

However often and diversified the picturesque banks of the Rhine have been presented to us, little attention has comparatively been bestowed on the interesting traditions which are linked with those romantic remains of by-gone ages which meet the admiring eye of the passing traveller. How many of those who have made the delightful pilgrimage of the Rhine would have wished to perpetuate the interest they felt on beholding the graceful ruins of those numerous castles which adorn the scenery of this magnificent river, and transport themselves, as it were, back to the chivalrous times to which they belong, by the recollection of some historic or traditional incident which had occurred within their walls. This wish, so often felt and expressed, is now accomplished. The authoress of the present work has embodied, in a series of metrical ballads, twenty of the most interesting legends or traditions of the Rhine, which are accompanied by an equal number of sketches by *Rethel*, one of the most distinguished artists of the Dusseldorf school, representing the most striking and picturesque incident contained in each ballad.

It was the publisher's intention, at first, to have added an English metrical translation: the difficulty, however, of preserving the truly genuine character of the original, in a translation, was an insuperable obstacle to its accomplishment. He has therefore contented himself with

giving, in English, merely the principal incident contained in each ballad, together with a translation of the historical notices which accompany them, and an explanation of the lithographic sketches, which will render this interesting collection accessible to those who are unacquainted with the language of the original, while such as already possess some knowledge of the German will be enabled the more easily to appreciate its poetical beauties.

As a pendant to this series of metrical traditions may be mentioned, *The Sketch-book of the Rhine*, containing fifty-five of the most interesting views of that majestic river. These sketches, forming with the present work a history legendary and picturesque of the Rhine, deserve a distinguished place in the collection of every lover of the arts.