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

### Weber, Henry William

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Adventure VI. - How Gunter proceeded to Isenland, to obtain the hand of Brunhild

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#### THE SONG OF THE NIBELUNGEN.

| And full of love and beauty   | stood the child of Sighelind, |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| As if upon the parchment      | by master's hand design'd :   |
| He gained the prize of beauty | from all the knightly train;  |
| They swore that lady never    | a lovelier mate could gain.   |

Gunter, the more to honour the hero, bade his sister, " who never before had saluted man," to bestow that favour upon Siegfried.

The feast was held for twelve days, and Siegfried enjoyed the sight, and obtained the thanks of Chrimhilt daily. When the guests prepared to leave the court, Gunter demanded of Siegfried how he should deal with the captive kings, who, for their ransom, had offered five hundred sumpter-horses, laden with gold. By his advice, the king refused the treasure, and dismissed them, taking surety for their remaining at peace with him in future. Siegfried also wished to take his leave of the king; but at the request of Ghiseler, he was content to remain at the court of Burgundy.

ADVENTURE VI. HOW GUNTER PROCEEDED TO ISENLAND, TO OBTAIN THE HAND OF BRUNHILD .- Tidings came to the court of King Gunter, of a queen of matchless beauty, who dwelt in a land far over the sea. But she was haughty of mind, and so mighty was her strength, that she forced every champion who came to woo her to contend with her at the three masculine games of throwing the spear, of leaping, and of casting the stone. Whoever was unable to match her strength, lost his life for presuming to make the attempt. Many champions had endea-

> Der si da truoch im herzen, und lange hete getan : Er sach die minnechlichen nu vil herlichen stan.

la luhte ir von ir wæte vil manich edel stein ; Ir rosen rotiu yarwe 👘 vil minnechlichen schein. Ob ieman wunsen solde Daz er ce dirre werlde

der kunde niht geiehen hete iht schæners gesehen.

Sam der lichte mane vor den sternen stat, Der schin so luterliche ob den wolchen gat, Dem stuont sie nu geliche vor andern frouwen guot : Des wart wol gehochet vil maniges heldes muot.

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#### THE SONG OF THE NIBELUNGEN.

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voured to win the maid, but none of them had returned. Gunter determined to undertake the voyage; nor could Siegfried dissuade him from the resolution. By the advice of Haghen, that hero was requested to give his assistance, and consented, upon the condition, that, on their return with Brunhild, he should obtain the hand of the king's sister.

Great preparations were made for the voyage. Siegfried carried along with him the miraculous tarn-cap which he had gained from the dwarf Alberich. It had the property to render the person enveloped in it invisible, and to give him the strength of twelve men-Gunter wished to take thirty thousand kemps with him; but by the advice of Siegfried, the number was diminished to four-Gunter, Haghen, Dankwart, and himself. Chrimhilt undertook to provide for each three suits of the richest apparel; and, with thirty of her virgins, she was employed for seven weeks in the task. Their mantles were made of white silk, brought from Arabia, and of green silk, from the land of Zazamank, embroidered with many a gem. The covers of the mantles were made of the skins of strange fishes, covered with silk, from Morocco and Lybia. The choicest ermine was procured, and the heroes richly adorned with gems set in Arabian gold. When they were thus apparelled, they parted, with many tears, from Uta and Chrimhilt, and embarked in a strong ship, which Siegfried undertook to steer. They sailed prosperously down the Rhine, and on the twelfth morning arrived at the strong castle of Isenstein, in the land of Brunhild.

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