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

**Weber, Henry William**

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Adventure XXIX. - How Hagen and Folker sat before the hall of Chrimhilt

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replied scornfully, that he regretted not having brought her some gift from his own treasure. She asked him why they had not brought the Niblung treasure? He replied, that it was sufficient for a knight to carry his armour and his sword. She bade them give up their arms before they entered the hall, and when Hagen and Gunter refused, she discovered that some one had warned the heroes, and swore vengeance against him; but Dietrich took Hagen by the hand, and openly avowed that he had done it. Etzel asked who the fierce hero was whom King Dietrich led by the hand; and when he heard his name, he recollected that his father Aldrian had been his subject, and that Hagen and Walter of Spain, who since eloped with Hildegund, had been his hostages.\*

ADVENTURE XXIX. HOW HAGEN AND FOLKER SAT BEFORE THE HALL OF CHRIMHILT.—Hagen took Folker aside, and they went together across the court, and sat them down on a bench before the hall of Chrimhilt. When she beheld them, she wept bitterly, and complained to her sixty knights of the indignity, and what injuries Hagen had done to her. They offered immediately to avenge her, and to slay the two champions; but she informed them that they were too few. They increased their number to a hundred, and went down to the court with Chrimhilt, who had told them they should have a confirmation of his crimes from the mouth of Hagen himself. When she approached, Folker wished to rise from his seat, but Hagen hindered him, saying, their enemies would take it for a sign of their fear.

'Twas then the hero Hagen      across his lap he laid,  
Glittering to the sun,      a broad and weighty blade;  
In the hilt a jasper stone,      greener than the grass:  
Well knew the lady Chrimhilt      that Siegfried's sword it was.

When she beheld sword Balmung,      woe and sorrow did she feel:  
The hilt was of the precious gold,      the blade of shining steel:

\* The adventures here alluded to are [related in the Latin epic analysed in this work, (p. 23,) and in the Wilkina-Saga, (chap. 85, *et seq.*)

It minded her of all her woes : Chrimhilt to weep began :  
Well I ween Sir Haghen in her scorn the sword had drawn.

Folker, knight of courage bold, by his side sat he ;  
A sharp and mighty fiddlestick \* held the hero free ;  
Much like a glittering sword it was ; sharp, and broad, and long :  
Fierce, without all fear, sat there the champions strong.

Chrimhilt bitterly upbraided Haghen with the injuries he had done her, which he readily acknowledged. Mean time one of the Huns began to relate the deeds of Haghen (whom he had seen in his youth distinguish himself in two-and-twenty battles) to the others ; in consequence of which they resolved not to encounter the two champions, but departed from them in peace. Then Haghen and Folker rejoined the kings, and they all proceeded to the hall of King Etzel, who received them with every mark of courtesy.

ADVENTURE XXIX. HOW HAGHEN AND FOLKER GUARDED THE KINGS.  
—When night broke in, and the guests were retiring to the large hall, where their beds were prepared, Haghen undertook the guard, and Folker readily associated himself with him in the charge.

Before the palace door Folker sat him on a stone ;  
Bolder and more knight-like fiddler ne'er shone the sun upon :  
Sweetly from his strings resounded many a lay ;  
And many thanks the heroes to the knight of fame did say.

At first his tones resounded loudly the hall around ;  
The champion's strength and art was heard in every sound :  
But sweeter lays, and softer, the hero now began,  
That gently closed his eyes full many a way-tir'd man.

Folker having resumed his sword and shield, discovered helmets glit-

\* Continual jokes upon the musical accomplishments of Folker occur in the original, a few of which have been translated.