
 came to Cæsar, he ordered them to be seated in  
 his presence; *in honour* which he had not con-  
 ferred on any one of the ambassadors of the kings  
 who used to come to him.

Moreover he acted kindly to them, by expe- 3  
 diting their business, and ordered an answer to  
 be given to Hyrcanus' letter; to whom also he  
 wrote the treaty, of which the following is a  
 copy.

“ From Cæsar, king of kings, to the princes of 4  
 “ the Romans who are at Tyre and Sidon, peace  
 “ be with you. I give you to know, that a letter 5  
 “ of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander, both kings  
 “ of the Jews, has been brought to me; at the 6  
 “ arrival of which I rejoiced, by reason of the  
 “ continued good-will which both he and his peo-

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 16, 17. Josephus, here enumerating the various ordinances, decrees, &c. of the Romans in favour of the Jews, begins by reciting a decree of the senate, differing in almost every particular from this letter of Cæsar. As he states that this transaction took place in the ninth year of Hyrcanus' sovereignty, we

ought to assign to it the year 54: but it is clear that the embassy mentioned in the text was subsequent to Cæsar's arrangements in favour of Hyrcanus, related in the preceding chapter. In fact, the letter inserted, as in this passage, by Josephus, belongs to the transactions related in ch. xxii. of this our book.

“ ple declare that they have towards me and the  
 7 “ Roman nation. And verily the truth of his  
 “ words I have proved by this ; that he formerly  
 “ sent <sup>b</sup> Antipater a captain of the Jews, and their  
 “ cavalry, with Mithridates my friend, whom the  
 8 “ troops of Egypt attacked ; and he saved Mithri-  
 “ dates from death, having won for us the coun-  
 “ try of Egypt, and reduced the Egyptians to  
 “ obedience to the Romans : he also marched with  
 “ me into the country of the Persians, serving as  
 9 “ a volunteer. And therefore I order that all the  
 “ inhabitants of the sea-coast, from Gaza as far as  
 “ Sidon, shall pay all the tributes which they owe  
 “ us, every year, to the house of the great God  
 10 “ which is in Jerusalem ; except the citizens of  
 “ Sidon ; and let these pay to it, according to the  
 “ appointment of their tribute, twenty thousand  
 “ five hundred and fifty *vibæ*<sup>c</sup> of wheat every  
 11 “ year. I also order, that Laodicea and its pos-  
 “ sessions, and all things which were in the hand  
 “ of the kings of Judah, even to the bank of the  
 12 “ Euphrates ; with all those *places* which the As-  
 “ monæans<sup>d</sup> won from the passing over Jordan,—  
 “ be restored to Hyrcanus the son of Alexander

<sup>b</sup> See these transactions related above, at ch. xlii. 15—23.

<sup>c</sup> The word which the Latin translator has rendered *viba*, is stated by Meninski to signify a measure containing twenty-two or twenty-four Roman modii. The modius, though familiarly translated a *bushel*, is generally understood to have been equal to one peck and a half of Eng-

lish measure. But Josephus, reciting the same decree, states the appointed quantity to be twenty-six thousand and seventy-five *modii*. [There appears to be a various reading, twenty thousand six hundred and seventy-five.] See edit. Haverk. Ant. XIV. c. 10. §. 6.

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Judas Maccabæus and his successors. For the origin of the name, see the note on book II. ch. ii. 1.

“ king of Judah. For all these things his fathers 13  
 “ had won by their sword, but Pompey had un-  
 “ justly taken them away<sup>e</sup> in the time of Aristo-  
 “ bulus : and from this time and for the future 14  
 “ let them belong to Hyrcanus, and to the suc-  
 “ ceeding kings of Judah. And this treaty is for 15  
 “ me, and for every one of the kings of Rome my  
 “ successors : whoever therefore shall break it or  
 “ any part of it, may God destroy him by the  
 “ sword, and may his house and his government  
 “ be made desolate and be cut down ! And when 16  
 “ you shall read this my epistle, write it in let-  
 “ ters<sup>f</sup> engraved on tables of brass, in the lan-  
 “ guage of the Romans and in their characters,  
 “ and in the language of the Greeks and in their  
 “ characters : and place the tables in conspicuous 17  
 “ parts of the temples which are at Tyre and Si-  
 “ don ; that every person may be able to see them,  
 “ and may understand what I have appointed for  
 “ Hyrcanus and the Jews.”

#### CHAPTER XLV.<sup>a</sup>

##### *The history of Cæsar's death.*

THERE were with Cæsar two of Pompey's 1  
 B.C. friends ; of whom the one was called Cas-  
 44. sius, and the other Brutus ; who laid a  
 plot to kill Cæsar. For which purpose they con- 2  
 cealed themselves in the temple<sup>b</sup> at Rome which

<sup>e</sup> See above, ch. xxxvii. 2.

<sup>f</sup> Josephus recites this order, but in another place ; namely, as given by Antony (for Augustus and himself) after Julius Cæsar's death.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq.

XIV. 17, 18. Bell. I. 9.

<sup>b</sup> It is known, from the Roman historians, that it was in no temple, but in the senate-house, that Cæsar met his death.

3 he had set apart for himself to pray in. To which therefore when he came, careless, safe, and taking no sort of heed to himself, they rushed upon him, 4 and killed him. And Cassius got possession of the throne<sup>c</sup>, and gathered a large army, and transported it beyond the sea; fearing Cæsar's party if he should continue to reside at Rome.

5 And he marched into the land of Asia, and wasted it: from thence he went into the <sup>B. C.</sup> 6 country of Judah: and Antipater wished <sup>43.</sup> to attack him; but seeing that his strength was not equal to the task, he made peace with him. 7 And Cassius laid a tribute of seven hundred talents of gold<sup>d</sup> on the land of Judah; and Antipater bound himself as surety for the money; and 8 charged his son Herod to raise it on the country of Judah, and to carry it to Cassius: who receiving it marched into the country of Macedonia, and there remained through fear of the Romans.

#### CHAPTER XLVI.<sup>a</sup>

##### *The history of the death of Antipater.*

1 Now the princes of Judah had taken counsel to slay Antipater; and for that purpose had secretly set upon him a man who was called Malchiah. And Malchiah made the attempt, but its 2 execution was delayed for a long time. And the report of it reached Antipater, who sought out 3 Malchiah to kill him: but Malchiah cleared himself in the sight of Antipater of the things whereof

<sup>c</sup> This and similar misstatements must be corrected from the Roman historians.

<sup>d</sup> Josephus says, talents of

*silver*: a much more moderate exaction.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 19. Bell. I. 9.

he had been accused to him ; and sware to him that the report was groundless : and Antipater believed him, putting aside all suspicion from him. But Malchiah, having given a large sum of money 5 to Hyrcanus' cup-bearer, agreed with him to give Antipater poison, while he was on the banqueting couch in the king's presence. And the cup-bearer 6 did this, and king Antipater<sup>b</sup> died on that same day : and the thing was not by the design, nor with the knowledge, of the king. And when An- 7 tipater was dead, Hyrcanus substituted Malchiah in his place.

#### CHAPTER XLVII.<sup>a</sup>

##### *The history of the death of Malchiah.*

Now when Herod the son of Antipater was in- 1  
 B.C. formed that Malchiah had caused his fa-  
 42. ther's death, he thought to rush openly upon Malchiah ; but his brother prevented him from doing this, advising that he should be taken off by stratagem. And Herod went to Cassius, 2 and told him what Malchiah had done : to whom *the other* replied, when I am gone to Tyre, and Hyrcanus is with me, and with him Malchiah, *then* rush on him and kill him.

When therefore Cassius had gone to Tyre, and 3 Hyrcanus had gone to join him, taking Malchiah

<sup>b</sup> I do not remember that this title is given to Antipater in any other passage. Cæsar had made him procurator of Judæa ; but though he really had the supreme power, it does not appear that he ever possessed the throne or the

name of king. It is said also, in the next verse, that " Hyrcanus substituted Malchiah " in his place," evidently implying a subordinate rank.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 19, 20. Bell. I. 9.

with him; and they were standing together in Cassius' presence, at a certain feast to which Cassius had invited them with all his friends: (now Cassius had given orders to his servants to do whatever Herod should order them:) Herod also was standing with his brother amongst the companions of Hyrcanus, and Herod agreed with some of the servants to kill Malchiah, when a signal should be given by a wink of the eye. When therefore Hyrcanus had eaten and drunken with his friends, they went to sleep in the afternoon: and when they had awaked from sleep, Hyrcanus ordered one to prepare a couch for him in the open air, before the entrance of the banqueting room in which they had slept: and he himself sat down, and commanded Malchiah to sit with him: he also ordered Herod and his brother to be seated: and Cassius' servants stood near Hyrcanus; to whom Herod winked against Malchiah, and they immediately rushed on him and slew him<sup>b</sup>: and Hyrcanus was greatly frightened, and fell into a fit of fainting.

11 But when Cassius' attendants had retired, and the slain Malchiah was carried out, Hyrcanus came to himself again, and asked of Herod the 12 cause of Malchiah's death. And Herod answered; "I am wholly ignorant, nor do I know the "cause of the thing." And Hyrcanus held his peace, and never again asked more of the matter.

13 And Cassius marched into Macedonia, to meet Octavian<sup>c</sup> the son of Cæsar's brother, and An-

<sup>b</sup> The circumstances of his death are differently related by Josephus.

<sup>c</sup> Who was afterwards better known by the title of Augustus Cæsar. It is not

tony the general of his army: for they had set out from Rome with a great army in search of Cassius.

### CHAPTER XLVIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Octavian, (the same is Augustus the son of Cæsar's brother,) and of Antony, general of his army, and of Cassius' death.*

WHEN Octavian had marched into Macedonia, 1 Cassius went out to meet him, and engaged with him; and Cassius was put to flight; whom Octavian pursuing, entirely defeated and 2 killed<sup>b</sup>: and Octavian won the kingdom in place of his uncle Cæsar; and he also was surnamed Cæsar, after the name of his uncle.

Now when the death of Cassius became known 3  
 B.C. to Hyrcanus, he sent ambassadors with  
 41. presents, money, and jewels, to Augustus and Antony: and he wrote to him, asking for 4 a renewal of the treaty which had been *entered into* with Cæsar<sup>c</sup>; and that he would order all 5 the captives of Judah who were in his kingdom, and those who had been made captives in the days of Cassius, to be set free; and that he would 6 permit all the Jews who were in the country of the Greeks, and in the land of Asia, to return into the country of Judah, without requiring any 7

true that he was the son of Cæsar's *brother*: but his mother Accia was sister of Julius Cæsar; so that in fact he was a nephew, but by the female side.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq.

XIV. 22, 23. Bell. I. 10.

<sup>b</sup> Namely, at the battle of Philippi, a town of Macedonia, fought in October, B.C. 42.

<sup>c</sup> See above, ch. xliv. 1.

ransom, or redemption, or any obstacle being thrown in the way by any one.

- 8 So when the ambassadors of Hyrcanus came to Augustus, with their letter and presents, he  
 9 honoured the ambassadors, and accepted the presents, and acceded to all things which Hyrcanus had asked; writing to him a letter, of which this is the copy.
- 10 “ From Augustus<sup>d</sup>, king of kings, and Antony  
 “ his colleague, to Hyrcanus king of Judah;  
 11 “ Health be to you. Your letter has even now  
 “ reached us, at which we rejoiced; and we have  
 “ sent that which you wished, respecting the  
 “ renewal of the treaty, and the writing, to all  
 “ our provinces, which extend from the country  
 12 “ of the Indias even to the western ocean. But  
 “ that which delayed us from sooner writing to  
 “ you concerning the renewal of the treaty was,  
 “ our occupation in subduing Cassius, that filthy<sup>e</sup>  
 13 “ tyrant; who, acting wickedly towards Cæsar,  
 14 “ that luminary of the world, slew him. Where-  
 “ fore we have contended with him with our  
 “ whole strength, until the great and good God  
 “ rendered us victorious, and caused him to fall  
 15 “ into our hands; whom we have put to death<sup>f</sup>.  
 “ We have also slain Brutus his colleague; and

<sup>d</sup> Josephus states all this to have been done by Antony alone, and in his own name, Cæsar having departed into Gaul or Italy immediately after the battle of Philippi.

<sup>e</sup> The Latin version renders the word by “fornicarius,” literally, a *frequentur of brothels*.

<sup>f</sup> It is related by the Ro-

man historians, that neither Cassius nor Brutus fell in battle, nor, strictly speaking, *were put to death* by Octavian: as each of them, feeling that their hopes and prospects were irretrievably destroyed, fell upon his own sword rather than fall into the victor's hands.

“ we have delivered the country of Asia out of  
 “ his hand, after he had laid it waste, and had  
 “ exterminated its inhabitants. Nor did he ad- 16  
 “ here to any engagement ; nor honour any tem-  
 “ ple ; nor do justice to the oppressed ; nor pity  
 “ a Jew, or any *other* of our subjects : but with 17  
 “ his *followers* he wickedly did many evils to all  
 “ men through oppression and tyranny : where- 18  
 “ fore God hath turned their malice *back* on their  
 “ own heads, delivering them up, with those who  
 “ were confederate with them. Rejoice now 19  
 “ therefore, O king Hyrcanus, and other Jews,  
 “ and inhabitants of the Holy Region, and priests  
 “ who are in the temple of Jerusalem : and let 20  
 “ them accept the present which we have sent to  
 “ the most glorious temple, and pray for Augustus  
 “ ever. We have written also to all our pro- 21  
 “ vinces, that there remain in none of them any  
 “ one of the Jews, be it servant or maid, but that  
 “ all should be let go, without price and without  
 “ ransom : and that they should be hindered by 22  
 “ no person *from* returning into the land of  
 “ Judah ; and this by command of Augustus, and  
 “ likewise of Antony his colleague.”

Moreover, he wrote<sup>g</sup> to his friends, who are at 23  
 Tyre and Sidon, and in other places, to restore  
 whatever they had taken out of the land of Judah  
 in the days of that filthy Cassius : and to treat 24  
 the Jews peaceably, and not to oppose them in  
 any thing, and to do for them whatever Cæsar  
 had decreed in his treaty with them.

<sup>g</sup> Josephus, as above, attributes this to Antony, not to  
 Cæsar.

25 Now Antony remained in the country of Syria ;  
 and Cleopatra<sup>h</sup> queen of Egypt came to him,  
 26 whom he took for his wife. She was a wise  
 woman, skilled in magical arts and properties *of*  
*things* : so that she enticed him, and got posses-  
 sion of his heart to that degree that he could deny  
 her nothing.

27 At this same time, a hundred men of the chief  
 of the Jews went to Antony<sup>i</sup>, and complained of  
 Herod and his brother Phaselus the sons of Anti-  
 28 pater, saying ; They have now gotten every thing  
 belonging to Hyrcanus, and there remains to him  
 nothing of the kingdom except the name ; and the  
 concealment of this matter is a proof of the capti-  
 29 vity of their lord. But when Antony had in-  
 quired of Hyrcanus the truth of the things which  
 they had mentioned to him, Hyrcanus declared  
 that they spoke falsely ; clearing Herod and his  
 brother from that which they had laid to their  
 30 charge. And Antony rejoiced at this ; for he  
 was greatly inclined towards them, and loved  
 31 them. Moreover, other persons at another time  
 complained to him of Herod and his brother,  
 32 when he was at Tyre : but he not only refused to  
 entertain their words, but put to death some of  
 33 them, and cast the rest into prison ; and he ad-  
 vanced the dignity of Herod and his brother,  
 doing them services, and sent them back to Jeru-  
 34 salem with great honour. But Antony *himself*,

<sup>h</sup> Namely, the fifth (or sixth) princess of that name, the daughter of Ptolemy Auletes : she was the last of the sovereigns of Egypt, Augustus having reduced that

country to the condition of a Roman province at her death, B.C. 30.

<sup>i</sup> Who at this time was at Daphne, near Antioch in Syria. (Josephus.)

going into the country of the Persians<sup>k</sup>, defeated them, and subdued them, and returned to Rome.

### CHAPTER XLIX.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Antigonus the son of Aristobulus, and of his expedition against his uncle Hyrcanus: and of the succour which was obtained from the king of the Persians.*

WHEN Augustus and Antony had arrived at 1  
 B.C. Rome, Antigonus went to the king of  
 40. the Persians<sup>b</sup>, and promised him a thousand talents of coined gold, and eight hundred<sup>c</sup> virgins of the daughters of Judah and of its princes, beautiful and wise; if he would send 2 with him a general leading a great army against Jerusalem, and would order him to make him king over Judah, and would take prisoner his uncle Hyrcanus, and kill Herod and his brother. To whom *the king* assenting, sent with him a 3 general with a great army: and they marched 4 until they came into the land of Syria; and they slew a friend of Antony and certain Romans who were dwelling there.

From thence they marched against the Holy 5 City; professing security and peace, and that Antigonus had only come to pray in the sanctuary, and *then would* return to his own friends. And 6 they entered the city; into which when they had gotten, they played foul, and began to kill men, and to plunder the city, according to the orders of the king of Persia to them. And Herod and 7

<sup>k</sup> That is, Parthians, as before.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 24, 25. Bell. I. 11.

<sup>b</sup> The Parthians, of whom Orodes was at this time king.

<sup>c</sup> Josephus says, five hundred.

his men ran forward to defend the palace of Hyrcanus: but he sent his brother, and commanded him to guard the way which leads from the walls  
8 to the palace. And when he had possessed himself of each position, he chose out some of his men, and marched against the Persians who were  
9 in the city; and his brother followed with a certain number of his men; and they slew the greater part of the Persians who were in the city, but the rest fled out of the city.

10 And when the general of the Persians saw that things had not gone to his mind, he despatched messengers to Herod and his brother, to treat for  
11 peace; informing them, that now he was satisfied of their valour and bravery, that they ought to be preferred to Antigonus; and that for that reason he would persuade his troops to aid Hyrcanus and  
12 them rather than Antigonus: and this his wish he confirmed by the most solemn oaths, so that Hyrcanus and Phaselus believed him, *but* not Herod.  
13 So Hyrcanus and Phaselus, going out to the general of the Persians, signified to him their reliance on him; and he advised them to go to his col-  
14 league who was at Damascus; and they went. And when they were come to him, he received them honourably, and made a display of holding them in high esteem, and treated them courteously; although he had secretly given orders that they  
15 should be made prisoners. And some of the principal men of the land coming to them, told them of this very design; advising them to flee, with  
16 a promise of aiding their escape. But they did not trust these men, fearing lest it were some plot  
17 against them; wherefore they stayed. And when

night came on, they were seized : Phaselus indeed laid hands on himself ; but Hyrcanus was bound in chains, and by order of the general of the Persians his ear was cut off<sup>d</sup>, that he might never be high priest *again*; and he sent him to Herak<sup>e</sup>, to 18 the king of the Persians ; to whom when he came, *the king* ordered his chains to be struck off, and shewed him kindness ; and he remained in Herak 19 loaded with honours, until Herod demanded him from the king of the Persians : and when he was sent back to Herod, those things befell him<sup>f</sup> which did befall him.

After this, the general went up with Antigonus into the Holy City : and it was told Herod what had been done to Hyrcanus and Phaselus : wherefore taking his mother Cypris, and his wife 21 Mariamne the daughter of Aristobulus, and her mother Alexandra, he sent them with horses and much baggage to Joseph his brother to mount

<sup>d</sup> Josephus adds, that the mutilation of Hyrcanus took place at the suggestion of Antigonus ; and his remark is confirmed by an expression occurring at ch. liv. 9. of this book. We know both the object and the ground of this proceeding, from the following express and repeated command of God : “ And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God. For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall

“ not approach : no man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the Lord made by fire : he hath a blemish ; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.” Lev. xxi. 16. 17. 18. 21.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus does not use this expression ; but merely states, that Hyrcanus was sent into the country of the Parthians. Concerning the meaning of the word Herak, see the note on ch. liv. 1. of this book.

<sup>f</sup> See the sequel of his history below, at ch. liv.

22 Sarah <sup>g</sup> : but himself with an army of a thousand  
 men marched slowly, and waited for those of the  
 23 Persians who might attempt to pursue him. And  
 the general of the Persians pursued him with his  
 army ; whom Herod attacked, and conquered, and  
 24 put to flight. After this, Antigonus' troops also  
 pursued him, and fought with him most fiercely :  
 and these he smote <sup>h</sup>, and slew great numbers of  
 25 them. Then he marched to the mountains of Sa-  
 rah ; and found his brother Josephus, whom he  
 ordered to secure the families in a safe place, and  
 to provide all things which were necessary for  
 26 them : and he gave them abundance of money,  
 that if need were, they might buy themselves pro-  
 visions.

<sup>g</sup> This name has occurred frequently in this book, but I do not find it elsewhere : perhaps it may be derived from that part of ancient Idumæa, which in Scripture is called " the mountains of *Seir*." See above, ch. xxi. 29 ; xxxv. 4. The spot in which Joseph secured the persons entrusted to his charge appears from Josephus (*Ant.* XIV: 24, 26, 27.) to have been the stronghold of Massada. But this creates some difficulty: for, although we know that Massada was a strong position, and was used as a place of defence by Herod, its situation does not well accord with the statement in the text. Massada is said to have been near to Engaddi, which was not far from Jericho ; so that it cannot well be taken for a part of mount Sarah in Idumæa. Consult ch. 26 and

27 of the XIVth book of Josephus' *Antiquities* ; and ch. 11 and 12 of the first book of his *Wars* ; all which passages favour the idea, that Massada was in Idumæa. Salmasius, in his "*Exercitationes Pli-*" "*nianæ ad Solini Polyhistor.*" cap. 35, affords some assistance, by desiring us to remember that the boundary-line between Arabia Petræa (rather Idumæa) and Judæa was not accurately defined ; so that places which by one author are assigned to one country, by a second may be referred to the other. Such may be the case with the town in question.

<sup>h</sup> And on the spot where he defeated them, he afterwards, when he came to the throne, erected a castle and palace, bearing the name of Herodium. (Josephus.)

And having left his men with his brother Josephus, himself with a few companions went into Egypt, that he might take ship and proceed to the country of the Romans. Cleopatra entertained him courteously, and requested him to take the command of her armies and the management of all her affairs ; to whom he notified that it was quite necessary for him to go to Rome. And she gave him money and ships : and he went till he reached Rome, and abode with Antony, and told him what Antigonus had done, and what he had committed against Hyrcanus and his brother, by help of the king of the Persians : and Antony rode with him to Augustus and to the senate, and told them the selfsame thing. 27 28 29 30

#### CHAPTER L.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Herod when the Romans appointed him king over the Jews, and his departure from Rome with an army to fight against the Holy House.*

AUGUSTUS and the senate, informed of what Antigonus had done, with one consent appointed Herod king over the Jews ; commanding him to put a golden diadem on his head, and to mount a horse, and that it should be proclaimed by trumpets preceding him, “ Herod is king over the Jews “ and the holy city Jerusalem :” which was done. And returning to Augustus, he rode, and Augustus, and Antony ; and they went to Antony’s house, who had invited the senate and all the citizens of Rome to a banquet which he had prepared. And they did eat and drink, and rejoiced over 1 2 3 4

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XIV. 26, 27. Bell. I. 11, 12.

Herod with great joy, making with him a treaty engraven in tables of brass ; and it was placed in  
 5 the temples. And they inscribed that day as the first of Herod's reign, and from that time it was taken for an æra, by which times are counted.

6 After these things, Antony and Herod departed by sea with a great and abundant army : and when they came to Antioch, they divided their  
 7 forces : and Antony took a part, and led it into the country of the Persians which is Herak<sup>b</sup> and the parts adjacent : and Herod, taking another  
 8 part, went straight till he came to Ptolemais. So Antigonus, hearing that Antony had made an expedition into the country of the Persians, and that Herod had reached Ptolemais, marched out from the Holy House to the mountain Sarah<sup>c</sup>, to take Josephus, Herod's brother, and those who were  
 9 with him. Whom he assaulted, and besieged ; and having cut off a canal, intercepted the water which flowed down to them : so that thirst prevailed *among them*, and their affairs were reduced  
 10 to great straits. Wherefore Josephus determined to flee ; and the families had deliberated upon surrendering themselves to Antigonus, if Josephus  
 11 should flee. But God sent to them an abundant rain, which filled all their cisterns and vessels : wherefore their hearts were encouraged, and their  
 12 condition was improved ; and Josephus continued to repulse Antony<sup>d</sup> and his men from the strong

<sup>b</sup> See the note on ch. liv. 1.

<sup>c</sup> See above, at ch. xlix. 21, 24, and the note. Josephus states the place to be Massada.

<sup>d</sup> This obviously is a mis-

take for *Antigonus* : Antony, as we have read at ver. 7, had led his troops into Babylonia at this time, where we find him employed at ch. lii. 1—3.

hold, nor could *the latter* gain any advantage over him. But Herod marched straight to the moun- 13  
tain Sarah, to bring back his brother, and the fa-  
milies, and the men who were with him, to Jeru-  
salem. And he found Antigonus besieging his 14  
brother; upon whom he made a sudden attack;  
and Josephus and his men came out to them, and  
the greater part of Antigonus' army was destroy-  
ed, and he fled into Jerusalem.

Whom Herod pursued with a great army of 15  
Jews, who had come to him from every quarter,  
when they found that he had returned; and he  
was well supplied with assistance, so that he stood  
in less need of the army of the Romans. When 16  
therefore Herod had reached the Holy City, An-  
tigonus shut the gates in his face; and fought  
against him; and sent much money to the chiefs  
of the army of the Romans, requesting them not  
to assist Herod: which they did<sup>e</sup> *for him*.  
Wherefore the war lasted a long time between 17  
Antigonus and Herod, neither of them prevailing  
over his fellow [i. e. antagonist].

#### CHAPTER LI.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the magnanimity of certain of Herod's  
men, and of their bravery.*

Now thieves, and they who were longing for 1  
B.C. the property of others, had multiplied  
39. during the time of Antigonus; betaking 2  
themselves to some caves in the mountains, to  
which there was no approach except for one man

<sup>e</sup> It appears that Silo, a fence of Antigonus' interests.  
Roman general, was bribed, <sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant.  
and exerted himself in de- XIV. 27. Bell. I. 12.

at a time, through certain places fitted for the  
3 purpose by them, and known to them alone : and  
even though others should know them, they could  
not go up to the cave ; because that a man was  
ever ready at the mouth, who, with a very little  
trouble, could easily repel a person who was  
4 climbing up. And now some of these men had  
gotten to themselves in that cave abundance of  
arms, provisions, and drink, and all those things  
5 which they needed ; together with all the spoils  
which they had gained by attacking those whom  
they met, and that which they had taken by right  
or wrong.

6 When therefore Herod had learnt their pro-  
ceedings, and found that their matters were likely  
to cause delay<sup>b</sup> ; also that men could not at pre-  
sent mount up to them by ladders, nor in fact  
7 climb up in any way ; he made use of great  
wooden chests fitted and joined together, and filled  
them with men, (adding food and water,) bearing  
8 very long hooked spears : and those chests he or-  
dered to be let down from the summit of the  
mountains, at the middle of which the caves were,  
until they were placed opposite to their mouths :  
9 and when they were opposite to these, *he desired*  
*that his men* should attack them in close fight  
with swords, and from a distance should drag  
10 them out with those spears. And the chests were  
11 made, and filled with men. And when some of  
them were let down, and were opposite to the  
mouths of those caves, no information having

<sup>b</sup> In other words, that in all probability their marauding system would not easily

be put a stop to, from the difficulty of coming at their retreats.

been given to the persons living there ; one of the men who were in the chests rushed into the caves, followed by his companions ; and they killed the 12 robbers who were in them, together with their followers, and threw them down into the valleys below ; all the men whom Herod had sent, emulating these *first*. And in this exploit, their cou- 13 rage, bravery, and boldness was so conspicuous, that the like of it was never seen : and they wholly rooted out the robbers from all those parts.

#### CHAPTER LII.<sup>a</sup>

*An account of Antony's return from the country of the Persians after killing the king of the Persians, and his meeting with Herod.*

THEN Antony, after leaving Herod<sup>b</sup>, marched 1 from Antioch into the country of the Persians, and fought with the king of the Persians, overcame, slew him, and won *his land* ; and having 2 reduced the Persians to obedience to the Romans, he turned aside to the Euphrates<sup>c</sup>.

And when his fame was told to Herod, he set 3 out to congratulate with him on his victory ; and to request him to come with him into the Holy Country. And he found a very large multitude 4 collected<sup>d</sup>, wishing to approach Antony ; to which many bodies of Arabians had opposed themselves, preventing it from coming to Antony's presence. And Herod marched against the Arabians, and 5

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XIV. 27. Bell. I. 13.

<sup>b</sup> See above, ch. 1. 7. The great defeat, however, was given to the Parthians, not by Antony, but by Ventidius his lieutenant.

<sup>c</sup> On the banks of which river he laid siege to, and subsequently took, the important city of Samosata.

<sup>d</sup> In the neighbourhood of Antioch. (Josephus.)

slew them, opening a passage for all who wished  
6 to approach Antony. And this was reported to  
Antony, before that Herod arrived: whereupon  
he sent him a golden diadem, and a great many  
horses.

7 But when Herod came, Antony received him  
courteously, praising him for his exploits against  
the Arabians: and he attached to him Sosius the  
general of his army, with a large force, ordering  
him to go with him to the city of the Holy House:  
8 giving him also letters to all the country of Syria,  
which is from Damascus even to the Euphrates,  
and from the Euphrates to the country of Ar-  
9 menia; saying to them, “ Augustus, king of kings,  
“ and Antony his colleague, and the Roman se-  
“ nate, have now appointed Herod king over the  
“ Jews; and they desire you to lead forth all  
“ your men of war with Herod to assist him: if  
“ therefore you act contrary to this, you must go  
“ to war with us.”

10 Then Antony marched to the sea-coast, and  
thence into Egypt: but Herod, and Sosius with his  
11 army, commanded the forces of Syria. But when  
Herod drew nigh to Damascus, he found that <sup>B. C.</sup>  
his brother Josephus had gone out from the <sup>36.</sup>  
Holy House with an army of Romans, to besiege  
12 Jericho and to cut down its corn: against whom  
came forth Pappus the general of Antigonus’  
forces, and slew of them thirty thousand<sup>e</sup>, having  
13 also slain Josephus Herod’s brother: and when  
his head was presented to Antigonus, Pheroras

<sup>e</sup> Probably there is an error about *three* thousand men, in the number. Josephus re- were slain.  
lates that six cohorts, that is,

his brother bought it for five hundred talents<sup>f</sup>, and buried it in the sepulchre of his fathers: and 14 *he heard* also that Antigonus and Pappus were advancing against him with a large army. Which 15 Herod having fully ascertained, determined to make an onset on Antigonus, and to crush him unexpectedly: and he agreed with Sosius that he 16 should take twelve thousand Romans and twenty thousand Jews, and march against Antigonus, but that the other should slowly follow his footsteps with the remainder of the army.

And Herod marched with his troops in a body, 17 and met with Antigonus in the mountainous parts of Galilee: and they fought with him from mid-day even until night. Then the army was dis- 18 persed; and Herod with some of his men passed the night in a certain house, and the house fell upon them; but they all escaped<sup>g</sup> from the ruin with their lives, without a bone of any one of them being broken.

Shortly afterwards Herod hastened to fight 19 with Antigonus, and there was a very great battle between them, and Antigonus fled into the Holy House; Pappus *meanwhile* resisting bravely, and continuing the fight, for he was high-spirited and very brave. And the greater part of Anti- 20 gonus' army was slain on that day; Pappus also was killed, whose head Pheroras cut off, and they

<sup>f</sup> Truly a large sum to be given for such an object. Josephus, with greater probability of being right, states *fifty*.

<sup>g</sup> Josephus, who frequently in his works manifests a strong

partiality for Herod, adduces this occurrence for a proof how much he was beloved by God, whose providence preserved his life in so extraordinary a manner.

carried it to Herod<sup>h</sup>, who ordered it to be buried.

21 When therefore none remained of Antigonus' army, except prisoners or runaways, Herod gave orders to his men to take rest, and to eat and  
22 drink. But he himself went to a certain bath which was in the next town, and went into the  
23 bath unarmed. Now there lay hidden<sup>i</sup> in the bath three strong and brave men, holding in their hands drawn swords: who, when they saw him come into the bath, and unarmed, made all haste to go out one after the other, being afraid of him; and so he escaped.

24 After this came Sosius; and they marched together to the city of the Holy House, which they surrounded with a trench; and fierce battles took  
25 place between them and Antigonus: and great numbers of Sosius' men were slain, Antigonus frequently overcoming them; but he could not put them to flight, by reason of their firmness  
26 and endurance in bearing *his assaults*. Then Herod prevailed against Antigonus; and Antigonus fled, and entering the city shut the gates against Herod, and Herod besieged him a long time.

27 But on a certain night the guards of the gate fell asleep: which some of Herod's men B. C. 37. discovering, twenty of them ran, and taking ladders placed them against the wall, and climbing

<sup>h</sup> Or rather, Herod cut off the head, and sent it to Pheroras.

<sup>i</sup> It appears from Josephus that they had not gone thither for the purpose of attacking Herod; but that they had

chanced to resort to the bath as a place of concealment; and upon the unexpected appearance of Herod with his attendant, were too happy to escape with their lives.

up killed the guards. And Herod with his men 28 hastened to the gate of the city which was opposite to them, and burst it in, and entered the city. Which the Romans taking, began to slaughter 29 the citizens; at which Herod being troubled said to Sosius, "If you shall destroy *all* my people, "over whom will you appoint me king?" and So- 30 ssius ordered proclamation to be made that the sword should be stayed; nor was any person slain after the proclamation. But Sosius' cap- 31 tains, eager for prey, ran to plunder the house of God: but Herod standing at the gate, holding a drawn sword in his hand, prevented them; and sent to Sosius to restrain his men, promising them money. And Sosius ordered proclamation 32 to be made to his men to abstain from plunder, and they abstained. And they sought Antigonus and found him, and Antigonus was taken prisoner.

After these things, Sosius betook himself into 33 Egypt to his colleague Antony, carrying with him Antigonus in chains. But Herod sent to 34 Antony a very great and fair present, requesting him to slay Antigonus; and Antony slew him<sup>k</sup>: and this was in the third year of the reign of Herod, which also was the third year of Antigonus.

#### CHAPTER LIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Herod after the death of Antigonus.*

WHEN Herod was certified of the death of An- 1

<sup>k</sup> Thus terminated the government of the Asmonæan princes, in the hundred and twenty-sixth year from its first establishment under Judas Maccabæus. See some

remarks on Antony's putting to death the king, given by Josephus out of Strabo.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XV. 1. Bell. I. 13.

tigonus, he considered himself secure that no one  
 of the royal Asmonæan family would contend with  
 2 him : wherefore he employed himself in advanc-  
 ing the dignities, in kindnesses and promotions,  
 of those who were well inclined to him and  
 3 obeyed his will. He also exerted himself in de-  
 stroying those persons, together with their fami-  
 lies, and in plundering their cattle and their goods,  
 who had opposed him, furnishing aid against him.  
 4 And he oppressed persons, taking away their pro-  
 perty, and despoiling all those who had shaken off  
 obedience to the Jews ; and slew those who re-  
 5 sisted him, and plundered their goods. Also he  
 made an agreement with all who were obedient to  
 6 him, that they should pay him money. He also  
 stationed *guards* at the gates of the Holy House,  
 who might search those who went out, and take  
 whatever gold or silver they should find on any  
 7 one, and bring it to him. He also ordered the  
 coffins of the dead to be searched ; and whatever  
 money any person might endeavour to carry out  
 8 by stratagem, *the same* to be taken. And he  
 heaped together so much *money* as none of the  
 kings of the second house had amassed.

CHAPTER LIV.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Hyrcanus the son of Alexander, the uncle of Antigonus, and of his return into Jerusalem at the request of Herod, and of the death to which he put him.*

1 HYRCANUS, after that the king of the Persians had set him at liberty<sup>b</sup>, remained in Herakin<sup>c</sup>, in

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. this narrative above, at ch. XV. 1, 2, 9. xlix. 17, 18.

<sup>b</sup> See the preceding part of <sup>c</sup> Josephus *in loco* reads

a most respectable condition and great honour : wherefore Herod was afraid lest any thing might 2 induce the king of the Persians to appoint him king<sup>d</sup>, and send him into the land of Judah. Wherefore wishing to set his mind at rest, he laid 3 plots for this business ; and sent to the king of the Persians a very great present, and a letter ; in which he made mention of Hyrcanus' deserts 4 and kind deeds towards him ; and how he had gone to Rome on account of what Antigonus his brother's son had done to him ; and that having 5 now attained the throne, and his affairs being in order, he wished to reward him in a proper manner for the benefits which he had conferred.

So the king of the Persians sent a messenger to 6 Hyrcanus, saying ; " If you wish to return into " the land of Judah, return : but I warn you to 7 " beware of Herod ; and I distinctly inform you, " that he does not seek for you to do you any " good, but his design is to render himself secure, " as there is none remaining whom he fears, ex- " cept you : wherefore take heed of him most dili- " gently, and be not led into a snare." The Jews 8 of Babylon also came to him, and said to him the like words. Again they say to him, " You now 9 " are an old man, and not fit to discharge the " office of high priest, because of the stain which " your nephew<sup>e</sup> inflicted on you : but Herod is a 10

*Babylon.* In fact Yerak, or Irak, the Arabian name for the district or country of Babylonia, is retained to the present day. See above, ch. xlix. 17, 18. l. 7.

<sup>d</sup> Although the loss of his ear disqualified Hyrcanus

from the office of high priest, yet the crafty Herod knew that this was no obstacle to his reappearing among his countrymen in the capacity of their monarch.

<sup>e</sup> See the account of this transaction at ch. xlix. 16,

“ bad man, and a shedder of blood ; and he re-  
 “ calls you only because he fears you ; and you  
 “ do not want for any thing among us, and you  
 “ are with us in that station in which you ought  
 11 “ to be. And your family there is in the best  
 “ condition ; wherefore remain with us, and do not  
 “ aid your enemy against yourself.”

12 But Hyrcanus acceded not to their words ; nor  
 listened to the advice of one who advised him  
 13 well. And he set out and journeyed till he came  
 into the Holy City, for the very great longing  
 which he had towards the house of God, his fa-  
 mily, and his country.

14 And when he had come near to the city, Herod  
 met him, shewing such honour and magnificence,  
 that Hyrcanus was deceived, and trusted in him.

15 And Herod in the public assembly, and before his  
 own friends, used to call him “ Father :” but ne-  
 vertheless he ceased not to devise plots in his  
 heart, only so that they should not be imputed to  
 16 him. Wherefore Alexandra and Mariamne her  
 daughter go to Hyrcanus, putting him in fear of  
 Herod, and counselling him to take care of him-  
 17 self ; but neither to them did he attend, although  
 they repeated this to him again and again, ad-  
 vising him to flee to some one of the kings of the  
 18 Arabians : yet he attended not to all these things,  
 until they drove him to it by repeated warnings  
 and alarmings.

19 Then therefore he wrote to that king<sup>f</sup> of Ara-

of this book, and read the  
 note there.

<sup>f</sup> Namely, Malchus. See  
 above, ch. xlix. 20, and the  
 corresponding part in Jose-

phus. It is to be observed,  
 that Josephus places the pre-  
 sent transaction somewhat  
 later in the history, viz. after  
 Herod had heard of the de-

bia; and having sent for a certain man, (whose brother<sup>s</sup> Herod had slain, and had confiscated his goods, and had visited him with many evils,) he told him that he wished to impart to him a certain secret, adjuring him not to tell it to any one; and giving him money and the letter to the king 20 of the Arabians, communicated to him what he requested in the letter. So the messenger, having 21 received the letter, thought that he should obtain a high post with Herod, and should remove from himself the evil which he was continually fearing at his hands, if he communicated the matter to Herod; and that this would be more profitable to 22 him than the keeping of Hyrcanus' secret: since in the other case he was not safe, and sure that the thing would not be told to Herod at some time or other, and thus would be the cause of his destruction. He therefore carried the letter to 23 Herod, and unfolded to him the whole business: who said to him, Carry the letter, as it is, to the king of the Arabians, and bring me back his answer, that I may know it: tell me also the place 24 where the men will be, whom the king of the Arabians will send, that Hyrcanus may go back with them.

So the messenger went, and carried Hyrcanus' 25 letter to the king of the Arabians; who rejoiced, and sent some of his men; ordering them to go 26

feat of Antony at Actium, and had become apprehensive of the reception which he might meet with from Augustus; i. e. in the year B.C. 30, which indeed appears nearly to agree with the state-

ment made in the last verse of this chapter, that Hyrcanus had reigned forty years.

<sup>s</sup> Josephus names him Dositheus, and his brother Josephus.

to a certain place near to the Holy City, and there to wait until Hyrcanus should come to them; and then to attend Hyrcanus till they brought him to  
 27 his presence. He wrote likewise to Hyrcanus an answer to his letter, and sent it by the messenger.  
 28 So the men proceeded with the messenger to the appointed place, and there waited: but the messenger carried the letter to Herod, who learned its contents: he told him also the place of the men, to whom Herod sent persons to take them.

29 Afterwards, having sent for seventy old men of the elders of the Jews, and having sent also for Hyrcanus; when he came, he said to him, Is there any interchange of letters between you and  
 30 the king of the Arabians? and Hyrcanus said, No. Then he said to him, Did you send that you  
 31 might flee to him? and he said, No. And Herod ordered his messenger to come forward, and the Arabians, and the horses; he also brought out  
 32 the answer to his letter, and it was read. Then he commanded Hyrcanus' head to be stricken off<sup>h</sup>; and his head was stricken off, and no one dared to utter a word for him.

<sup>h</sup> Josephus, agreeing in these particulars, informs us that he took his account from the "Commentaries, or Acts, of Herod himself," other authors relating them in a different manner. There is reason to believe that these *Acts* were written by a personal friend of Herod, Nicolaus Damascenus, who is mentioned by Josephus, Ant. XIV. 2; XVI. 15, 16, 17; XVII. 7. From the accounts of him

which remain to us, it appears that Nicolaus was intimate with Augustus; and in fact that it was he who succeeded in procuring for Herod a favourable reception by the Roman court, at a most critical juncture. He wrote several works; as, "A History of Augustus:" "A History of the World:" a large volume of "Assyrian History:" "A Collection of strange Customs," &c. See Photii

Now Hyrcanus had delivered Herod<sup>i</sup> from the 33 death which was justly awarded him in the assembly of judgment, commanding the assembly to be deferred till the morrow, *and* sending away Herod that same night. Whence he was destined 34 to become his murderer, regardless of his services to him and to his father. Hyrcanus was put to 35 death when he was eighty years old, and he reigned forty years: nor was there any one of the kings of the Asmonæan race of a more praiseworthy conduct<sup>k</sup>, or more honourable way of life.

CHAPTER LV.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Aristobulus the son of Hyrcanus.*

ARISTOBULUS the son of Hyrcanus<sup>b</sup> was of such 1  
 B.C. beauty of form, and exquisite figure and un-  
 36. derstanding, that his equal was not known. His sister Mariamne also, the wife of Herod, was 2 like to him in beauty; and Herod was wonderfully attached to her. But Herod was averse to 3 appoint Aristobulus high priest in the place of his

Bibliothec. cod. CLXXXIX. Montacutii Apparatum 5 ad Origines Ecclesiast. p. 169. (ed. 1635), Valesii Excerpta Peiresc. 4to. 1634, where are considerable fragments of his writings: Fabricii Biblioth. Græc. edit. Harles. III. p. 500: and especially, Grotii Epistol. ad Gallos, p. 249—320. edit. 1648. 12mo.

<sup>i</sup> See Joseph. Ant. XIV. 9.

<sup>k</sup> Josephus, although in general a favourer of Herod, cannot here refrain from bearing testimony to the respectable character of Hyrcanus,

and to the shameful usage which he met with at the hands of Herod, whose very best friend and benefactor he in truth had been.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XV. 2, 3.

<sup>b</sup> This is an error: Aristobulus and Mariamne were the children, not of Hyrcanus, but of Alexander son of Aristobulus the brother of Hyrcanus, by Alexandra daughter of Hyrcanus. See the Genealogical Table subjoined to the introduction to this volume.

father ; lest the Jews, being attached to him through their affection to his father, should at  
 4 some future time make him king. Wherefore he appointed some one of the number of common priests<sup>c</sup>, who was not of the family of the Asmo-næans, to be high priest.

5 At which Alexandra the mother of Aristobulus being vexed, wrote to Cleopatra ; requesting to have a letter from Antony to Herod, that he should remove the priest whom he had elevated, and appoint her son Aristobulus high priest in  
 6 his stead. And Cleopatra granted this ; and requested Antony to write a letter to Herod on this subject, and to send it by some chief man of his  
 7 servants. So Antony wrote a letter, and sent it by his servant Gellius : and Gellius coming to  
 8 Herod, delivered to him Antony's letter. But Herod forbore to do that which Antony had written *to order*, asserting that it was not the custom among the Jews to depose any priest from his station.

9 Now it happened that Gellius saw Aristobulus, and was greatly struck with the beauty of his form and the perfection of his carriage, which he  
 10 saw. Wherefore he painted a picture of his likeness, and sent it to Antony, writing beneath the picture to this effect ; that no man had begotten Aristobulus, but that an angel cohabiting with  
 11 Alexandra, begat him on her. Therefore when the picture reached Antony, he was seized with a

<sup>c</sup> Josephus states, that he sent to Babylon for one of the obscure Jews residing there, whose name was Anan- nelus. Ant. XV. 2. Yet afterwards he describes him as being τοῦ ἀρχιερατικοῦ γένους. (See XV. 3.)

most vehement desire to see Aristobulus. And he 12 wrote a letter to Herod, reminding him how he had appointed him king, and had assisted him against his enemies, recounting his kindnesses towards him: adding a request, that he would send 13 Aristobulus to him; and he threatened him in this business for the words<sup>c</sup> which he had sent back.

But when Antony's epistle was brought to He- 14 rod, he refused to send Aristobulus, knowing what Antony designed; and on that account he disdained to do it: and he hastily deposed<sup>d</sup> the high priest whom he had appointed, establishing Aristobulus in his place.

And *then* he wrote to Antony, informing him 15 that he had already executed that which he had formerly written to him, about the placing Aristobulus in his father's post, before his *last* letter arrived: which business he had *to that time* de- 16 layed, because it was necessary to debate the matter with the priests and Jews, after an interval of some days, as the thing was unusual; but it having passed according to his wish, he had immediately appointed him. But now that he was ap- 17 pointed, it was not lawful for him to go out of Jerusalem; as he was not king, but a priest at-

<sup>c</sup> Or the sense may be, "he threatened him repeatedly if he should not comply with his desires in this matter."

<sup>d</sup> Josephus complains, that in this Herod acted contrary to the law; which declared that a person once appointed high priest could not be re-

moved from his office. He states that the first instance of this being done was that of Antiochus Epiphanes, who through bribery consented to depose Jason, and substituted his brother Menelaus (or Onias). See the account of that transaction above, at 3 Macc. iv. 23, 24.

18 tached to the service of the temple : and as often  
 as he wished to compel him to go out, the Jews  
 refused, and would not allow him, even if he  
 19 should slay the greater part of them. Therefore  
 when Herod's letter reached Antony, he desisted  
 from asking for Aristobulus ; and Aristobulus was  
 made high priest.

20 Then came on the feast of tabernacles ; and  
 men, assembled before the house of God, beheld  
 Aristobulus clothed in the sacerdotal robes stand-  
 ing at the altar, and they heard him blessing  
 21 them : and he pleased men so much, that they  
 exhibited their affection towards him in a very  
 22 marked manner. Which Herod being fully in-  
 formed of, was much grieved ; and feared lest, when  
 Aristobulus' party gained strength, he should de-  
 mand from him the kingdom, if his life should  
 be prolonged : wherefore he began to plot his  
 death.

23 Now it was customary for the kings to go out,  
 after the feast of tabernacles, to some plea- B. C.  
 sure-residences at Jericho which former 35.

24 kings had made : and there are many gardens ad-  
 joining each other, in which were wide and deep  
 fish-ponds, to which they had conducted streams  
 of water, and had erected fair buildings in those  
 gardens : they also had built in Jericho fair pa-  
 laces and handsome edifices.

25 Now the author of the book <sup>e</sup> relates, that bal-

<sup>e</sup> Who is the author al-   balsam-trees ; as at Antiq. IV.  
 luded to? [See the same ex-   5 ; VIII. 6: where he states  
 pression occurring before, at   that they were first brought  
 ch. xxv. 5, and below, at ch.   into Judæa by the queen of  
 lix. 96.] Josephus in vari-   Saba, who presented them to  
 ous passages mentions the   Solomon : and IX. 1. Again

sam-trees grew abundantly in Jericho; and that they were *found* no where else but there; and that many kings had carried them thence into their own country, but none grew, except those

at XV. 4, he says, *Φέρει δ' ἡ χώρα τὸ βάλσαμον, ὃ τιμιώτατον τῶν ἔκει, καὶ παρὰ μόνοις φύεται.* But Josephus is not "the author" of this book. Several heathen authors relate the fact of the balsam being thought peculiar to Judæa; but I have not discovered what early writer it is that has recorded the experiment of transplanting, and the failure of the original trees, mentioned in the text.

Diodorus Siculus (speaking of the balsam) says, *οὐδαμῶν μὲν τῆς ἄλλης οἰκουμένης εὐρισκομένου τοῦ φυτοῦ τούτου.* Biblioth. II. 48. and XIX. 9. (ed. Wesseling.) But we must remember that Diodorus Siculus assigns the lake Asphaltites and its coasts, not to the Jews, but to the Nabathæan Arabians; which circumstance perhaps may help to reconcile the seemingly conflicting accounts of different historians; some of whom confine the plant to Judæa, while others assert its native place to be Arabia.

Pliny states, "Omnibus odoribus præfertur balsamum, uni terrarum Judææ concessum.—Quondam in duobus tantum hortis, utroque regio, altero jugerum xx non amplius, altero pauciorum. Ostendere arbusculam hanc urbi Imperatores Vespasiani; clarumque

dictu, a Pompeio magno in triumpho arbores quoque duximus. Servit nunc hæc et tributa pendit cum sua gente." Hist. Nat. XII. 54. Again; "Fastidit balsamum alibi nasci." Id. XVI. 39. Justin reports to the same effect.—It is proved, that the Romans, after their conquest of Judæa, enlarged the plantations of balsam at Jericho; so that the produce became greater, and the article itself less costly. It is perhaps almost needless to observe, that the "vineyards of Engaddi," mentioned in the Song of Solomon, are the groves of balsam, which were in that neighbourhood. Historians have said, that some of the trees were carried from Judæa into Egypt by Cleopatra, in the days of Herod: but this is contested in a note to Haverkamp's Josephus, vol. II. p. 66. See the fullest details on this subject in Salmasii Exercitationes Plinianæ in Solini Polyhistorum, cap. 35. p. 418—430. edit. Traject. 1689: also in the notes on Theophrasti Hist. Plant. IX. 6. edit. Stapel, fol. 1644.

Some Arabian authors relate, that the balsam-tree had been carried by the Saracens to Matarea, (the ancient Heliopolis,) but that the plants had continually failed there.

26 which were carried into Egypt; and that they  
did not fail in Jericho until after the destruction  
of the second House; but then they withered  
away, and never sprouted forth again.

27 So Herod went out to Jericho in quest of plea-  
28 sure, and Aristobulus followed him. And when  
they came to Jericho, Herod commanded some of  
his servants to go down into the fish-ponds, and  
play as was customary: and that if Aristobulus  
should come down to them, they should play with  
29 him for some time, and then drown him. But  
Herod sat in a banqueting-room which he had  
prepared for himself to sit in: and Herod sent for  
Aristobulus, and made him sit by his side: also  
the chief of his attendants and of his friends sat  
30 in his presence: and he commanded eatables and  
drink to be brought; and they did eat and drink:  
and the attendants hastened down to the waters  
31 according to custom, and sported. And Aristobulus  
greatly wished to go down with them into  
the water, the wine now mastering them, and  
32 asked leave of Herod to do so: who replied, This  
neither befits you nor any one like you: and  
when he was urgent, he admonished him and for-  
bade him: but when Aristobulus repeated his re-  
quest to him, he said to him, Do as you please.

33 And then Herod, rising up went to a certain pa-  
34 lace that he might go to sleep there. And Aristobulus  
went down to the waters, and played for  
a long time with the attendants: who, when they  
perceived that being now weary and tired out he  
wished to go up, held him under water, killed him,  
and carried him out dead.

And there was a great tumult of the people, 35  
and cry, and a lamentation was set up. And He- 36  
rod running up, came out to see what had hap-  
pened : who, when he saw Aristobulus dead, be-  
wailed him, and wept over him very tenderly with  
a most vehement flood of tears. Then he ordered 37  
him to be borne into the Holy City, and accom-  
panied him until he came into the city, and com-  
pelled the people to attend his funeral, and there  
was no point of the very highest honour which  
he omitted to pay him. And he died when a 38  
youth of sixteen years of age, and his high-priest-  
hood continued only for a few days.

On which account enmity grew up between his 39  
mother Alexandra and her daughter Mariamne  
Herod's wife, and the mother and sister of Herod<sup>f</sup>.  
And the execrations and revilings which Mari- 40  
amne heaped upon them were known ; and al-  
though these reached Herod, yet he did not for-  
bid her nor reprove her, through his great affec-  
tion for her : he feared also, lest she should ima- 41  
gine in her mind that he was well inclined to-  
wards the others : from hence these doings lasted  
long between these women. And Herod's sister, 42  
who was endued with the greatest malice, and  
consummate artifice, began to plot against Ma-  
riamne : but Mariamne was religious, upright, 43  
modest, and virtuous : but she was a little tinged  
with haughtiness, pride, and hatred towards her  
husband.

<sup>f</sup> Namely, Cypris his mo- above, at ch. xlix. 20 ; and  
ther, who was mentioned Salome his sister.

CHAPTER LVI.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Antony, and of his expedition against Augustus, and of the aid which he asked from Herod. And an account of the earthquake which occurred in the land of Judah, and of the battle which took place between them and the Arabians.*

- 1 CLEOPATRA, the queen of Egypt, was the wife  
of Antony: and she discovered such methods B.C.  
of adorning and painting herself, by which 34.  
women are wont to allure men, as no other woman  
2 in the world had found out: so that, while she  
was a woman advanced in age, she seemed as a  
little unmarried girl, and even more delicate and  
3 more fair. Antony also found in her those  
methods of beauty, and those means of creating  
pleasure, which he had never found in the vast  
number of women whom he had enjoyed. Where-  
fore she so completely gained possession of An-  
tony's heart, that no room was left in it for affec-  
4 tion to any other person. She therefore per-  
suaded him to discomfit certain kings who were  
subject to the Romans, from her own private con-  
siderations; and he obeyed her in this, putting  
to death certain kings<sup>b</sup> at her instance; and some  
he left alive by her orders, making them servants  
and slaves to her.
- 5 And this was told to Augustus; who wrote to  
him, abominating such conduct, and desiring him  
6 not to be guilty of the like again. And Antony  
told Cleopatra what Augustus had written to

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XV. 6, 7, 8. Bell. I. 14.

<sup>b</sup> As Lysanias, and Artabazes, &c.; the account of which proceedings may be seen in Josephus.

to him; and she advised him to revolt from Augustus, and shewed him that the thing was very easy.

To whose opinion he assenting, openly played 7  
 B. C. false with Augustus; and gathered an  
 33. army and supplies, that he might go by sea to Antioch, and thence might march by land to meet Augustus wheresoever he might chance to find him. He sent also for Herod, that he 8 might accompany him. And Herod went to him with a most powerful army and most complete  
 B. C. supplies. And when he had come to him, 9  
 32. Antony said to him; Right reason advises us to make an expedition against the Arabians, and to engage with them: for we are by no means secure that they may not make an incursion upon the Jews and the land of Egypt, so soon as we shall have turned our backs.

And Antony departed by sea: but Herod 10 made an inroad upon the Arabians: and Cleopatra sent a general named Athenio with a great army, to assist Herod in subduing the Arabians: and she commanded him to place Herod and his 11 men in the first rank<sup>c</sup>, and to make agreement with the king of the Arabians, that they together should enclose Herod and cut his men to pieces. To this she was led by a desire of obtaining pos- 12 session of all which Herod was worth: Alex- 13 andra also some time previously had requested her to induce Antony to put Herod to death;

<sup>c</sup> Even thus, at an earlier period of Jewish history, had the same iniquitous command been given: "Set ye Uriah <sup>in the forefront of the hot-</sup> test battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten and die!"

which indeed she had done, but Antony refused  
14 to commit this act. To this was added the cir-  
cumstance, that Cleopatra had formerly longed  
for Herod, and had at some time desired inter-  
course with him; but he restrained himself, for  
he was chaste. And these were the causes which  
15 had induced her to this line of conduct. So  
Athenio coming to Herod, according to the com-  
mand of Cleopatra, sent to make agreement with  
the king of the Arabians, that he might surround  
16 him. And when Herod and his Arabians met  
and encountered, Athenio and his men attacked  
Herod, who was intercepted between the two  
armies, and the battle grew fierce against him  
17 both before and behind. But Herod seeing what  
had happened, collected his men, and fought most  
vigorously until they were beyond the reach of  
both armies, after the greatest exertion; and he  
returned into the Holy House.

18 And there happened a great earthquake in the  
land of Judah, such as had not occurred since the  
time of king Harbah<sup>d</sup>, in which a great number  
19 of men and of animals was destroyed. And this  
alarmed Herod much, and caused him great fear,  
and broke down his spirit. He therefore took  
counsel with the elders of Judah about making an  
agreement with all nations round about them;  
designing peace, and tranquillity, and the removal  
20 of wars and bloodshed. He sent also ambassadors  
on these matters to the *surrounding* nations, all  
of whom embraced the peace to which he had

<sup>d</sup> Probably by this name is meant *Uzziah* king of Judah, in whose days we learn from

Scripture that a violent earthquake took place. See Amos, i. 1. and Zechariah, xiv. 5.

invited them, except the king of the Arabians; who ordered the ambassadors whom Herod had sent to him to be put to death; for he supposed that Herod had done this because his men had been destroyed in the earthquake, and therefore, being weakened, he had turned himself to making peace. Wherefore he resolved to go to war with Herod; and having collected a large and well-provided army, he marched against him.

And this was told to Herod; and he was much vexed, for two reasons: one, on account of the slaughter of his ambassadors, an act which none of the kings had hitherto committed; another, because he had dared to attack him, imagining in his mind his weakness and want of troops. But he wished to shew him that the matter was otherwise: that all, to whom he had sent ambassadors, to treat of peace, might know that he had not done this through any fear or weakness, but from a wish of that which was kind and good; that no one might dare make attempts against the Jews, or imagine in his mind that they were weak. Besides, he wished to take vengeance on the king of the Arabians for his ambassadors: on these accounts he determined in all haste to march against him.

Therefore he collected troops from the land of Judah, and said to them: "You are aware of the slaughter of our ambassadors perpetrated by that Arab; an act which no king hitherto has committed: for he thinks that we have been weakened and have become powerless; and he has dared to provoke us, and thinks that he shall obtain all his desires over us: nor will he

28 “ cease from warring on us continually. Where-  
 “ fore you must struggle against difficulties, that  
 “ you may shew forth your bravery, and may  
 “ subdue your enemies, and bear off their spoils :  
 29 “ although fortune may at one time shew herself  
 “ favourable, at another time adverse to us, ac-  
 “ cording to the custom and usual vicissitudes of  
 30 “ this world. In truth, you must immediately  
 “ undertake an expedition, to take vengeance on  
 “ those oppressors, and to curb the audacity of  
 31 “ all who hold you in little esteem. But if you  
 “ shall say, this earthquake has disheartened us,  
 “ and has destroyed great numbers of us; you  
 “ know full well, that it has destroyed none of  
 32 “ the fighting men<sup>e</sup>, but certain others. Nor  
 “ ought we to think it at all unreasonable, that it  
 “ has destroyed the worst among our nation, but  
 “ has left the best to survive. It is also un-  
 “ doubted, that this has improved your spirits  
 33 “ and your inward feelings. But the duty of him,  
 “ whom God has saved from destruction, and has  
 “ preserved from ruin, requires that he should  
 “ obey Him, and should do what is good and  
 34 “ right. And truly no obedience is more honour-  
 “ able or glorious, than to seek redress for the  
 “ oppressed on the oppressor; and to subdue the  
 “ enemies of God and his religion and nation, by  
 “ aiding those who shew obedience and attention  
 35 “ to Him. Nor is it unknown to you, what befell  
 “ us lately with those Arabs, when they had sur-

<sup>e</sup> Josephus remarks, that about ten (in another place he says *thirty*) thousand persons perished in this earthquake, principally from the

houses having fallen upon them; but that the soldiers, being abroad and under tents, escaped free from every harm.

“ rounded us with Athenio<sup>f</sup>; and how the great  
“ and good God helped us against them, and  
“ delivered us from them. Therefore fear God, 36  
“ following your ancient custom, and the laudable  
“ custom of your forefathers; and prepare your-  
“ selves against this enemy before he makes ready  
“ against you, and be beforehand with him before  
“ he anticipates you: and God will supply you  
“ with aid and succour against your enemy.”

So when the men had heard the address of He- 37  
rod, they replied, that they were ready to under-  
take the expedition, and would make no delay.  
And he returned thanks to God and to them for it, 38  
and ordered many sacrifices to be offered: he also  
ordered an army to be raised; and a great multi-  
tude was gathered from the tribe of Judah and Ben-  
jamin. And Herod marching against the king of 39  
the Arabians, encountered him; and the battle  
grew fierce between them, five thousand of the  
Arabians being slain. There was again a battle, 40  
and four thousand of the Arabians were killed:  
wherefore the Arabians returned to their camp,  
and remained there; and Herod could do nothing  
against them, for the place was fortified; but he  
remained with his army, besieging them in the  
same place, and not allowing them to go out.  
And they remained five days in this condition; 41  
and a most violent thirst came upon them; they  
sent therefore ambassadors to Herod with a most  
valuable present, asking for a truce, and liberty to  
draw water to drink: but he did not listen to  
them, but continued in the same furious hostility.

<sup>f</sup> See above, verses 10, 15, 16.

- 42 The Arabians then said therefore, Let us go out  
 against this nation; for it is better for us to con-  
 43 quer or die, than to perish from thirst. And they  
 went out against them; and Herod's party over-  
 came them, and slew nine thousand of them;  
 and Herod with his men pursued the Arabians as  
 they fled, slaying great numbers of them; and he  
 44 besieged their cities and took them. Wherefore  
 they sued for their lives, promising obedience; to  
 which he agreeing, retired from them, and re-  
 turned into the Holy House.
- 45 Now the Arabians mentioned in this book are  
 the Arabians who dwelled from the country of Sa-  
 rah as far as to Hegiaz<sup>g</sup> and the adjacent parts;  
 and they were of great renown and large num-  
 bers.

CHAPTER LVII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of Antony's battle with Augustus, and of the  
 death of Antony, and of Herod's going to Augustus.*

- 1 WHEN Antony had marched out of Egypt into  
 the country of the Romans, and had en- B.C.  
 countered Augustus<sup>b</sup>, most severe battles 31.

<sup>g</sup> This name is still pre-  
 served in Arabia; a large and  
 important district, extending  
 down the shore of the Red  
 sea, and embracing the cities  
 of Mecca and Medina, still  
 bears the appellation of Hed-  
 jaz. It is likely that formerly  
 there was a chief town, bear-  
 ing nearly the same name.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq.  
 XV, 9, 10. Bell. I. 15.

<sup>b</sup> Namely at Actium, a  
 town on the sea-coast of Epi-  
 rus, which was at this time

part of the Roman dominions,  
 where his fortunes were fa-  
 tally shattered: but it is not  
 true that he fell in battle, or  
 at Actium. Antony lived till  
 the next year, and had retired  
 into Egypt: when, after fruit-  
 less attempts at a reconcilia-  
 tion with his rival, he once  
 more resolved to try the  
 chances of war, and made  
 ready for battle at Alexan-  
 dria: but fortune again prov-  
 ed adverse to him; and on  
 hearing a (false) report of

took place between them, in which victory sided with Augustus, and Antony fell in battle; and 2 Augustus got possession of his camp and all which was in it. After this done, he proceeded to Rhodes, that taking ship there he might pass into Egypt.

And tidings were brought to Herod, and he was 3  
 B.C. very much concerned at the death of An-  
 30. tony; and he feared Augustus most ex-  
 ceedingly; and he resolved to go to him, to salute him and congratulate with him. Wherefore he 4  
 sent his mother and sister with his brother, to a strong hold<sup>c</sup> which he had in mount Sarah: he sent also his wife Mariamne and her mother Alexandra to Alexandrium<sup>d</sup>, under the care of Josephus a Tyrian<sup>e</sup>; adjuring him to kill his wife and her mother, so soon as his death should be reported to him.

After this, he went to Augustus with a very 5  
 valuable present. Now Augustus had already de- 6  
 termined to put Herod to death; because he had been the friend and supporter of Antony, and because he had formerly deliberated<sup>f</sup> upon marching

Cleopatra's death, in despair he fell on his own sword.

<sup>c</sup> Namely Massada, mentioned above, in the notes on ch. xlix. 20, and l. 8, as a place made use of by Herod for the same purpose on an occasion somewhat similar.

<sup>d</sup> Which see described above, at ch. xxxix. 5.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus reads, "to Josephus his steward, and Soemus an Ituræan." (Compare ch. lviii. 1.) In another place he calls him "the

"husband of his sister Saelome," agreeably to our author: see below, ch. lviii. 1.

<sup>f</sup> See the preceding chapter, ver. 8, 9. Herod, however, appears even in this instance not to have forgotten his usual crafty foresight: and in dividing the duties of the campaign with Antony, managed so as to avoid coming into direct collision with Augustus, and to employ himself rather in subduing the Arabians; that if at a future

7 with Antony to attack him. When therefore Herod's arrival was notified to Augustus, he ordered him into his presence, in his royal habit which he had on; except the diadem, for this he had  
 8 ordered to be laid aside from his head. Who, when he was in his presence, having laid aside his diadem as Augustus had commanded, said:  
 9 " O king, perhaps on account of my love towards  
 " Antony you have been thus violently angry with  
 " me, that you have put off the diadem from my  
 10 " head; or was it from some other cause? Since,  
 " if you are wroth with me by reason of my ad-  
 " herence to Antony, truly, I say, I adhered to  
 " him because he deserved well of me, and placed  
 " upon my head that diadem which you have  
 11 " taken off. And indeed he had requested my as-  
 " sistance against you, which I gave him; even  
 " as he also many times gave his assistance to me:  
 12 " but it was not my lot to be present at the battle  
 " which he fought with you, nor have I drawn  
 " my sword<sup>g</sup> against you, nor fought; the cause  
 " of which was, my being engaged in subduing  
 13 " the Arabians<sup>h</sup>. But I never failed supplying  
 " him with aid of men and arms and provisions,  
 " as his friendship and his good deeds to me re-  
 " quired. And in truth I am sorry that I left  
 " him; lest men should conceive that I deserted  
 " my friend when he was in need of my help.  
 14 " Certainly, if I had been with him, I would have

time the sun of Antony should set before the power and influence of his aspiring rival, the door of reconciliation might not be irretrievably closed against him.

<sup>g</sup> See the preceding note.

<sup>h</sup> According to an arrangement made with Antony, as related above, at ch. lvi. 9—1.

“ helped him with all my might ; and would have  
“ encouraged him if he had been fearful, and  
“ would have strengthened him if he had been  
“ weakened, and would have lifted him up if he  
“ had fallen, until God should have ruled matters  
“ as He pleased. And this truly would have been 15  
“ less grievous to me, than that it should be ima-  
“ gined that I had failed a man who had implored  
“ my aid, and thus it should come to pass that  
“ my friendship should be little esteemed. In my 16  
“ opinion indeed he fell through his own bad po-  
“ licy, by yielding to that enchantress Cleopatra ;  
“ whom I had advised him to slay, and thus to  
“ remove her malice from him ; but he did not  
“ assent. But now, if you have removed from 17  
“ my head the diadem, certainly you shall not re-  
“ move from me my understanding and my cou-  
“ rage ; and whatever I am, I will be a friend to  
“ my friends and an enemy to my enemies.”

Augustus replied to him, “ Antony indeed we 18  
“ have overcome by our troops ; but you we will  
“ master by alluring you to us ; and will take  
“ care, by our good offices towards you, that your  
“ affection to us shall be doubled, because you are  
“ worthy of this. And as Antony played false by 19  
“ the advice of Cleopatra, by the same reason he  
“ behaved ungratefully towards us ; returning for  
“ our kindnesses evils, and for our favours rebel-  
“ lion. But we are glad of the war which you 20  
“ have waged with the Arabians, who are our  
“ enemies : for whoever is your enemy, is ours  
“ also ; and whoever pays you obedience, pays it  
“ to us likewise.”

Then Augustus ordered the golden diadem to 21

be placed on Herod's head, and as many provinces to be added to him<sup>b</sup> as he already had.

22 And Herod accompanied Augustus into Egypt; and all the things which Antony had destined for Cleopatra were surrendered to him. And Augustus departed to Rome: but Herod returned into the Holy City.

CHAPTER LVIII.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the murder which Herod committed on his wife Mariamne.*

- 1 Now Josephus<sup>b</sup>, the husband of Herod's sister, had revealed to Mariamne that Herod had B. C. 29. ordered him to put her and her mother to death, as soon as he himself should perish in his
- 2 going up to Augustus. And she already had a dislike of Herod, since the time when he killed her father and brother; and to this no little addition of hatred was made, when she was informed of the orders which he had given against her.
- 3 Therefore when Herod arrived out of Egypt, he found her totally overcome by hatred towards him: at which being greatly troubled, he tried to
- 4 reconcile her to him by all possible methods. But his sister came on a certain day, after some quarrels which had taken place between her and Ma-

<sup>b</sup> Augustus not only restored those portions of Judæa which Antony had taken away and given to Cleopatra, but likewise enlarged Herod's dominion by the gift of many other towns and districts, which the reader may see

enumerated in Josephus.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Josephus, Ant. XV. 11. Bell. I. 17.

<sup>b</sup> The person who was left in charge of Mariamne and her mother, as related above, at ch. lvii. 4; and see the note there.

riamne, and said to him, Certainly Joseph my husband has gone aside with Mariamne. But 5 Herod paid no attention to her words, knowing how pure and chaste Mariamne was. After this, 6 Herod went to see Mariamne on the night which followed that day, and behaved kindly and affectionately towards her, recounting his love for her, saying much upon this head: to whom she said, 7 “ Did you ever see a man love another, and order “ him to be put to death? and is he a hater un- “ less he shews such *proofs*?” Then Herod per- 8 ceived that Josephus had discovered to Mariamne the secret which he had entrusted to him; and *believed* that he would not have done that, unless she had given herself up to him: and he believed 9 that which his sister had told him on this subject; and immediately departing from Mariamne, he hated and detested her.

Which his sister learning, went to the cup- 10 bearer, and giving him money, delivered to him some poison, and said; Carry this to the king, and say to him, Mariamne the king's wife gave me this poison, and this money, commanding that it might be mixed in the king's drink. This the 11 cupbearer did. And the king seeing the poison, doubted not of the truth of the thing: whereupon he gives orders to behead Josephus his brother-in-law immediately; and also orders Mariamne to be put in chains, until the seventy elders should be present, and should pass a due sentence upon her.

So Herod's sister feared<sup>c</sup>, lest what she had 12

<sup>c</sup> It is observable, that this account of Mariamne's condemnation and death differs in some few circumstances from that which is given by Josephus.

done should be discovered, and she herself should perish, if Mariamne were set free: so she said to him, O king, if you put off Mariamne's death till to-morrow, you will not be at all able to effect it: 13 for as soon as it shall become known that you wish to kill her, the whole house of her father will come, and all their servants and neighbours, and will interpose; and you will not be able to 14 obtain her death until after great tumults. And 15 Herod said, Do as it seems *best* to you. And Hérod's sister sent in all haste a man to bring out Mariamne to the place of slaughter, setting upon her her maids, and other women, to insult her<sup>d</sup>, and upbraid her with all manner of indecency: 16 but she answered nothing to any of them, nor even moved her head<sup>e</sup> in the least: nor was her colour changed by all this treatment, nor did any fear or confusion appear in her, nor was her gait 17 altered; but with her wonted manner she proceeded to the place whither she was led to be slain; and bending her knees, she held out her 18 neck voluntarily: and departed this life, renowned for religion and chastity, marked by no crime, branded with no guilt; howbeit she was not wholly free from haughtiness, according to the

<sup>d</sup> It deserves remark, that the author of this book takes no notice whatsoever of the story which appears in Josephus, of Alexandra joining with the wicked Salome and her creatures, in their indecent revilings of her own daughter, Mariamne. In truth, such an act would have been not only most unworthy of a mother, but also unlike the

straight-forward conduct of that spirited, but unfortunate queen.

<sup>e</sup> I am not satisfied as to the correctness of this rendering: Gabriel's Latin has "apicem protulit;" and the French version is here too loose to afford any certain information. Perhaps the sense may be, "she did not utter a single syllable, or letter."

habit of her family. And of this not the least cause 19 was the obsequious attention and affection of Herod towards her, by reason of the elegance of her form; from whence she suspected no change in him towards her.

Now Herod had begotten of her two sons<sup>f</sup>, 20 namely, Alexander and Aristobulus; who, when their mother was slain, were living at Rome; for he had sent them thither, to learn the literature and language of the Romans. Afterwards, 21 Herod repented that he had killed his wife; and he was affected with grief to that degree on account of her death, that by it he contracted a disease, of which he had nearly died.

Mariamne being dead, her mother Alexandra 22  
 B. C. laid plans to put Herod to death; which  
 28. coming to his knowledge, he made away with her.

#### CHAPTER LIX.<sup>a</sup>

*The history of the coming of the two sons of Herod, Alexander and Aristobulus, as soon as they heard that their mother had been put to death by Herod.*

WHEN news was brought to Alexander and 1  
 B. C. Aristobulus of the murder committed on  
 16. their mother by Herod, they were overcome by excessive grief; and departing from 2  
 Rome<sup>b</sup> they came into the Holy City, paying no

<sup>f</sup> Josephus informs us that she bare him *three* sons, but that the youngest of them died while pursuing his studies at Rome. 16, 17. Bell. I. 17.

<sup>a</sup> Compare Joseph. Antiq. XVI. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, <sup>b</sup> From the text of this verse it would appear that the brothers quitted Rome *immediately* after hearing of their mother's death: but from Josephus we collect that

respect to their father Herod as they had formerly been wont to do, through the hatred of him which they felt in their minds on account of their mother's death. Now Alexander had married the daughter of king Archelaus<sup>c</sup>: and Aristobulus had married the daughter of Herod's sister<sup>d</sup>.  
 4 Therefore when Herod perceived that they paid him no respect, he saw that he was hated by them, and he avoided them: and this did not escape the observation of the young men, and of his family.

5 Now king Herod had married a wife before Mariamne, by name Dosithea<sup>e</sup>, by whom  
 6 he had a son named Antipater. When B.C.  
13. therefore Herod was assured respecting his two sons, as was observed above, he brought his wife Dosithea to his palace, and attached to himself his son Antipater, committing to him all his business; and he appointed him by will his successor.  
 7 And that Antipater persecuted his brothers Alexander and Aristobulus, designing to procure peace to himself while his father lived, that after his  
 8 death he might have no rival. Wherefore he said to his father, "In truth my brothers are  
 " seeking an inheritance<sup>f</sup> because of the family of  
 " their mother, because it is more noble than the  
 " family of my mother; and therefore they have  
 " a better right than I have to the fortune of

they did not return until several years after; namely, in the year B.C. 16.

<sup>c</sup> He was king of Cappadocia. (Josephus.)

<sup>d</sup> Namely, Bernice, daughter of Joseph and Salome.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus calls her *Doris*.

<sup>f</sup> That is, they are devising means of securing to themselves the succession to the throne, which they know you have destined for me.

“ which the king has judged me worthy : for this 9  
“ cause they are striving to put you to death, and  
“ me also they will slay soon after.” And this 10  
he frequently repeated to Herod, sending also  
secretly to him persons to insinuate to him things  
which might produce in him a greater hatred  
towards them.

In the mean time Herod goes to Rome to 11  
B.C. Augustus, taking with him his son Alex-  
12. ander. And when he had come into  
Augustus' presence, Herod complained to him of  
his son, requesting that he would reprove him.  
But Alexander said ; “ Indeed I do not deny my 12  
“ anguish on account of the murder of my mother  
“ without any fault ; for even brute beasts them-  
“ selves shew affection to their mothers much  
“ better than men, and love them *more* : but any 13  
“ design of parricide I utterly deny, and I clear  
“ myself of it before God : for I am possessed of  
“ the same feelings toward my father as toward  
“ my mother : nor am I that sort of man as to 14  
“ bring upon me guilt for crime towards my  
“ parent, and more especially eternal torments.”  
Alexander then wept with bitter and most vehe- 15  
ment weeping ; and Augustus pitied him, and all  
the chiefs of the Romans, who were standing  
near, wept *also*. Then Augustus asked Herod to 16  
take back his sons into his former kindness and  
intimacy : and he desired Alexander to kiss his  
father's feet, who did so. He also ordered Herod  
to embrace and kiss him, and Herod obeyed him.

Afterwards Augustus ordered a magnificent 17  
present for Herod, and it was carried to him :  
and after passing some days with him, Herod

returned to the Holy House; and calling to him  
 18 the elders of Judah, he said: "Know ye that  
 " Antipater is my eldest son and firstborn, but  
 " his mother is of an ignoble family: but the  
 " mother of Alexander and Aristobulus my sons  
 " is of the family of the high priests and kings.  
 19 " Moreover, God hath enlarged my kingdom, and  
 " hath extended my power; and therefore it  
 " seems good to me to appoint these my three  
 " sons to equal authority; so that Antipater shall  
 " have no command over his brothers, nor shall  
 20 " his brothers have command over him. Obey  
 " therefore all three, O ye assembly of men, nor  
 " interfere in any thing which their minds may  
 " be able to agree on; nor propose any thing  
 " which may produce misleadings and disagree-  
 21 " ment among them. And do not drink with  
 " them, nor talk too much with them. For from  
 " thence it will come to pass, that some one of  
 " them may unguardedly utter to you the designs  
 22 " which he has against his brother: upon which,  
 " that you may conciliate them to you, will follow  
 " your agreement<sup>s</sup> with every one of them, accord-  
 " ing to what seems good to him; and you will  
 " bring them to destruction, and yourselves will  
 23 " be destroyed also. It is your parts indeed, my  
 " sons, to be obedient to God, and to me; that  
 " you may live long, and that your affairs may  
 " prosper." Soon afterwards he embraced and  
 kissed them, and commanded the people to retire.

<sup>s</sup> That is, by which means  
 you will be led to become  
 partisans of one individual or  
 the other, from motives of

personal interest, instead of  
 remaining faithful counsellors  
 and supporters of their united  
 authority.

But that which Herod did came to no happy 24 result, nor were the hearts of his sons united in agreement. For Antipater wanted every thing to be put into his hands, as his father had formerly appointed: and to his brothers it did not seem at all fair that he should be thought equal to them. Now Antipater was endued with per- 25 severance, and all bad and feigned friendship; but not so his two brothers: Antipater therefore set spies on his brothers, who should bring him tidings of them: he also planted others who should carry false reports of them to Pilate<sup>h</sup>. But when Antipater was in presence of the king, 26 and heard any one relating such things of his brothers, he repelled the charge from them, declaring that the authors were unworthy of credit, and entreating the king not to believe the reports. Which Antipater did, that he might not inspire 27 the king with any doubt or suspicion<sup>i</sup> of himself. From hence the king entertained no doubt that 28 he was well-inclined towards his brothers, and wished them no harm.

Which when Antipater found out, he bent to 29  
 B.C. his purpose Pheroras his uncle, and his aunt,  
<sup>9.</sup> (for these were at enmity with his brothers on their mother's account,) offering Pheroras a most valuable present, requesting him to inform the king

<sup>h</sup> This manifestly is a mistake of the author or copier, for *Herod*. Pilate does not appear in Jewish history till more than thirty years had elapsed after this transaction; namely, in the reign of Tiberius Cæsar. See Luke iii. 1.

<sup>i</sup> The reader will have re-

marked the just retaliation upon Herod by his crafty son; who now practises against his own father, and with equal success, that system of duplicity and false accusation which Herod and his father Antipater had ever employed for their own advancement.

that Alexander and Aristobulus had laid a plan  
30 to murder the king. (Now Herod was well inclined towards Pheroras his brother, and attended to whatever he said ; inasmuch as he paid every year to him a large sum out of the provinces which he governed on the bank of the  
31 Euphrates.) And this Pheroras did. Afterwards Antipater went to Herod, and said to him ; “ O  
“ king, in truth my brothers have laid a plot to  
32 “ destroy me.” Antipater moreover gave money to the king’s three eunuchs, that they should say, “ Alexander has given us money, that he might  
“ make a wicked use of us, and that we might  
“ slay thee : and when we shrank from it, he  
“ threatened us with death.”  
33 And the king was wroth with Alexander, and ordered him to be put in chains : and he seized and put to the torture all the servants of Alexander, till they should confess what they knew about  
34 Alexander’s plot for murdering him. And many of these, though they died under the torture, never told a falsehood respecting Alexander : but some of them, being unable to endure the violence of the torment, devised falsehoods through a desire  
35 of liberating themselves ; asserting that Alexander and Aristobulus had planned to attack the king, and slay him, and flee to Rome ; and having received an army from Augustus, to march against the Holy House, to slay their brother Antipater, and to seize on the throne of Judæa.  
36 And the king commanded Aristobulus to be seized and put in chains : and he was bound, and was placed with his brother.

But when news of Alexander was brought to 37  
 B. C. his father-in-law Archelaus<sup>k</sup>, he went to  
 8. Herod, pretending to be in a great fury  
 against Alexander: as if, on hearing a report of the 38  
*intended* parricide, he had come on purpose to see  
 whether his daughter, the wife of Alexander, was  
 privy to the business, and had not revealed it to  
 him, that he might put her to death: but that,  
 if she was not privy to any thing of the kind, he  
 might separate her from Alexander, and take her  
 to his own home.

Now this Archelaus was a prudent, wise, and 39  
 eloquent man. And when Herod had heard his  
 words, and was satisfied of his prudence and ho-  
 nesty, he wonderfully got possession of his heart;  
 and he trusted himself to him, and relied on him  
 without the slightest hesitation. Archelaus there- 40  
 fore, finding Herod's inclination towards him, after  
 a long intimacy, said to him one day when they  
 had retired together; "Truly, O king, by reflect- 41  
 "ing on your affairs I have found, that you being  
 "now in advanced age are much in want of re-  
 "pose of mind, and to have solace in your sons;  
 "whereas on the contrary you have derived from  
 "them grief and anxiety. Moreover I have 42  
 "thought respecting these your two sons, and I  
 "do not find that you have been deficient in de-  
 "serving well of them; for you have promoted  
 "them, and made them kings, and have left un-  
 "done nothing, which might drive them wickedly  
 "to *contrive* your death, nor have they any cause  
 "for *entering on* this business. But perhaps this 43

<sup>k</sup> The king of Cappadocia, as mentioned above, at verse 3.

“ has come from *some* malicious person, who is  
“ desiring evil against you and them, or who  
“ through envy or enmity has induced you to ab-  
44 “ hor them. If therefore he has gained influence  
“ over you, who are an old man, endued with  
“ knowledge, information, and experience, chang-  
“ ing you from paternal mildness to cruelty and  
45 “ fury against your children; how much easier  
“ could he have wrought on them, who are young,  
“ inexperienced, and unguarded, and with no  
“ knowledge of men and their guiles, so that he  
“ has gained from them that which he wished in  
46 “ this matter. Consider therefore your affairs,  
“ O king; and do not give ear to the words of  
“ informers, nor do any thing hastily against your  
“ children; and enquire who that is who has been  
“ contriving evil against you and them.”

47 And the king replied to him; “ Indeed the  
“ thing is as you have mentioned: I wish that I  
“ knew who has induced them to *do* this.” Archelaus answered, “ This is your brother Pheroras.” The king replied, “ It may be so.”

48 After this, the king became greatly changed in  
his behaviour towards Pheroras: which Pheroras  
perceiving, was afraid of him; and coming to  
49 Archelaus, said to him; “ I perceive how that  
“ the king is changed towards me; wherefore I  
“ intreat you to reconcile his mind to me, remov-  
“ ing the feelings which he cherishes in his heart  
50 “ against me.” To whom Archelaus replied; “ I  
“ will do it indeed, if you will promise to disclose  
“ to the king the truth concerning the plots which  
“ you have laid against Alexander and Aristobu-  
“ lus.” And to this he assented.

And after a few days, Archelaus said to the 51  
king; " O king, truly a man's relatives are to  
" him as his own limbs: and as it is good for a  
" man, if any one of his limbs becomes affected by  
" some disease which befalls it, to restore it by  
" medicines, even although it may cause him  
" pain; and it is not good to cut it off, lest the 52  
" pain should be increased, the body be weak-  
" ened, and the limbs should fail; and thus from  
" the loss of that limb, he should feel the want of  
" many conveniences: but let him endure the 53  
" pains of the medical treatment, that the limb  
" may become better, and may be healed, and his  
" body may return to its former perfectness and  
" strength. So is it meet for a man, so often as 54  
" any one of his relatives is altered towards him,  
" from any abominable cause whatsoever, to re-  
" concile him to himself; alluring him to civility 55  
" and friendship, admitting his excuses, and dis-  
" missing the charges against him: and that he  
" do not put him hastily to death, nor remove  
" him too long away from his presence. For the 56  
" relatives of a man are his supporters and assist-  
" ants, and in them consists his honour and glory;  
" and through them he obtains that which other-  
" wise he would not be able to obtain. Pheroras 57  
" truly is the king's brother, and the son of his  
" father and of his mother: and he confesses his  
" fault, entreating the king to spare him, and to  
" dismiss *from his mind* his error." And the king  
replied, " This I will do." And he ordered Phe- 58  
roras to come before him; who, when he was in  
the presence, said to him; " I have sinned now  
" in the sight of the great and good God, and to

“ the king, devising mischiefs, and *plans* which  
“ might injure the affairs of the king and his  
59 “ sons, by lying falsehoods. But that which in-  
“ duced me to act thus was, that the king took  
“ away from me a certain woman, my concubine,  
60 “ and separated her and me.” The king said to  
Archelaus, “ I have now pardoned Pheroras, as  
“ you requested me: for I find that you have  
“ cured the disease which was in our affairs by  
“ your soothing methods, even as an ingenious  
“ physician heals the corruptions of a sick body.  
61 “ Wherefore I entreat you to pardon Alexander,  
“ reconciling your daughter to her husband; for  
“ I regard her as my daughter, since I know that  
“ she is more prudent than he, and that she turns  
“ him aside from many things by her prudence  
62 “ and her exhortations. Wherefore I pray you  
“ not to separate them and destroy him: for he  
“ agrees with her, and obtains many advantages  
63 “ from her guidance.” But Archelaus answered,  
“ My daughter is the king’s handmaid: but him  
“ my soul hath lately detested, by reason of his  
“ evil design. Let the king therefore permit me  
“ to separate him from my daughter, whom the  
“ king may unite to whomsoever of his servants  
64 “ he pleases.” To whom the king replied; “ Do  
“ not go beyond my request; and let your daugh-  
“ ter remain with him, and do not contradict me.”  
And Archelaus said; “ Surely I will do it; and  
“ will not contradict the king in any thing which  
“ he shall enjoin me.”

65 Soon afterwards, Herod orders Alexander and  
Aristobulus to be loosed from their chains, and to  
come before him: who, when they were in his

presence, prostrated themselves before him, confessing their faults, excusing themselves, and begging for pardon and forgiveness. And he com- 66  
manded them to stand up, and causing them to come near him, he kissed them, and ordered them to depart to their own homes, and to return the next day. And they came to eating and drinking with him, and he reinstated them in a place of greater honour. And to Archelaus he gave se- 67  
venty talents and a golden couch, enjoining likewise all the chief men of his friends to offer valuable presents to Archelaus : and they did so. This being accomplished, Archelaus departed from 68  
the city of the Holy House to his own country ; whom Herod accompanied, and at length, having taken leave of him, returned to the Holy House.

Nevertheless, Antipater did not leave off his 69  
B. C. plots against his brothers, that he might  
6. make them odious. Now it happened that 70  
a certain man<sup>b</sup> came to Herod, having some valuable and handsome articles, with which kings are usually won ; these he presented to the king, who, 71  
taking them from him, repaid him for them ; and the man obtained a very high place in his affections, and having been taken into his retinue, enjoyed his confidence : this man was named Eurycles. When therefore Antipater perceived that 72  
this man had wholly engrossed his father's favour, he offered him money, requesting that he would

<sup>b</sup> Josephus informs us that he was a Lacedæmonian, by name Eurycles, of a sordid and treacherous disposition ; so much so, that when he re- turned to his own country, after having kindled fatal discord in Herod's family, the Lacedæmonians banished him from the realm.

dexterously insinuate to Herod, and maintain that his two sons Alexander and Aristobulus were planning to murder him; which the man promised him to do. He soon afterwards went to Alexander, and became intimate and familiar with him to that degree, that he was known to be in his friendship, and it was made known to the king that he was intimate with him. After this, he went aside with the king, and said to him; “Certainly you have this right over me, O king, that nothing ought to prevent me from giving you good advice: and in truth I have a matter which the king ought to know, and which I ought to unfold to you.” The king said to him, “What have you?” The man answered him, “I heard Alexander saying, ‘Truly God hath deferred vengeance on my father for the death of my mother, of my grandfather, and of my relatives, without any crime, that it may take place by my hand: and I hope that I shall take vengeance for them upon him.’ And now he has agreed with some chiefs to attack you, and he wished to implicate me in the plans which he had formed: but I held it to be a crime, on account of the king’s acts of kindness towards me, and his liberality. But my intention is to admonish him well, and to report this to him, for he has *both* eyes and understanding.”

And when the king had heard these words, he by no means set them at nought, but speedily began to make enquiry as to their truth: but he found out nothing on which he could rely, except a letter forged in the name of Alexander and Ari-

stobulus to the governor of a certain town<sup>c</sup>. And 80  
 there was in the letter, “ We wish to kill our fa-  
 “ ther, and to flee to you; wherefore prepare us  
 “ a place wherein we may remain until the people  
 “ assemble round us, and our affairs are settled.”  
 And this indeed was confirmed to the king, and 81  
 appeared probable: wherefore he seized the go-  
 vernor of that city and ‘put him to the torture,  
 that he might confess what was inserted into *that*  
 letter. Which this man denied, clearing himself 82  
 from the charge: nor was any thing proved against  
 them in this matter, or in any thing else which  
 the informer had charged upon them. But *Herod* 83  
 ordered them to be seized and bound with chains  
 and fetters. Then he went to Tyre<sup>d</sup>, and from  
 Tyre to Cæsarea, carrying them with him in  
 chains. And all the captains and all the soldiers 84  
 pitied them: but no one interceded for them with  
 the king, lest he should admit that to be true of  
 himself which the informer had asserted.

Now there was in the army a certain old war- 85  
 rior<sup>e</sup> who had a son in the service of Alexander.  
 When therefore the old man saw the wretched  
 condition of Herod’s two sons, he pitied their  
 change of fortune marvellously, and cried out  
 with as loud a voice as he was able, “ Pity is  
 “ gone; goodness and piety have vanished away;

<sup>c</sup> Of Alexandrium. (Josephus.)

<sup>d</sup> Josephus relates that Herod brought his sons to a public mock trial at *Berytus*, himself accusing them in most violent language, and allow-

ing no defence to be made. Of course the unhappy youths were condemned. He then carried them off to Tyre and Cæsarea.

<sup>e</sup> Josephus records his name, which was Tero (or Tiro).

86 " truth is removed out of the world." Then he  
said to the king, " O thou merciless to thy chil-  
" dren, enemy of thy friends, and friend to thy  
" enemies, receiving the words of informers and  
87 " of persons who wish no good to thee!" And  
the enemies of Alexander and Aristobulus ran up  
to him, and reprov'd him, and said to the king ;  
" O king, it is not love towards you and towards  
" your sons which has induced this man to speak  
88 " thus; but he has wished to babble out the hatred  
" which he bare in his heart towards you, and to  
" speak ill of your counsel and administration, as  
89 " *being* a faithful adviser. And indeed some ob-  
" servers have informed us of him, that he had  
" already covenanted with the king's barber, to  
" slay him with the razor while he was shaving  
90 " him." And the king ordered the old man, and his  
son, and the barber, to be seized ; and the old man  
and the barber to be scourged with rods till they  
should confess. And they were beaten with rods  
most cruelly, and were subjected to various kinds  
of tortures ; but they confessed nothing of those  
91 things which they had not done. When therefore  
the son of the old man saw the sad condition of  
his father, and the state to which he had come, he  
pitied him, and thought that he would be liberated,  
if he himself should confess that which was laid  
to his father, after receiving from the king a pro-  
92 mise for his life. Wherefore he said to the king ;  
" O king, give me security for my father and my-  
" self, that I may tell you that which you are  
" seeking." And the king said, " You may have  
93 " this." To whom he said ; " Alexander had al-  
" ready agreed with my father that he should kill

“ you : but my father agreed with the barber, as  
“ has been told you.”

Then the king commanded that old man and 94  
his son to be slain, and the barber. He likewise  
ordered both his sons Alexander and Aristobulus  
to be taken to Sebaste, and there to be slain and  
fixed on a gibbet : and they were taken, killed,  
and fixed on a gibbet.

Now Alexander left two sons who survived 95  
him, namely, Tyrcanes and Alexander, by the  
daughter of king Archelaus : and Aristobulus left  
three sons, namely, Aristobulus, Agrippa, and  
Herod. But the history of Herod’s son Antipa- 96  
ter has already been described<sup>f</sup> in our former ac-  
counts.

<sup>f</sup> What are the “ former  
“ accounts” here spoken of,  
it is not easy to determine.  
The subsequent history of  
Antipater must be sought in  
the 17th book of the Antiqui-  
ties of Josephus. In truth,  
the conclusion of this tragedy,  
is quite in keeping with the  
former melancholy scenes of  
it: Antipater becoming at last  
afraid of his father, whose  
ferocious and indiscriminate  
massacres he had not only

witnessed, but had abetted for  
some time past, seeks means  
to destroy him by poison: but  
Herod detecting the plot, al-  
though tormented by a com-  
plication of diseases, and al-  
most at death’s door, sum-  
mons his last energies to or-  
der Antipater to be slain,  
which is instantly done. He  
himself follows his son to the  
grave within five days, one  
year after the birth of our  
Saviour Jesus Christ.

END OF BOOK V. .

# I N D E X.

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## A.

- AARON**, II. vii. 14. IV. vii. 10, 11.
- Abel**, IV. xviii. 13.
- Abominations**, (i. e. idols,) I. ii. 18. vi. 7.
- of desolation,  
II. i. 54.
- Abraham**, I. vi. 3. II. ii. 52. xii. 21. III. i. 2. IV. vi. 14, 19. vii. 17. ix. 21. xiii. 14. xv. 1, 24. xvi. 18, 22. xvii. 6. xviii. 1, 20, 22.
- Absalom**, II. xi. 70. III. xi. 17.
- Abubus**, (the son of,) II. xvi. 11, 15.
- Accaron**, II. x. 89.
- Acche**, (Ptolemais,) V. xxviii. 2.
- Accos**, II. viii. 17.
- Acrabattine**, II. v. 3.
- Adar**, (the month,) II. vii. 43, 49. III. xv. 36.
- Adasa**, II. vii. 40, 45.
- Adida**, in Sephela, II. xii. 38. xiii. 13.
- Adora**, II. xiii. 20.
- Æmilius**, (Paulus,) V. xii. 5.
- Æra**, of the Seleucidæ, II. i. 10, note.
- of Simon the high priest,  
II. xiii. 42. xiv. 27.
- of Herod's reign, V. l. 5.
- Affection** (natural) of birds, IV. xiv. 13. and of bees, ver. 17.
- Africa**, V. xii. 2, 12, &c. to 26.
- Africans**, V. xii. 25.
- Agrippa**, son of Aristobulus Herod's son, V. lix. 95.
- Alcimus**, II. vii. 5, 9, 12, 20, 21, 23, 25. ix. 1, 54—57.
- III. xiv. 2, 13, 26. V. iii. 6. xvi. 3, 12.
- Alema**, II. v. 26.
- Alexander**, of Macedon, II. i. 1, 7.
- Alexander Balas**, II. x. 1, 4, 47—51, 58, 59, 68, 88. ii. 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 14—17, 39.
- Alexander Jannæus**, son of J. Hyrcanus, V. xxvi. 1—4. xxvii. 2. His history, xxviii. 1, &c. xxix. 1, &c. His death, xxx. 1, &c. xxxi. 8. xxxii. 1, 4. xxxv. 3, 4, 27. xxxvi. 31.
- Alexander**, son of Aristobulus the second, V. xxxvii. 4. xxxviii. 3. xxxix. 1—10.
- Alexander**, son of Herod, V. lviii. 20. lix. 1, 3, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 29, 32—35, 37, 38, 50, 61, 65, 72, 73, 75, 79, 85, 87, 93—95.
- Alexander**, son of Alexander Herod's son, V. lix. 95.
- Alexandra**, (I.) wife of Alexander Jannæus, V. xxx. 3, 15. Her history, xxxi. 1, &c. xxxii. 2. Her death, xxxiii. 1, &c. xxxiv. 1—3.
- Alexandra**, (II.) daughter of Hyrcanus, wife of Alexander, and mother of Mariamne, V. xlix. 20. liv. 16. lv. 5, 11, 39. lvi. 13. lvii. 4. Her death, lviii. 22.
- Alexandria**, I. ii. 30. iii. 1, 21.
- Alexandrium**, a fortress, V. xxxix. 5, 8. lvii. 4.
- Amathis**, (or Hamath,) II. xii. 25.
- Ammon**, (children of,) II. v. 6.

- Ammon, (country of,) V. xxix. 19.
- Ammonites, III. iv. 26. v. 7.
- Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, II. ii. 59. (IV. xiii. 9. xvi. 3.) IV. xvi. 19. xviii. 14.
- Andronicus, III. iv. 31, 32, 34, 38. v. 23.
- Angels, V. x. 17.
- Annibal, V. xii. 2, 4, 6, &c. to 26.
- Antigonus, (I.) son of Hyrcanus, V. xxiii. 4. xxvi. 1. His history and death, xxvii. 2, &c.
- Antigonus, (II.) son of Aristobulus, V. xl. 1. xlii. 1. xlix. 1, 5, 10, 19, 23, 28. l. 1, &c. li. 1. lii. 12—33. He is slain, 34. liii. 1, 4.
- Antioch, Antiochia, near Daphne, II. iii. 37. iv. 35. vi. 63. xi. 13, 44, 56. III. iv. 9, 33. v. 21. viii. 35. xi. 36. xiii. 23, 26. xiv. 27. V. xiii. 3. xvi. 2. xxix. 16. l. 6. lii. 1. lvi. 7.
- Antiochians, III. iv. 19.
- Antiochis, III. iv. 30.
- Antiochus III. (the Great,) I. i. 1, 2, 5, 12, note. II. i. 10. viii. 6.
- Antiochus IV. (Epiphanes,) II. i. 10, 16, 20, 41. iii. 27. vi. 1, 16, 55. x. 1. III. i. 14, 15. ii. 20. iv. 7, 21, 37. v. 1, 5, 17, 21. vii. 24. ix. 1—28. Is tormented and dies, x. 13. xiv. 2. IV. iv. 15, 16. v. 1, 5. x. 15. xvii. 22. xviii. 5. V. iii. 1, 8, 9, 13. v. 5, 31, 38, 45, 52, 54. vi. 2, 20. vii. 10, 12, 17. viii. 1, 7. ix. 2. x. 3. xv. 1. xvi. 19.
- Antiochus V. (Eupator,) II. iii. 33. vi. 15, 17, 55. vii. 2. III. ii. 20. ix. 25. x. 10, 13. xi. 22, 27. xiii. 1, 3, 4. V. xiii. 2. xv. 1, 12.
- Antiochus VI. (Theos.) II. xi. 39, 40, 54, 57. xii. 39. Is slain by Tryphon, xiii. 31.
- Antiochus VII. (Sidetes, or Pius,) II. xv. 1, 2, 10, 11, 13, 25. His letter to Simon, xiv. 2, &c. V. xix. 3, 6, 7. Attacks Hyrcanus, V. xxi. 1, &c. He is slain, xxi. 24.
- Antiochus IX. (Cyzicenus,) V. xxiii. 6.
- Antipater, the son of Jason, II. xii. 16. xiv. 22, 24.
- Antipater, father of Herod, his history, V. xxxv. 1, &c. xxxvi. 1, &c. xxxvii. 5. xxxviii. 1—3. xl. 7, 8, 18. xlii. 16—25. xliii. 2—11. xliv. 7. xlv. 6, 7. His death, xlvi. 1, &c.
- Antipater, son of Herod, V. lix. 5, 7, 18, 19, 24—32, 35, 69, 72, 96.
- Antonius, (Marcus,) V. xxxix. 8. xlvii. 13. xlviii. 3, 11, 23—35. xlix. 1, &c. l. 3, &c. lii. 1, &c. lv. 5—19. lvi. 1, &c. His battle with Augustus, and death, lvii. 1, &c.
- Aphærema, II. xi. 34.
- Apollonius, son of Thræseas, II. iii. 10, 12. III. iii. 5, 7. iv. 4. v. 24.
- Apollonius, governor of Cælo-syria, II. x. 69, 74, 77, 79. IV. iv. 2, 4, &c.
- Apollonius, son of Menestheus, III. iv. 21.
- Apollonius, son of Gennæus, III. xii. 2.
- Apollonophanes, III. x. 37.
- Ἀποστολαί, its meaning. Note on III. i. 2.
- Arabia, II. xi. 16. III. xii. 11.
- Arabians, II. v. 39. xi. 16, 39. xii. 31. III. v. 8. xii. 10. V. xxviii. 28. xxix. 19. xxxvi. 9. xxxviii. 1—3. lii. 4, 5, 7. liv. 17—20, 23—25, 29—31. lvi. 9—11, 15, 16, 21, 25,

- 26, 35, 39—42, 45. lvii. 12, 20.
- Aradus, II. xv. 23.
- Arbattis, II. v. 23.
- Arbela, II. ix. 2.
- Archelaus, V. lix. 3, 37, 39, 40, 47—51, 60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 95.
- Aretas, III. v. 8. See *Hartas*.
- Appearances, (preternatural,) see *Visions*.
- Areus, or Arius, king of Sparta, II. xii. 7, 19, 20.
- Ariarathes, II. xv. 22.
- Aristobulus, III. i. 10.
- Aristobulus, son of J. Hyrcanus, V. xxiii. 4. xxvi. 1, 2. His history and death, xxvii. 1, &c.
- Aristobulus, son of Alexander Jannæus, V. xxxi. 6. xxxii. 3. xxxiii. 2, 5, 7. is appointed king, xxxiv. 1, &c. xxxv. 5, &c. xxxvi. 3, &c. xxxvii. 1, 4. escapes from Rome, V. xl. 1, &c. xliii. 1. xlv. 13.
- Aristobulus, son of Hyrcanus the second, V. lv. 1, &c. is drowned by Herod's orders, 34, 38.
- Aristobulus, son of Herod, V. lviii. 20. lix. 1, 3, 7, 18, 29, 35, 36, 50, 65, 72, 79, 87, 94, 95.
- Aristobulus, son of Aristobulus, Herod's son, V. lix. 95.
- Armenia, Armenians, V. xxxvi. 1, 2. lii. 8.
- Arsaces, (Mithridates,) II. xiv. 2, 3. xv. 22.
- Arsinoe, I. i. 2, 5.
- Ascalon, II. x. 86. xi. 60. xii. 33. V. xlii. 14.
- Asdrubal, V. xii. 15.
- Ashes, a tower full of, III. xiii. 5, and note.
- Asia, I. iii. 14. II. viii. 6. xi. 13. xii. 39. xiii. 32. III. iii. 3. x. 24. IV. iii. 21. V. xlv. 5. xlviii. 7, 16.
- Asmonæans, whence derived. Note on II. ii. 1. V. xlv. 12. liii. 1. liv. 35. lv. 4.
- Aspbar, the pool, II. ix. 33.
- Assidæans, (or Hasdanim,) II. ii. 42. vii. 13. III. xiv. 6.
- Assyria, I. vi. 5. II. vii. 41. IV. xiii. 9.
- Atargatis, III. xii. 26. and note.
- Athenio, V. lvi. 10, 15, 16, 35.
- Athenobius, II. xv. 28, 32, 36.
- Athens, III. vi. 1, and note. ix. 15.
- Attalus, II. xv. 22.
- Augustus, (see *Octavian*,) V. xlviii. 3, &c. xlix. 1, 29. l. 1, 3. lii. 9. lvi. 5—7. Conquers Antony, lvii. 1, &c. Receives Herod into favour, lvii. 18—22. lviii. 1. lix. 11, 15—17, 35.
- Azarias, one of Judas' captains, II. v. 18, 56, 60.
- Azotus, (or Ashdod,) II. iv. 15. v. 68. x. 77, 78, 83, 84. xi. 4. xiv. 34. xvi. 10. V. xvii. 12.
- Azotus, (mount,) II. ix. 15. V. xvii. 12.

## B.

- Babylon, I. vi. 6. vi. 4. III. viii. 20. V. xxxv. 1. lii. 8.
- Bacchides, II. vii. 8, 12, 19, 20. ix. 1, 11, 12, 14, 25, 26, 29, 32, 34, 43, 47, 49, 50, 57, 58, 63, 68. III. viii. 30. V. xvii. 1—12. xviii. 1—8.
- Bacchus, I. ii. 29. III. vi. 7. xiv. 33.
- Bacenor, III. xii. 35.
- Bæan, (children of,) II. v. 4.
- Balsam-trees, V. lv. 25.
- Barber, (Herod's,) V. lix. 89—94.
- Bascama, II. xiii. 23.
- Bath, Herod in danger in one, V. lii. 22.
- Bathzacharias, II. vi. 32, 33.
- Beasts, i. e. (elephants,) I. v.

- 29, 31, 47. vi. 16. II. vi. 35,  
36, 37, 43. III. xv. 20, 21.  
Beersheba, V. xviii. 4.  
Benjamin, (tribe of,) III. iii. 4.  
V. ii. 11. lvi. 38.  
Beroœa, II. ix. 4. III. xiii. 4.  
Beth-basi, II. ix. 62, 64.  
Beth-Dagon, II. x. 83.  
Beth-el II. ix. 50.  
Beth-horon, II. iii. 16. 24. vii.  
39. ix. 50.  
Beth-ner, V. xi. 3, 9. xv. 3.  
Bethsan, II. v. 52. xii. 40, 41.  
Bethsura, II. iv. 29, 61. vi. 7,  
26, 31, 49, 50. ix. 52. x. 14.  
xi. 65. xiv. 7, 33. III. xi. 5.  
xiii. 19, 22.  
Bezeth, II. vii. 19.  
Blood, innocent avenged, V.  
xxvii. 20—29.  
Bosor, II. v. 26, 28, 36.  
Bosora, II. v. 26.  
Brutus (L. Junius), V. xlv. 1.  
xlvi. 16.  
Burying-place: the meaning of  
*πολυάνδριον*. Note on III.  
ix. 4.
- C.
- Caddis, son of Mattathias, II.  
ii. 2.  
Cades in Galilee, II. xi. 63, 73.  
Cæsar, Julius, V. xl. 5, 6. his  
history, xli. 1, &c. xliii. 1, &c.  
xliv. 1, &c. his death, xlv.  
1, &c. xlvii. 13. xlviii. 4, 14.  
Cæsarea, V. lix. 83.  
Cain, IV. xviii. 13.  
Caleb, II. ii. 56.  
Callisthenes, III. viii. 33.  
Calphi, II. xi. 70.  
Capharsalama, II. vii. 31.  
Caphenatha, II. xii. 37.  
Cappadocia, V. xlii. 11.  
Captivity, the third, V. ix. 5,  
and note.  
Caria, II. xv. 23.  
Carnaim, II. v. 26, 43, 44.  
Carnion, III. xii. 21, 26.  
Carthage, V. xii. 2, 18, 19.  
Casleu, the month, II. i. 54.  
iv. 52, 59. III. i. 9, 18. x. 5.  
V. ix. 6.  
Casphon, II. v. 26, 36.  
Caspis, III. xii. 13.  
Cassius, V. xli. 14. xlv. 1, &c.  
xlvii. 2, &c. xlviii. 1, &c.  
Catapultæ, (instruments of tor-  
ture,) IV. ix. 26. x. 7. xi.  
22. xviii. 20.  
Cedron, II. xv. 39, 41. xvi.  
9.  
Cendebæus, II. xv. 38, 40. xvi.  
1, 4, 8, 9.  
Chæreas, III. x. 32, 37.  
Chalisam, V. x. 21.  
Chanaan, II. ix. 37.  
Characa, III. xii. 17.  
Chelcias, V. xxiv. 2.  
Chettiim, the land of, II. i. 1.  
Cilicia, II. xi. 14. III. iv. 36.  
IV. iv. 2.  
Citims, II. viii. 5.  
City of the Holy House, V. xxi.  
1. xxiii. 5. xxvii. 3. xxviii.  
23, 34, 37. xxx. 8. xxxv.  
33. xxxvi. 6, 37, 38. xxxvii.  
3, 5. xxxviii. 5. lii. 7. 24.  
lix. 68.  
City of the House of God, V.  
xxi. 10.  
City of Judah, V. xl. 1.  
Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy  
Philometor, II. x. 57, 58.  
Cleopatra, wife of Ptolemy  
Physcon, and mother of Pto-  
lemy Lathyrus, V. xxiv. 1—  
4. xxviii. 2, 15, 26, 27.  
Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy  
Auletes, V. xlviii. 26. xlix. 27.  
lv. 5, 6. her character, lvi. 1,  
&c. lvii. 16, 19, 22.  
Cloistered court, I. v. 23, and  
note.  
Cnidus, II. xv. 23.  
Cœlosyria, I. iii. 15. III. iii. 5,  
8. iv. 4. viii. 8. x. 11.  
Coin. Leave given to Simon  
to coin money, II. xv. 6, and  
note.

- Collector, (Apollonius the king's,) II. i. 29.
- Constantius Chlorus, I. vii. 11. note.
- Corinthians, Apocryphal Epistle to, I. vi. 8, note.
- Cos, II. xv. 23.
- Country of the Holy House, (i. e. Judæa,) V. viii. 1.
- Crassus, V. xli. 2, &c.
- Crates, governor of Cyprus, III. iv. 29.
- Crete, II. x. 67.
- Crown-taxes, II. x. 29. xi. 34. xiii. 39.
- Cynæus, V. xxii. 7.
- Cyprians, III. iv. 29.
- Cypris, Herod's mother, V. xlix. 20.
- Cyprus, II. xv. 23. III. x. 13. xii. 2. V. xxiv. 4. xxviii. 27.
- Cyrene, II. xv. 23.
- D.
- Dagon, (or Docus,) a castle, V. xx. 6, 7.
- Dagon, the temple of, II. x. 84. xi. 4.
- Damascus, II. xi. 62. xii. 32. V. xxxvi. 2, 3, 10, 26, 27, 34. xl. 18. xlii. 25. xlix. 12. lii. 8.
- Daniel the prophet, I. vi. 7. II. ii. 60. IV. xvi. 3, 19. xviii. 14. V. xii. 1.
- Daphne, III. iv. 33.
- Darius (i. e. Arius) king of Sparta, II. xii. 7, and note.
- Dathan and Abiram, IV. ii. 17.
- Dathema, II. v. 9.
- David, II. ii. 57. iv. 30. IV. iii. 7, 8. xviii. 16. his sons, V. xxi. 17.
- David, city of, II. i. 33. ii. 31. vii. 32. xiv. 36.
- Dedication, V. x. 1.
- Delos, II. xv. 23.
- Demetrius I. (Soter,) II. vii. 1, 4. viii. 31. ix. 1. x. 2, 3, 15, 22, 25, 48—52. III. xiv. 1, 4, 5, 11. V. xv. 11. xvi. 2, 5. xix. 3.
- Demetrius II. (Nicator,) II. x. 67, 69. xi. 9, 12, 19, 30, 32, 38—42, 52, 55, 63. xii. 24, 34. xiii. 34—36. is captured by Arsaces, xiv. 1—3. xv. 22. III. i. 7, 14.
- Demetrius III. V. xxix. 6—15.
- Demophon, III. xii. 2.
- Denarius, the Roman coin, V. ii. 13.
- Dessau, III. xiv. 16.
- Diogenes, V. xxxii. 1.
- Dioscorinthius, the month, III. xi. 21, see note.
- Discus, the game of, III. iv. 14.
- Docus, II. xvi. 15.
- Dora, II. xv. 11, 13.
- Dorymenes, II. iii. 38. III. iv. 45.
- Dositheus, one of Judas' captains, III. xii. 19, 24, 35.
- Dositheus, son of Drimulus, I. i. 4.
- Dosithea, Herod's wife, V. lix. 5, 6.
- Drachmæ of silver, I. iii. 28. III. iv. 19. x. 20. xii. 43.
- E.
- Earthquake in Judæa, V. lvi. 18—21, 31.
- East, men of the, V. x. 4.
- Ecbatana, III. ix. 3.
- Egypt, I. ii. 25. iii. 20. iv. 18. vi. 4. vii. 1. II. i. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, &c. &c. xi. 13, 59. III. i. 1, 10. v. 1, 8, 11. ix. 29. IV. iv. 22. V. ii. 1, 4, 11, 14. xii. 24. xxiii. 8. xxiv. 2. xxviii. 27. xxxi. 1. xl. 6, 15, xlii. 14, 16, 17, 21. xlv. 7, 8. xlvi. 26. xlix. 26. lii. 10, 33. lv. 25. lvi. 9. lvii. 1, 2, 22. lviii. 3.
- Egyptians, V. ii. 1. xxiii. 2, 10. xxiv. 2. xl. 16, 19. xlii. 19—23. xliii. 4. xlv. 8.

- Elder, (i. e. chief of the Roman senate,) V. xii. 10. xiii. 1, 5. xxi. 1, 3. xxxvi. 23. xlii. 4.
- Elders, of Jerusalem, I. i. 23, 25. V. xv. 4. xxxiv. 8. xxxvi. 27. liv. 29. lvi. 19. lviii. 11. lix. 17.
- Eleasa, (a place,) II. ix. 5.
- Eleazar, a priest, I. vi. 1, 16.
- Eleazar Avaran, son of Mattathias, II. ii. 5. vi. 43. V. xv. 8.
- Eleazar, (the martyr,) III. vi. 18—31. IV. i. 8. v. 4, 14. vi. 1, 4, 12, 13. vii. 1, 5, 9, 11. ix. 5. xvi. 14. xvii. 13. V. ii. 4, 9, 10. iv. 1, 2, 4, 7, 13. vii. 34.
- Eleazar, reads the holy book, III. viii. 23.
- Eleazar (another) a priest, V. xli. 4, 6, 7, 8.
- Elephants, I. v. 1, 2, 4, 10, 20, 23, 38, 42, 45, 48. vi. 21. II. vi. 34, 35, 46. viii. 6. xi. 56. III. xi. 4. xiii. 15. xiv. 12. V. viii. 7. xi. 2. xv. 2, 5, 7, 9.
- Ἐλέπολις, an engine of war, II. xiii. 43, note.
- Eleutherus, the river, II. xi. 7. xii. 30.
- Elias, (Elijah,) II. ii. 58.
- Elul, the month, II. xiv. 27.
- Elymais, II. vi. 1.
- Enamaus, II. iii. 40, 57. ix. 50.
- Ἐμπαργμὸς, its meaning, note on III. vii. 7.
- Engine of war, (Ἐλέπολις,) II. xiii. 43, and note.
- Enrol, I. iv. 14.
- Enrolment, I. iv. 17.
- Ephron, II. v. 46. III. xii. 27.
- Epiphanes, or Epimanes, note on II. i. 10.
- Epiphanius, (Antiochus Epiphanes,) V. xi. 1.
- Epiphi, a month, I. vi. 38.
- Esaias, the prophet, IV. xviii. 15.
- Esau, children of, II. v. 3, 65.
- Eumenes, II. viii. 8.
- Eunuchs, V. lix. 32.
- Eupator, (Antiochus,) II. vi. 17. III. ii. 20. V. viii. 18. xi. 1, 2. xvi. 1.
- Euphrates, II. iii. 32, 37. V. xli. 16. xliv. 11. lii. 2, 8. lix. 30.
- Eupolemus, II. viii. 17. III. iv. 11.
- Eurycles, V. lix. 71.
- Exercise, a place of, II. i. 14. III. iv. 10, 12, 14.
- Ezechias (Hezekiah) king of Judah, III. xv. 22. V. xvi. 22.
- Ezechiel, the prophet, IV. xviii. 18.
- Ezra the priest, V. xxxv. 1.

## F.

- Fælix, left as governor of Jerusalem by Antiochus Epiphanes, V. iii. 14, and note. iv. 1, 5, 13. v. 54. vi. 7, 10, 19. vii. 8, 33, 34.
- Fast, a solemn, V. xxiii. 3.
- Feast, of the Dedication of the temple after its profanation by Antiochus, II. iv. 52—59. V. ix. 6.
- of Tabernacles, III. i. 9. x. 6. V. xx. 17. xxi. 11. xxviii. 34. lv. 20, 23.
- of Pentecost, or weeks, III. xii. 31, 32.
- of Purim, or Mardocheus' day, note at III. xv. 36.
- of the Jews on their deliverance from the elephants, I. vi. 31, &c. vii. 19.
- of Bacchus, III. vi. 7.
- of the new altar, V. ix. 6.
- of joy on Nicanor's death, III. xv. 36. V. xvi. 26.
- Fire (holy) kindled in the temple, III. i. 18—22. V. ix. 4, 5.
- from heaven, III. ii. 10.

## G.

- Gabatha, V. xxxii. 3.  
 Gabinius, V. xxxvi. 43, 44. xxxix. 1, 6, 9, 10. xl. 2, 20. xli. 1, 3.  
 Gadir, V. xxxix. 12.  
 Galaad, (Gilead,) II. v. 9, 17, 20, 25, 27, 36, 45, 55. xiii. 22.  
 Galatians, II. viii. 2, and note. III. viii. 20.  
 Galgala, II. ix. 2.  
 Galileæans, V. x. 11.  
 Galilee, II. v. 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 55. x. 30. xi. 63. xii. 47, 49. V. x. 7, 9. xxviii. 16. lii. 17.  
 Game, (Olympic,) III. iv. 18. IV. vi. 9.  
 Garizim, III. v. 23. vi. 2.  
 Gaza, II. xi. 61, 62. xiii. 43. V. x. 21—23. xx. 4, 5. xxviii. 28—33. its temple destroyed and the city plundered, V. xxviii. 33. xlv. 9.  
 Gazara, II. iv. 15. vii. 45. ix. 52. xiii. (43?) 53. xiv. 7, 34. xv. 28, 35. xvi. 19, 21. III. x. 32.  
 Gellius, V. lv. 7, 9.  
 Genesar, the water of, II. xi. 67.  
 Gentiles, II. ii. 12, 48. iii. 10. iv. 60. v. 15. vi. 53. III. vi. 4. xi. 2, 24. IV. xviii. 6, 20. V. i. 1. xi. 10. xli. 10.  
 Gerrhenians, III. xiii. 24.  
 Giants, I. ii. 4. V. v. 42.  
 Giare, (i. e. Gilead,) V. x. 5.  
 Gilead, see *Galaad*.  
 Gneus, (i. e. Pompey,) his history, V. xxxvi. 1, &c.  
 Gorgias, II. iv. 1, 5, 18. v. 59. III. viii. 9. x. 14. xii. 32, 35, 36, 37. V. vii. 18, 31, 32. ix. 1. x. 1, 2, 3, 11. xiv. 4, 5.  
 Gortyna, II. xv. 23.  
 Governments, the three, II. x. 30, 38. xi. 28, 34.

- Governments, the four, II. xi. 57.  
 Governors, (i. e. the Roman senate,) V. xiii. 1, 5. xxii. 1. xxxvi. 23. xlii. 7, 11.  
 Grecian, II. vi. 2. viii. 9, 18. III. vi. 8. IV. vi. 9. viii. 10. V. i. 1.  
 Greece, II. i. 1.  
 Greek, III. iv. 10. (language,) V. xlv. 16.  
 Greeks, I. iii. 8. II. i. 10. III. iv. 36. vi. 9. V. xiii. 3. xlviii. 7.  
 Gymnasium, IV. iv. 20.

## H.

- Halepus, V. xxi. 25. xxxvi. 2.  
 Halicarnassus, II. xv. 23.  
 Hamath, (or Hemath, or Amathis, or Hames,) V. xxviii. 37. xxxvi. 2. xxxix. 12.  
 Hananias, V. xxiv. 2.  
 Harbak, king of Judah, V. lvi. 18. See the note.  
 Hartas, (i. e. Aretas,) V. xxviii. 28, and note, 36. xxxii. 6. xxxv. 20, and note, 35. xxxvi. 6, 9.  
 Hasdanim, (Assidæans,) the sect described, V. xxv. 5, and note. (xxxii. 12.)  
 Hebrews, III. vii. 31. xi. 13. xv. 37. IV. iv. 11. v. 2, 4. viii. 3. ix. 18. xvii. 9. V. iii. 9. viii. 11. xxix. 7.  
 Hebrew tongue, IV. xii. 6. xvi. 14.  
 Hebron, II. v. 65.  
 Hegiaz, V. lvi. 45.  
 Heliodorus, III. iii. 7, 8, 13, 23, 25, 27, 31—33, 35, 37, 40. iv. 1. v. 18. V. i. 2, 3, 7, 14, 16, 18, 19.  
 Herak, (in Persia,) V. xlix. 17, 18. l. 7. liv. 1.  
 Hercules, III. iv. 19, 20.  
 Hermo, I. v. 1, 4, 10, 18, 23, 26, 29, 30, 33, 37.

- Herod the Great, son of Antipater, V. xxxv. 3. xlv. 8. xlv. 1, &c. xlviii. 28, 30, 32, 34. xlix. 2, &c. is appointed king by the Romans, l. 1, &c. he destroys the thieves, li. 1, &c. lii. 1, &c. he takes Jerusalem, 27—32. liii. 1, &c. liv. 2, &c. he destroys Aristobulus, lv. 1, &c. beats the Arabians, lvi. 23—45. goes to Augustus, lvii. 3, &c. puts Mariamne to death, lviii. 1, &c. suspects his sons Aristobulus and Alexander, and slays them, lix. 1, &c.
- Herod, son of Aristobulus, Herod's son, V. lix. 95.
- Hieronymus, III. xii. 2.
- High priest, must not be mutilated in body, V. xlix. 16, 19. liv. 9.
- Hippodrome, I. iv. 11. v. 46. vi. 16.
- Holy City, I. vi. 5. V. i. 1. xvi. 17. xx. 18. xxi. 26. xxxiv. 7. xxxv. 31. xxxvi. 9, 19, 25. xxxviii. 3. xl. 20. xliii. 12. xlix. 5, 19. l. 2, 16. liv. 13, 26. lv. 37. lvii. 22.
- Holy House, V. xx. 7. xxiii. 3. xxxvi. 34. lii. 11, 19. liii. 6. lvi. 17, 44. lix. 17, 35, 68. See note at V. xx. 7.
- Holy Land, V. vii. 35. xvi. 7. xlviii. 20. lii. 3.
- Holy place, I. i. 10. iii. 17. III. ii. 18. IV. iv. 9.
- House (a) falls upon Herod, V. lii. 18.
- House of the sanctuary, V. viii. 16.
- House (the) i. e. the temple, V. i. 2, &c. &c. xxi. &c. xxxvi. 52. xli. 6. lv. 26.
- House of sanctification, I. ii. 18.
- House of God, V. i. 1, 7. vii. 21. ix. 7. xi. 7. xvi. 16, 17. xxvii. 4. xxxiv. 9, 10. xli. 2, 5. xlv. 9. lii. 31. liv. 13. lv. 20.
- Houses of abomination, I. ii. 18.
- Hyrchanus, grandson of Tobias, III. iii. 11.
- Hyrchanus, a man from whom John Hyrchanus obtained his surname, V. xx. 1—3.
- Hyrchanus, John, son of Simon, his history, V. xx. 1, &c. xxi. 1, &c. xxii. 1, &c. he styles himself king, V. xxii. 8. xxiii. 1, &c. his death, xxvi. 1, &c. xxviii. 3. xxxi. 1, 2. xxxii. 4.
- Hyrchanus, son of Alexander Jannæus, V. xxxi. 6. xxxiii. 6, 7. is appointed high priest under his brother Aristobulus, xxxiv. 1, &c. xxxv. 5, &c. xxxvi. 3, &c. is appointed king by Pompey, xxxvii. 1, &c. xxxviii. 1, &c. xxxix. 3, 6, 11. xl. 7, 17, 20. xli. 15. xlii. 15, 18. xliii. 2, 12. xlv. 1, &c. xlv. 7. xlvii. 3. xlviii. 3, 9—11, 20, 29, 30. xlix. 2, 7, 10—12. he is mutilated, xlix. 16, 19. he returns to Jerusalem, and is put to death by Herod, liv. 1—35.

## I. J.

- Jacob, I. vi. 3, 13. II. i. 28. iii. 7, 45. v. 2. III. i. 2. IV. ii. 19. vii. 17. xiii. 14. xvi. 22.
- Jambri, children of, II. ix. 36.
- Jamnia, II. iv. 15. x. 69. xv. 40.
- Jannites, III. xii. 8, 9. xii. 40.
- Jason, son of Eleazar, II. viii. 17.
- Jason of Cyrene, III. ii. 23.
- Jason, the high priest, III. i. 7. iv. 7, 13, 19, 22—26. v. 5, 6. IV. iv. 16.
- Jazer, II. v. 8.
- Idols, (a city of two,) V. vii. 32.
- Idumæa, II. iv. 15, 29, 61. v.

3. vi. 31. III. xii. 32. V. xiv. 4. xxi. 29.
- Idumæans, III. x. 15, 16. V. x. 1. receive circumcision, xxi. 30. xxxv. 3, 4.
- Jeremiah, the prophet, III. ii. 1, 5, 7. xv. 14, 15.
- Jericho, II. ix. 50. xvi. 11, 14. III. xii. 15. V. xxxix. 12. lii. 11. lv. 23—28.
- Jerusalem, I. i. 9. iii. 16. II. i. 14, 20, 38, &c. &c. V. xxviii. 17, &c. &c.
- Jesus, (i. e. Joshua,) II. ii. 55.
- Jezabel, mount, V. xxi. 28.
- Jewish, I. vii. 10. IV. iv. 19. V. xi. 17.
- Jewish sects, V. xxv. 1, &c. xxviii. 1, &c.
- Jewish women and children slain by Lythras, V. xxviii. 25.
- Jews, I. i. 8. ii. 28. iii. 3, &c. &c. V. vii. 19, &c.
- Images of himself made by Antiochus Epiphanes, and ordered to be worshipped, V. iii. 4, 5, 14.
- India, II. viii. 8.
- Indian, ruler of the elephant, II. vi. 37.
- Indias, the country of, V. xlvi. 12.
- Joannan, II. ii. 2. he is called *Joseph* at III. viii. 22.
- Joarib, or Jarib, II. ii. 1. xiv. 29.
- John, son of Simeon, and father of Mattathias, II. ii. 1. V. vi. 1.
- John, son of Accos, II. viii. 17. III. iv. 11.
- John, Maccabæus, II. ix. 35, 36, 38.
- John, or Jochanan, (Hyrcanus,) son of Simon, II. xiii. 53. xvi. 1, 2, 9, 19, 21, 23. his history, V. xx. 1, &c. See *Hyrcanus*.
- John, (sent ambassador to Ly-sias,) III. xi. 17.
- Jonas, the prophet, I. vi. 8.
- Jonathan, the son of Saul, II. iv. 30.
- Jonathan Maccabæus, II. ii. 5. v. 17, 55. ix. 19, 28. takes the government on him, II. ix. 31, 33—73. x. 3—18. puts on the high priest's robe, 21, 46, 74, &c. xi. 5—7, 20—23, 28—30, &c. xii. 1, 3, &c. he is taken, 48. and slain, xiii. 23. III. viii. 22. xii. 5, &c. &c. V. xvii. 3. his history, V. xviii. 1—8.
- Jonathan, the son of Absalom, II. xiii. 11.
- Jonathan, contemporary with Nehemiah, III. i. 23.
- Joppe, II. x. 75, 76. xi. 6. xii. 33. xiii. 11. xiv. 5, 34. xv. 28, 35. III. iv. 21. xii. 3, 6.
- Jordan, the marsh of, II. ix. 42.
- Joseph, the patriarch, II. ii. 53. IV. ii. 2. xviii. 13.
- Joseph, son of Zacharias, II. v. 18, 56, 60.
- Joseph (Johannan) Maccabæus, III. viii. 22. x. 19.
- Joseph, son of Antipater, V. xxxv. 3. xlix. 20, 24, 26. l. 8—14. he is slain, lii. 11, 12.
- Josephus, a Tyrian, Herod's brother-in-law, V. lvii. 4. lviii. 1, 4, 8, 11.
- Joshua, the son of Nun, III. xii. 15.
- Isaac, the patriarch, III. i. 2. IV. vii. 17. xiii. 10, 14. xvi. 18, 22. xviii. 13.
- Israel, I. ii. 6, 10, 16. vi. 4, 9. II. i. 20, 25, 36, 53, &c. &c. IV. xvii. 21.
- Israelites, II. i. 43. iii. 46. v. 9. vii. 23. IV. xviii. 1.
- Ituræa, note on V. xxvii. 30.
- Judæa, I. v. 43. II. iii. 34. v. 18, 60. vi. 12, 48. vii. 24,

46. ix. 50. x. 38, 45. xi. 20, 28, 34. xii. 35. xiv. 33. xv. 30, 39—41. III. i. 1, 10. v. 14. x. 24. xi. 5. xiii. 1, 13. xiv. 12, 14. V. iii. 6.
- Judæa divided into five portions by Gabinius, V. xxxix. 10—12.
- Judah, land of, II. i. 29, 44, 51, &c. &c. V. xi, &c. &c.
- towns of, V. xxxii. 9, 11.
- tribe of, V. ii. 11. lvi. 38.
- Judaism, III. ii. 21. xiv. 38.
- Judas Maccabæus, II. ii. 4. iii. 1, &c. viii. 20. is killed, II. ix. 18. III. ii. 19. v. 27. viii. 1, 12. xii. 5, &c. xiii. 1, &c. xiv. 1, &c. his battles, V. vi. 1—19. viii. 1. x. 1, &c. xi. 1, &c. xiii. 1, &c. xiv. 1, &c. xv. 1, &c. xvi. 1, &c. his death, xvii. 1, &c.
- Judas, the son of Calphi, II. xi. 70.
- Judas, son of Simon Maccabæus, II. xvi. 2, 9, 14.
- Judas, III. i. 10. ii. 14.
- Julius, V. xlii. 2.
- Jupiter, III. vi. 2, and note.
- Ivy-leaf, I. ii. 29. III. vi. 7.
- K.
- Καθάρσιον* (*αἶμα*), note on IV. vi. 24.
- Kingdom of the Greeks, (i. e. æra of the Seleucidæ,) II. i. 10.
- Kings of the second house, V. liii. 8.
- L.
- Lacedæmonians, II. xii. 2, 5, 6, 21. xiv. 20, 23. xv. 23. III. v. 9.
- Lalis, V. xvii. 2.
- Land of the sanctuary, (i. e. Judæa,) V. x. 35.
- Laodicea, V. xliv. 11.
- Lasthenes, II. xi. 31, 32.
- Law of Moses, its great power, IV. ii. 5, &c. v. 16, &c.
- “Law (the) and the Prophets,” IV. xviii. 12.
- Levi the patriarch, IV. ii. 19.
- Lucius, Roman consul, II. xv. 16.
- Lycia, II. xv. 23.
- Lydda, II. xi. 34.
- Lydia, II. viii. 8.
- Lysias, II. iii. 32. 38. iv. 26, 28, 34, 35. vi. 6, 17, 55. vii. 2. III. x. 11. xi. 1, 12, 15, 16, 22, 35. xii. 1, 27. xiii. 2, 4. xiv. 1. V. vii. 12, 18, 36. viii. 2. xi. 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 17. xv. 3, 12. xvi. 2.
- Lysimachus, III. iv. 29, 39—41.
- Lythras, (i. e. Ptolemy Lathyrus,) V. xxiii. 8. his history, V. xxiv. 1, &c. xxviii. 2.
- M.
- Maccabæus, (Judas,) II. ii. 4, 66. iii. 1. v. 34. III. viii. 5, 16. x. 1, 16, 19, 21, 25, 30, 33, 35. xi. 6, 7, 15. xiv. 27, 30. xv. 7, 21.
- Maccabees, the sepulchre of, II. xiii. 27—30.
- Macedon, or Macedonia, V. i. 2, 17. ii. 1. iii. 1. v. 54. x. 4. xvi. 1. xxix. 6. xlv. 8. xlvii. 13. xlviii. 1.
- Macedonians, III. viii. 20. V. x. 7, 9, 11. xvii. 1. xxiii. 2. xxix. 7, 8, 10.
- Machmas, (Michmash,) II. ix. 73.
- Maked, II. v. 26, 36.
- Malchiah, V. xlvi. 1—7. his death, xlvii. 1, &c.
- Mallos, III. iv. 30.
- Manlius, (Titus,) III. xi. 34.
- Marcus, (Mark Antony,) V. xxxix. 8.
- Mardocheus' day, III. xv. 36.
- Mariamne, V. xlix. 20. liv. 16.

- lv. 2, 39, 40, 42, 43. lvii. 4, is entrapped by Salome, and put to death by Herod, lviii. 1—17. her character, 18—22. lix. 5.
- Marisa, III. xii. 35.
- Martyrdom of seven brethren, III. vii. 1, &c. IV. viii. 4, &c.
- Maselloth, II. ix. 2.
- Maspha, II. iii. 46. v. 35.
- Mattathias, II. ii. 1, 14, 16, 17, 19, 24, 27, 39, 45, 49. xiv. 29. V. vi. 1—19. vii. 1, &c. xvii. 15.
- Mattathias, one of Judas' and Jonathan's captains, II. xi. 70. iii. 14, 19.
- Mattathias, son of Simon Maccabæus, II. xvi. 14.
- Medaba, II. ix. 36.
- Medes, II. i. 1.
- Media, II. vi. 56. viii. 8. xiv. 2.
- Memmius, (Quintus,) III. xi. 34.
- Menelaus, III. iv. 23—50. v. 5, 15, 23. xi. 29, 32. xiii. 3. is put to death, xiii. 7. V. iii. 6. xv. 14.
- Menestheus, III. iv. 21.
- Μετράρχης*, its meaning. Note on II. x. 65.
- Mina, of gold or silver, I. i. 5. and note, II. xiv. 24. xv. 18. V. xli. 4.
- Mingling with the Gentiles, III. xiv. 3, 38.
- Misael, (one of the three children,) IV. xvi. 3, 19. xviii. 14.
- Mithridates, V. xlii. 13—25. xliv. 6.
- Moab, the country of, V. xxix. 19.
- Modin, II. ii. 1, 15, 23, 70. ix. 19. xiii. 25, 30. xvi. 4. III. xiii. 14.
- Moses, III. i. 29. ii. 4, 8, 10, 11. vii. 6, 30. IV. ii. 17. ix. 2. xvii. 18. xviii. 19.
- Mother (the) of the seven brethren; her trials, and fortitude, IV. xiv. 9, &c. xv. *passim*. her death and eulogy, ch. xvii.—her address, ch. xviii. and V. ch. v.
- Mountain of the house, II. iv. 46.
- Mounts for shot, II. vi. 20, 51.
- Myndus, II. xv. 23.

## N.

- Nabathites, or Nabathæans, II. v. 25. ix. 35.
- Nadabatha, II. ix. 37.
- Nanæa, III. i. 13, 15.
- Nasor, the plain of, II. xi. 67.
- Nazarites, II. iii. 49.
- Neapolis, (i. e. Sichem,) V. xxi. 27.
- Neemias, III. i. 18—36. ii. 13.
- Nepthai, Nepthar, III. i. 36.
- Nicanor, II. vii. 26, &c. to 47. viii. 1. III. viii. 9—24. ix. 3. xii. 2. xiv. 12—39. his death, xv. 1—37. V. vii. 18—36. ix. 1. xvi. 6—24.
- Nicomedes, V. xxxvi. 10, 20, 26.
- Nicolaus Damascenus. Note on V. liv. 32.
- Nile, the river, V. ii. 14.
- Noah, his ark, IV. xv. 26.
- Nomades of Arabia, III. xii. 11.
- Numenius, son of Antiochus, II. xii. 16. xiv. 22. xv. 15.

## O.

- Ocean, the western, V. xlvi. 12.
- Octavian, (i. e. Augustus Cæsar,) V. xlvi. 13. his history, xlvi. 1, &c.
- Odollam, III. xii. 38.
- Odonarces, II. ix. 66.
- Olympius, (Jupiter,) III. vi. 2.
- Onias II, (high priest,) II. xii. 7, 8, 19, 20.
- Onias III, (high priest,) III. iii.

- 1, 5, 31, 33, 35. iv. 1, 4, 7, 33. is slain, 34, 36, 38. appears to Judas, III. xv. 12, 14. IV. iv. 1, 13, 16. V. i. 6, 13—16.
- Orthosias, II. xv. 37.
- P.
- Pachon, a month, I. vi. 38.
- Pamphylia, II. xv. 23.
- Panthers, (in cruelty,) IV. ix. 28.
- Paper and pens, I. iv. 20.
- Pappus, V. lii. 12, 14, 19. he is killed, 20.
- Patroclus, III. viii. 9.
- Pentecost, III. xii. 3. V. xxi. 23.
- Persepolis, III. ix. 2.
- Perseus, king of Macedon, II. viii. 5.
- Persia, Persians, II. i. 1. iii. 31. vi. 1, 5, 56. III. i. 13, 19, 20, 33. ix. 1, 21. IV. xviii. 7. V. iii. 3. vii. 11, 13, 17. viii. 1.
- Persia, (i. e. Parthia,) II. xiv. 2. V. xxi. 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, xlix. 6. see note at V. xxi. 19.
- Persians, (Parthians,) V. xl. 18. xli. 1, 11, 12, 14. xliii. 9. xliv. 8. xlvi. 35. xlix. 1, &c. l. 7. lii. 1, 2. liv. 1.
- Πέτασος, introduced by Antiochus Epiphanes, III. iv. 12.
- Petra. Note at V. xxxv. 20.
- Phalaris, I. v. 20, 42.
- Pharaoh, I. ii. 6. vi. 4. II. iv. 9.
- Pharathon, II. ix. 50.
- Pharisees, V. xxv. 1, &c. xxvi. 7. their quarrels, xxviii. 1, &c. xxx. 4, 10, 13. xxxi. 1, &c. xxxii. 1, &c. xxxiii. 4, &c. xxxiv. 4.
- Phaselis, II. xv. 23.
- Phaselus, son of Antipater, V. xxxv. 3. xlvi. 28. xlix. 11, 12, 16, 19.
- Phasiron, children of, II. ix. 66.
- Pheroras, son of Antipater, V. xxxv. 3. lii. 13, 20. lix. 29, 30, 47, 48, 57, 58, 60.
- Philip, father of Alexander the Great, II. i. 1. vi. 2.
- Philip of Macedon, II. viii. 5.
- Philip, foster brother of Antiochus Epiphanes, II. vi. 14, 55, 63. III. v. 22. vi. 11. viii. 8. ix. 29. xiii. 23. V. xv. 11.
- Philistines, II. iii. 41. and note. iv. 30. v. 66, 68. IV. iii. 8. V. vii. 19. xxix. 19.
- Philometor, (Ptolemy,) III. x. 13.
- Phineas, II. ii. 26, 54. IV. xviii. 14.
- Phœnice, I. iii. 15. III. iii. 5, 8. iv. 4, 22. viii. 8. x. 11. IV. iv. 2.
- Phrygian, III. v. 22.
- Phylarches, III. viii. 32.
- Pictures, (idolatrous,) note on II. iii. 48.
- Pilate, V. lix. 25. see the note.
- Poetry, Greek, I. v. 31. vi. 2, &c. (notes.)
- Πολύανδριον, its signification. Note on III. ix. 4.
- Pompey, (see also *Gneus*.) V. xxxvi. 10, &c. xxxvii. 1, &c. xxxviii. 1, &c. xxxix. 2. xl. 6, 13. xli. 3, 17. xlii. 4, 11, 15. xliii. 1, &c. xliv. 13. xlv. 1.
- Posidonius, III. xiv. 19.
- Principle, its definition, IV. i. 15.
- Prophet, (one expected,) II. iv. 46. ix. 27. xiv. 41.
- Ptolemais, the rose-bearing, I. vii. 17.
- Ptolemais, (in Phœnicia,) II. v. 15, 22, 55. x. 1, 39, 56—60. xi. 22, 24. xii. 45, 48. xiii. 12, 24, 25. V. xxviii. 2, 5, 9. l. 8.
- Ptolemy I, (Lagus,) note at I. iii. 21. vi. 25.

- Ptolemy II, (Philadelphus,) obtains a translation of the Hebrew scriptures, V. ii.
- Ptolemy IV, (Philopator, or Eupator,) I. i. 1, 3, 4, 7. iii. 11, 12. vii. 1.
- Ptolemy VI, (Philometor,) II. i. 18. x. 51, 55, 57. xi. 3, 8, 13, 15—18. III. iv. 2. ix. 29. x. 13. IV. iv. 22. V. iii. 2. x. 3—33.
- Ptolemy VII, (Energetes II, or Physcon,) III. i. 10.
- Ptolemy XIII, (Dionysius Novus,) V. xl. 15—20.
- Ptolemy, the son of Abubus, II. xvi. 11, 16, 18, 21. V. xix. 9. xx. 4—10.
- Ptolemy, Macron, son of Dorymenes, II. iii. 38. III. iv. 45, 46. vi. 8. viii. 8. x. 12. V. vii. 18, 31, 32. ix. 1. xiv. 1, 3.
- R.
- Ragaba, V. xxx. 2.
- Ramathem, II. xi. 34.
- Raphia, I. i. 2.
- Raphon, II. v. 37.
- Region of the Holy House, V. xi. 9.
- Register, I. ii. 29. iv. 15. vi. 34. 38.
- Registry, I. ii. 28, 29, 32. vii. 22.
- Rhazis, III. xiv. 37. (V. xvi. 18.)
- Rhodocus, III. xiii. 21.
- Rhodus, II. xv. 23. V. lvii. 2.
- Romans, the language of, V. xliv. 16.
- Romans, II. viii. 1, 21—29. xi. 4, 16. xiv. 40. xv. 16. III. viii. 10, 36. xi. 34. account of their power, V. xii. 1—26. their treaty with Judas, II. viii. V. 13. xvi. 2, 7. xxi. 32, 33. their letter to Hyrcanus, V. xxii. 1, &c. xxxvi. 1, &c. xxxvii. 3. xxxviii. 1, 2. xl. 2, 13—16. xli. 13—17. xlii. 4, &c. xlv. 1, 4, 6, 8. xlv. 8. xlix. 5, 26. l. 15, 16. lii. 2, 11, 16, 29. lvi. 4. lvii. 1. lviii. 20.
- Rome, II. vii. 1. viii. 17, 19. xi. 1, 3. xiv. 16, 24. xv. 15. III. iv. 11. V. xii. 7, 15, 17, 22. xxxvi. 23. xxxviii. 1. xxxix. 1. xl. 5, 20. xli. 1. xlii. 1, &c. xliii. 12. xlv. 15. xlv. 2, 4. xlvii. 13. xlviii. 35. xlix. 1, 27, 28. l. 3. liv. 4. lvii. 22. lviii. 20. lix. 35.
- S.
- Sabat, the month, II. xvi. 14.
- Sabbatical year, IV. ii. 8.
- Sadoc, V. xxv. 23.
- Sadducees, V. xxv. 3, 7, &c. xxix. 1, &c. xxxi. 4, 7. xxxii. 1, &c. xxxiii. 2, &c.
- Samaria, II. iii. 10. v. 66. x. 30, 38. xi. 28, 34. III. xv. 1. V. xxi. 27.
- Samaritans, V. xxi. 28. xxiii. 1, 4, 8, 10.
- Samos, II. xv. 23.
- Sampsames, II. xv. 23, and note.
- Sanballat, V. xxi. 28.
- Sanctuary, II. i. 21, 36, 37, 39, 45, 46. ii. 7, 12. iii. 45, 51, 58, 59. iv. 36, 38, 41, 43, 48. vi. 7, 18, 26, 51. x. 39, 44. xiv. 15, 29, 31, 36, 42, 48. xv. 7. III. ii. 17. xv. 17. V. vii. 3. viii. 16. ix. 3. xxvii. 6. xlix. 5.
- Sarah, (mount,) V. x. 1. xiv. 4. xxi. 29. xxix. 19. xxxv. 4. xlix. 20, 24. l. 8, 13. liv. 45. lvii. 4.
- Saramel, II. xiv. 28, and note.
- Scaurus, V. xxxvi. 3. xxxvii. 5. xxxviii. 3.
- Schedia, a seaport, I. iv. 11.
- Scipio, V. xii. 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26.

- Scorpions, engines of war, II. vi. 51.
- Scythian barbarity, I. vii. 5.
- Scythians, III. iv. 47.
- Scythopolis, (Bethsan,) III. xii. 29.
- Scythopolitans, III. xii. 30.
- Sebaste, V. xvi. 13. xxi. 28. xxiii. 1, 6, 7, 11. lix. 94.
- Sects, Jewish, V. xxv. 1, &c.
- Seleucia, II. xi. 8.
- Seleucus I, (Nicanor,) IV. iii. 21.
- Seleucus IV, (Philopator,) II. vii. 1. III. iii. 3. iv. 7. v. 18. IV. iv. 3, 4, 13, 15. V. i. 2, 17.
- Senate, (Roman,) II. viii. 19, 22. xii. 3. note on II. viii. 15. V. xii. 10. xl. 12. xlix. 29. l. i. 3. lii. 9.
- Senate-house, (Roman,) II. viii. 15.
- Seniors, I. i. 23.
- Sennacherim, I. vi. 5. III. viii. 19. xv. 22. V. xvi. 21.
- Sephela, II. xii. 38.
- Sephoris, V. xxxix. 12.
- Sepulchre of the Maccabees, II. xiii. 27—30. V. xvii. 15.
- Seron, II. iii. 13, 23. V. vii. 8.
- Serpent, seducer, IV. xviii. 10, and note.
- Seven brethren martyred, III. vii. IV. viii—xii. V. v.
- Shadrach, &c. I. vi. 6, note.
- Shekels of silver, II. x. 40, 42.
- Shield of gold, II. xiv. 24. xv. 18, 20.
- Shields of brass, V. xxviii. 18.
- Sichemites, IV. ii. 19.
- Sicyon, II. xv. 23.
- Side, II. xv. 23.
- Sidon, II. v. 15. V. x. 7. xxviii. 4, 10, 12, 14. xlv. 4, 9, 17. xlviii. 24.
- Simalcue, II. xi. 39.
- Simeon, the patriarch, IV. ii. 19.
- Simon II, high priest, I. ii. 1.
- Simon Maccabæus, II. ii. 3, 65. v. 17, 20, 21. ix. 19, 33, 62, 65, 67. x. 74, 82. xi. 59, 64, 65. xii. 33, 38. he succeeds Jonathan as leader of the Jews, xiii. 1, &c. &c. recovers the tower in Jerusalem, xiii. 49—52. the decree of the Jews concerning him, xiv. 27—49. has permission to coin money, xv. 6, 24, 26, 32, 33, 36. is entrapped and slain by Ptolemy, xvi. 1, 2, 13, &c. III. viii. 22. x. 19, 20. xiv. 17. V. x. 9—11, 17, 3. xviii. 4, 6, 8. his history, V. xix. 1, &c.
- Simon, governor of the temple, III. iii. 4. iv. 1, 3, 4. iv. 23. IV. iv. 1, 4. V. iii. 6.
- Sinful nation, denoting the Gentiles, note on II. i. 34.
- Sion, or Zion, (mount,) II. iv. 37, 60. v. 54. vi. 48, 62. x. 11. xiv. 27.
- Sirens, their melodies, IV. xv. 19.
- Sodomites, I. ii. 5.
- Solomon, III. ii. 8, 10, 12. IV. xviii. 17.
- Sosipater, III. xii. 19, 24.
- Sosius, V. lii. 7, 10, 16, 24, 25, 29—33.
- Sostratus, III. iv. 27, 29.
- Spain, II. viii. 3.
- Sparta, II. xiv. 16.
- Swans, their musical notes, IV. xv. 19.
- Syria, Syrians, II. iii. 13, 41. vii. 39. xi. 2, 60. IV. iv. 2. V. ii. 11. v. 54. vii. 19. xxi. 25. xxxvi. 2, 7. xxxix. 1. xl. 9, 10, 17. xli. 2, 13, 14. xlii. 13. xlviii. 26. xlix. 4. lii. 8, 10.
- Syrian tongue, III. xv. 36.

## T.

Table (a splendid gold) pre-

- sented by Ptolemy Philadelphus to the temple at Jerusalem, V. ii. 14, &c.  
 Talents, of silver, gold, &c. II. xi. 28. xiii. 16. xv. 31, 35. III. iii. 11. iv. 24. v. 21. IV. iv. 17. V. xxi. 15. xxxvi. 10. xli. 8. xlv. 7. xlix. 1. lii. 13. lix. 67.  
 Taphon, II. ix. 50.  
 Tarquin, king of Rome, V. xlii. 7.  
 Tarsus, III. iv. 30.  
 Temple of Jerusalem, I. i. 10. v. 43, &c. &c. profaned by Antiochus, II. i. 54, &c. recovered and purified by Judas Maccabæus, iv. 43, &c. III. x. 1, &c. V. xvi. 17. xxi. 13. xxxvi. 42, 49, 50, is entered by Pompey, xxxvi. 51, 52. xli. 6—9. xlvi. 20, 21. lv. 17.  
 ——— the liberties of, II. x. 43.  
 Thamnatha, II. ix. 50.  
 Thecoe, wilderness of, II. ix. 33.  
 Theodotus of Ætolia, I. i. 3, and note.  
 Theodotus, one of Judas' captains, III. xiv. 19.  
 Thieves destroyed by Herod, V. li. 1, &c.  
 Thracia, III. xii. 35.  
 Tigranes, see *Tyrcanes*.  
 Timotheus, II. v. 6, 11, 34, 37, 40. III. viii. 30, 32. ix. 3. x. 24, 32, 37. xii. 2, 10, 18, 21, 24.  
 Tobie, the places of, II. v. 13.  
 Torah, the religion of, V. xxi. 29.  
 Torture, various instruments of, IV. viii. 14, &c.  
 Tower (the) in Jerusalem, II. i. 33—36. vi. 18, 24, 26. ix. 53. x. 6, 9, 32. xi. 20—22, 41. xii. 36. xiii. is re-  
 covered by Simon, xiii. 49—52. xiv. 7, 36. xv. 28. III. xv. 31, 35.  
 Towers, on the elephants. Note on II. vi. 37.  
 Treasury of Jerusalem, II. xiv. 49. III. iii. 6, 24, 28; v. 18. IV. iv. 3. V. i. 1, 2, 16. viii. 15. xxi. 17. xli. 6.  
 Treaty, between Judas and the Romans, II. viii. V. xiii.  
 Treaty, between Judas and Antiochus Eupator, V. xv. 2, 12.  
 Tripolis, III. xiv. 1.  
 Tryphon, II. xi. 39, 54, 56. xii. 39, 42, 49. xiii. 1, 12, 14, 19—24. seizes the throne, xiii. 31, 34. is attacked by Antiochus, xv. 10, 25, 37, 39.  
 Tubieni, III. xii. 17.  
 Tyrcanes, king of Armenia, V. xxxvi. 1.  
 Tyrcanes, son of Alexander, Herod's son, V. lix. 95.  
 Tyre, } II. v. 15. III. iv. 18,  
 Tyrus, } 32, 44, 49. V. x. 7. xxviii. 4, 37. xliv. 4, 17. xlvi. 2. xlvi. 24, 32. lix. 83.  
 ——— the ladder of, II. xi. 59, and note.  
 V.  
 Varro, a Roman consul, V. xii. 5, 7.  
 Venusia, V. xii. 7.  
 Viceroy, V. v. 34.  
 Vineyard of gold, presented to Pompey by Aristobulus, V. xxxvi. 10, 23.  
 Visions, or apparitions. *viz.*  
 ——— of a horse and rider, scourging Heliodorus, III. iii. 24, &c. 33, &c. V. i. 8, &c.  
 ——— of troops of horsemen in the air, III. v. 2, &c. V. iii. 7.

- Visions, of Onias and Jeremiah  
 appearing to Judas, III. xv.  
 12—14.  
 — of an armed warrior on  
 horseback, III. xi. 8. V. xi.  
 10.  
 — of five mounted war-  
 riors, III. x. 29, 30. V. x.  
 16.  
 — of angels riding on  
 horses, and terrifying Apol-  
 lonius, IV. iv. 10, &c.
- W.  
 West, the land of the, V. x. 3.  
 X.  
 Xanthicus, the month, III. xi.  
 30, 33, 38.  
 Z.  
 Zabadaeans, II. xii. 31.  
 Zabdiel, the Arabian, II. xi. 17.  
 Zacchæus, III. x. 19.  
 Zambri, son of Salom, II. ii.  
 26.  
 Zion, see *Sion*.
-

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