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

**Weber, Henry William**

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Adventure XVII. - How Siegfried was bewailed and interred

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mended his spouse to the mercy of the king. When he was dead, Gunter wished to give out that he had been slain by robbers; but the fierce knight of Tronek expressed his perfect indifference whether the truth was made known or concealed.

ADVENTURE XVII. HOW SIEGFRIED WAS BEWAILED AND INTERRED.—Haghen caused the dead body to be laid before the door of Chrimhilt's chamber. When she came out in the morning, and discovered that her husband lay there murdered, her lamentations were boundless. She sent for his father Siegmund, who, as well as his eleven hundred champions, swore immediate revenge. But Chrimhilt persuaded him to leave the vengeance to her, for which she would find some fitting opportunity. She ordered a splendid coffin of gold and silver to be made, in which the body was carried to the cathedral. Gunter, with Haghen and his attendants, came to bewail the death of Siegfried, and pretended it had been perpetrated by robbers; but Chrimhilt bade those who knew themselves innocent go and touch the dead body.

A marvel high and strange is seen full many a time;  
When to the murdered body nighs the man who did the crime,  
Afresh the wounds will bleed: the marvel now was found,—  
That Haghen felled the champion with treason to the ground.\*

Ghernot and Ghiseler seemed to bewail the hero with unfeigned sorrow; and the lamentations, whether sincere or feigned, resounded through the whole court. Three days and three nights Chrimhilt watched the body, without food or drink; and when the corpse was about to be sunk into the grave, she caused it to be again opened, and once more took leave of her husband. More than thirty thousand

\* This is perhaps the earliest instance in which this kind of ordeal (the *bahr-recht* of the Germans) is mentioned. The subject has received full illustration in Mr Scott's notes on the ballad of Earl Richard, (*Minstrelsy of the Border*, ed. 1810, II. 419.)

marks of gold were distributed among the poor, for the welfare and repose of his soul.

ADVENTURE XVIII. HOW SIEGMUND DEPARTED FROM WORMS.—Siegmond went to Chrimhilt, and used strong persuasions to induce her to return with him, promising that she should bear the crown in her husband's dominions. But her youngest brother Ghiseler dissuaded her from leaving Worms, and was seconded in his solicitations by Queen Uta and Ghernot. Siegmund and the Nibelung heroes left the city of Worms without taking leave of any one. But Ghernot and Ghiseler followed them, and assured Siegmund that they were innocent of the murder. The king returned to his country, and the disconsolate Chrimhilt was left to bear the insolence of her rival Brunhild, for which she cruelly revenged herself subsequently.

ADVENTURE XIX. HOW THE NIBELUNG TREASURE CAME TO WORMS.—When Chrimhilt had bewailed her husband for three years and a half, without seeing Gunter or Haghen, the latter advised the king to reconcile himself with her, in order to get the invaluable treasure of the Nibelungen into his possession; which she had received from Siegfried as her jointure. She consented, after some difficulty, and Ghernot and Ghiseler were sent to bring it to Worms. They embarked with eight thousand knights, and the treasure was delivered to them by the dwarf Alberich, who greatly bewailed the loss of Siegfried's tarn-cap. The treasure was now embarked, for which purpose twelve waggons were employed for the space of four days and nights. Under the treasure lay a wishing-rod, \* which enabled the possessor to be master over the whole world; but this quality appears to have been unknown to the knights of Burgundy.

\* The wishing-rod of Fortunatus has given to this fiction very extensive popularity. The passage in the text is very remarkable; but the mention of it in an ancient Teutonic glossary, of the ninth or tenth century, discovered by Junius, and published by Nyerup, proves the existence of the superstition among the Germans at a still earlier period. *Caduceuma* is there rendered *nunshiligarta*.