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

**Weber, Henry William**

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Adventure XV. - How Siegfried was betrayed

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had declared himself so when he came to Isenland. Chrimhilt denied it, and said she would precede her in the procession to the cathedral. Accordingly she went, accompanied by forty-three maidens, in far more splendid apparel than those of Brunhild, and by all the knights Siegfried had brought with him, and preceded her sister-in-law. When Brunhild saw this, she exclaimed, that no wife of a vassal should go before a queen. Chrimhilt, enraged at these words, told her that she had been concubine to another than her husband, but that Siegfried had gained her virginity. She then went into the cathedral before Brunhild, who was highly afflicted and enraged. When mass was over, she again assailed Chrimhilt, and demanded what proofs she could adduce. The latter immediately shewed the ring and girdle which Siegfried had given her; upon which the queen departed, in great anger, and complained to Gunter of the insulting words which his sister had spoken of her. Siegfried swore an oath that he had not said the words, and the queens were at last parted.

Haghen of Tronek hearing the lamentations of Brunhild, undertook to revenge her injuries upon Siegfried, and Ortwin and Ghernot joined with him to procure his death. Ghiseler wished to dissuade them from the resolution, and the king himself was at first unwilling to give his consent, but at last agreed, when he heard in what manner the treason was to be executed.

ADVENTURE XV. HOW SIEGFRIED WAS BETRAYED.—The conspirators, with the king's consent, procured thirty messengers, who pretended to have been sent from the kings of Denmark and Saxony, to defy Gunter. Siegfried offered immediately to go against them, and assembled his thousand heroes for the purpose. Haghen then proceeded to Chrimhilt, and pretending great friendship for her husband, asked her if there was any part of his body which required peculiar defence in battle. She regretted that she had offended Brunhild, and told him that her husband "beat her black and blue for it." Then she informed him, that when Siegfried bathed himself in the dragon's blood, a leaf had stuck between his shoulders, and had prevented that

part from becoming impenetrable. Hagen instructed her to sew a small cross upon his garment, in the place where the spot was, and promised to defend that part with peculiar care. Siegfried now was informed, to his great mortification, that peace had been concluded. The king then proposed a great chace of boars and bears, in the forests of Vasgovia, where the treason was to be executed.

ADVENTURE XVI. HOW SIEGFRIED WAS SLAIN.—Great preparations were made for the chace; and, by the advice of Brunhild, every kind of meat was carried to a well in the forest, but no wine. Siegfried took his leave of Chrimhilt, who made every exertion to dissuade him from the chace, as she had been warned of his fate in two dreams: But his fate was irrevocable. When the chace began, no one distinguished himself so much as he; killing every kind of ferocious animals, and among them a demi-wolf, a lion, a buffalo, an elk, a bison, four ure-oxen,<sup>1</sup> and one fierce bull, besides deer and boars. Gunter then ordered a horn to be blown, to give notice that he would dine at the well. Siegfried caught a great bear alive, to make disport for the king, and brought him to the well, where the animal made great havoc among the kitchen utensils, to the exceeding amusement of the company. He was at last killed by his victor, who then rode back to the well.

In gorgeous guise the hero     did to the fountain ride:  
Down unto his spurs,     his sword hung by his side;  
His weighty spear was broad,     of mighty length, and strong;  
A horn, of the gold so red,     o'er the champion's shoulder hung.

Of fairer hunting garments     ne'er heard I say before:  
A coat of the black velvet     the noble hero wore;

<sup>1</sup> A demi-wolf (halb-wolf) is probably an animal bred between a wolf and a dog. The *lyciscæ* of Virgil (Ecl. iii. v. 18.) are by Servius explained to be *canes nati ex lupis et canibus, cum inter se forte miscuntur*. The *uri*, mentioned by Cæsar and other writers, seem to have been common in Germany down to the thirteenth or fourteenth century, but are not to be found at present in any part of that country, though they are to be met with in Poland and Prussia.