

A WORD

FROM THE EDITOR.

It is no ways intended to put forth the following collection of tales and traditions as original compositions. Independent of some being already known to the lovers of legendary lore, a few glances at the first pages will suffice to show not only that they are translations, but that the translators have endeavoured, as far as possible, to maintain the

quaintness and simplicity of the original German. They appear, indeed, to have sacrificed every other consideration to this point and I have thought it best to follow their example. Consequently, notwithstanding the romantic character of the ground work and the extensive field which it affords for embellishment and enlargement, my editorial labours have been confined to the transposition of a few sentences of the manuscript and to the ordinary correction of the press. In so doing I believe that I have best consulted the taste of the public and above all the wishes of my friend, the learned antiquarian and publicist D^r Alfred Reumont, who, with a few other contributors more or less distinguished in German literature, is the compiler of the “*Rheinlands Sagen*,” whence the “*Ruins of the Rhine*” have been converted into English.

Attached to a distant diplomatic mission *,

* His Prussian Majesty's legation at Rome, where D^r Reumont's researches into the history and antiquities of Italy have rendered his name as much respected amongst men of letters in that country as it is distinguished amongst the rising Literati of Germany.

and thence unable to attend in person to the production of a volume destined to be printed at Brussels, D^r Reumont was anxious to discover some friend who would superintend the publication. The M. S. were therefore forwarded to me, with a request that I would undertake this task and prefix my name as Editor. I have complied, as will be seen by the title page, not with any expectation of that name being of any service to the work, but in order to afford a proof of my regard and esteem for the author and his respectable publishers.

To introduce a volume so unassuming by a laboured preface, would be as totally out of character, as it would be to usher in a repast of milk and herbs by a flourish of trumpets. — I shall therefore limit myself to the above explanation and merely add, that, although the “ Ruins of the Rhine ” may be inferior in poetic beauty and picturesque descriptions to the publications of Bulwer, Planché, Grattan and others who have trodden the same ground, they will be found to contain much graphic matter and to possess considerable legendary

interest, for those who either visit in detail or rapidly pass beneath those noble relics of chivalrous grandeur, whose true history is, for the most part, shrouded amidst the darkness of the middle ages.

Brussels, 10 June 1838.