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

Weber, Henry William

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Adventure XXVII. - How the Nibelungen were received by Rudiger

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THE SONG OF THE NIBELUNGEN.

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ADVENTURE XXVII. HOW THE NIBELUNGEN WERE RECEIVED BY RU-DIGER .- Rudiger, with Gotelind and her beautiful daughter, welcomed the guests at the gate ; and the latter was instructed to salute the three kings and the principal heroes; but when Haghen was presented to her, she was appalled by his fierce countenance; and it required the interference of her father, to make her shew due respect to the hero. During the feast, it was determined to give the beauteous Dietelind in marriage to Ghiseler, the youngest of the kings. When the guests were about to proceed on their journey, many gifts were distributed among them by Rudiger. Among others, he gave to Gunter a coat of mail, and to Ghernot a sword, which was fatally destined to end his own life. Haghen requested of Gotelind the gift of a shield, which had been borne by Nudung, who was slain by Wittich.' Folker, when he took his leave, played " sweet tones" upon his fiddle, and sung his songs before Gotelind, who rewarded him with six bracelets, which she stuck on his arm." The news of the arrival of the Nibelungen were soon brought to King Etzel; and Chrimhilt rejoiced in the near prospect of revenge.

ADVENTURE XXVIII. How THE NIBELUNGEN CAME TO THE HUNS.— Old Master Hildebrand had informed Dietrich of Bern of the approach of the knights of Burgundy, and they proceeded to meet them on the road, where Dietrich gave the Nibelungen a full account of the unabated sorrow of Chrimhilt, and warned them of its effects. When they arrived at Etzelenburg, the residence of Etzel, the queen received young Ghiseler with great affability, but took little notice of the others. When Haghen saw that, he tied his helmet faster. She asked what presents they had brought to her from the Rhine ; and Haghen

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^{*} This is the only mention of Wittich, who is the Achilles of the Wilkina-Saga, in this poem. See page 31 of the Dissertation prefixed to this work.

Bracelets, in the times of chivalry, were not confined to the ladies, but frequently worn by knights. According to the learned Suhm, bracelets, twisted in a serpentine manner, have been found in Scandinavia, of the weight of 159 ducats.