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**Illustrations of northern antiquities, from the earlier
Teutonic and Scandinavian romances**

Weber, Henry William

Edinburgh [u.a.], 1814

Die Klage - The Lament

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Die Klage.**THE LAMENT.**

THIS is a singular appendix to the Song of the Nibelungen, probably added by a later hand. It is not in the same metre as that poem, but in eight-syllable couplets, and contains 4566 lines. The contents are not such as to require a regular analysis. In the beginning the adventures of the Nibelungen are shortly recapitulated; after which King Etzel is introduced, accompanied by Dietrich of Bern and Hildebrand, searching for the fallen heroes among the ashes of the hall where the combat had taken place, and lamenting over every one of them, as they discover their features. The general dulness of these lamentations is sometimes interrupted by passages of considerable merit; from which the following is selected, to give the reader some idea of the best parts of the poem, and of the versification. It occurs at verse 1843, and the translation is nearly literal:

Sir Dietrich viewed with mourning cheer,
 Dead on the ground his champions dear:
 Loud he mourned the heroes true,
 When their blood-stain'd forms he knew.
 There his bold nephew Wolfhart lay,
 Slaughtered on that bloody day;

Red his beard and fierce his mien,
 Welt'ring in the gore was seen.
 Dietrich wept full mournfully
 The fall of all his chivalry. - - - -
 Wolfhart clenched his glitt'ring brand
 Firmly in his bloody hand :
 In many a fight that noble blade
 Had struck the fiercest champions dead.
 Not Dietrich nor old Hildêbrand
 Could grasp the falchion from his hand,
 Till with iron tools they drew
 From his clencht the weapon true.
 " Woe and alas ! " Sir Dietrich said,
 " Who now shall bear thee, noble blade ?
 Never such blows of might and main
 In battle shalt thou strike again,
 As when to kings and heroes brave
 Strokes of death Sir Wolfhart gave."
 Sir Dietrich shed full many a tear
 Where the champion without fear
 In the gory flood lay drenched,
 Firmly his teeth together clenched.

After the burial of all the heroes, and of the dead of every description, King Etzel, by the advice of Dietrich and Hildebrand, collected all the armour and horses of the slain, and sent them to the countries from whence they had come. When Gunter's arms, and those of his brothers and champions, were brought to Worms, Brunhild repented her treachery to Siegfried too late, and Queen Uta died of grief. The son of Brunhild and Gunter was crowned king. In the mean time Dietrich of Bern, to the great sorrow of King Etzel, returned to his dominions.

The poet expresses his wish to be able to give an account of King Etzel further, but, says he, " Some say he was killed in battle, which others deny. I have never been able to ascertain whether he suddenly disappeared, or was taken up into the air ; if he was buried alive, or

was taken up into heaven, or *fell out of his skin*, or shut himself up in caves among the rocks, or fell into an abyss, or, finally, if he was swallowed up by the devil."

The minstrel proceeds to inform us, that Pilgerin, the bishop of Passau, in honour of his nephews, the three Burgundian kings, caused their fate to be registered in the Latin tongue by learned clerks, as it was related to them by fiddlers, (i. e. minstrels, heralds;) and that his clerk Conrad, who has made many poems in the German tongue, also wrote the present romance.

was taken up into heaven, or fell into an abyss, or finally, if he was loved up by the devil."

The minister proceeds to inform us that during the time of the French Revolution, the Duke of Orleans, who was then in exile, was taken to be registered in the Latin tongue by several clerics, and that the Duke's Council, who has made many papers in the German tongue, also writes the present history.