

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Excursions along the banks of the Rhine

Hugo, Victor

London, 1843

Legend of the handsome pecopin and the beautiful bauldour

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-125010](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-125010)

LETTER XXII.

LEGEND OF THE HANDSOME PECOPIN AND THE BEAUTIFUL
BAULDOUR.*Bingen, August.*

I PROMISED you some of the famous legends of the Falkenberg, perhaps the most interesting, that of Guntram and Liba. But why relate a tale you may find in any guide-book, and probably better told than I could narrate it? Since you exact a wonderful story to amuse your children, here is one which you will find in no collection extant.

I send it in the state I wrote it down under the very walls of the old manor, with the fantastic forest of Sonn before my eyes, and as it were under the magic influence of the birds, trees, and winds of the ruins. I had been conversing with the veteran, now turned goatherd on the mountain side, grown wild and almost witch-like,—a singular destiny for a drum-major of the thirty-seventh light infantry; and this brave soldier of the republic seemed to have acquired as much faith in the fairies, sprites, and hobgoblins, as formerly in the emperor. Such is the influence of solitude upon the mind, developing the poetry innate in the soul of man. Shepherds are usually an imaginative race. As I said before, I wrote this wonderful tale concealed in the very

ravine, seated upon a fragment which was once a rock, though in the twelfth century a tower, and now a rock again!—gathering from time to time some wild flower to refresh my spirit by inhaling its own—one of those ground-ivies that smell so sweet, and die so quickly—gazing by turns at the wild flowers and the glorious heavens, while the sweeping clouds, sailing gloriously past, seemed to tear their skirts against the jagged ruins of Falkenberg. And now to my story!
