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

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Adventure XI. - How Siegfried came home with Chrimhilt to Netherland

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hild completely in his power the next night; and for that purpose required to be admitted to their bed-chamber, where he would render himself invisible, by the means of his tarn-cap. Gunter consented, upon his swearing not to take advantage of the opportunity.

When the night came, and the bridegrooms had retired with their wives, Chrimhilt was astonished at the sudden disappearance of her husband, who had put on his tarn-cap, and joining the chamberlains of Gunter, entered the chamber. When the chamberlains and attendant maids retired, and the lights were extinguished, Siegfried entered the bed, and a most violent and singular combat commenced. Brunhild threw him out of the bed at the very beginning, that his head "loudly resounded on the footstool." He again resumed his task, and was again defeated. She embraced him with great force, and bearing him out of the bed, pressed him between a door and the wall, that he cried aloud with pain. Ashamed of this defeat, he again commenced the attack, and threw her on the bed, where she pressed his hand, that the blood flowed from his nails. He took from her the girdle and ring which he gave in his pride to Chrimhilt some time after; and for this gift he and many other champions lost their lives. At length the knight of Netherland bruised her so violently, and held her so close, that she surrendered at discretion. Siegfried then retired, as if to take off his dress, and leaving the joyful king to reap the fruits of his hard-gained victory, rejoined his own spouse.

In the morning the king was in high good humour, and dispensed many rich gifts to the knights and courtiers. The high feast lasted fourteen days, at the end of which the guests parted for their several homes.

ADVENTURE XI. HOW SIEGFRIED CAME HOME WITH CHRIMHILT TO NETHERLAND.—When the other guests had taken their leaves, Siegfried also desired to return to his country, and Chrimhilt was content. But she first wished to obtain a part of the dominions of Burgundy for her husband; which were readily offered to him by the three royal brothers. But Siegfried refused them, saying, that he himself would

make his queen the richest on the face of the earth. At last he was persuaded to take five hundred champions. Chrimhilt desired to take Haghen and Ortwin with her, but the former sternly refused. Duke Eckewart, however, accompanied her.

The hero was splendidly received with his spouse at his father's court, who resigned his kingdom in his favour. For ten years he bore the crown with great honour, and also had the land of the Nibelungen under his command. Chrimhilt bore him a son, who was named Gunter; and a son of the king of Burgundy was, in return, called after the king of Netherland.

ADVENTURE XII. HOW GUNTER INVITED SIEGFRIED AND CHRIMHILT TO A HIGH FEAST.—Brunhild one day was ruminating how Siegfried was vassal to Gunter, and had not for a long time done any service for his lord. She persuaded the king to invite him and Chrimhilt to a high feast at Worms. Ghere was accordingly chosen messenger, and, with thirty other knights, proceeded to the burgh of the Nibelungen, in the marches of Norway, where they arrived in three weeks. Siegfried, after consulting with his barons, determined to accept the invitation, and to proceed to Worms, accompanied by a thousand of his knights, and by his father Siegmund, with a hundred of his own knights.

ADVENTURE XIII. HOW SIEGFRIED AND CHRIMHILT WENT TO THE HIGH FEAST.—The guests came safely to Worms, and were welcomed by the king, with his usual magnificence. For eleven days, tournaments and other chivalrous games were celebrated, and the most complete harmony prevailed; but at length, in a procession to hear mass celebrated at the cathedral, their concord was fatally interrupted.

ADVENTURE XIV. OF THE ALTERCATION BETWEEN THE QUEENS.—One day Brunhild and Chrimhilt began to praise the several perfections of their husbands; and when they grew warm upon the subject, the former asserted that Siegfried was the vassal of Gunter, because he