

Frontispiece: — Typical of the Rhine.

The allegorical design prefixed to this work represents, in its central and largest compartment, Oral Tradition under the image of a bard. The figures by whom he is surrounded are expressive of the delivery and impression of the Tragic Lay. The figures in the two upper angles are personifications of Womanhood

and Heroism: — the foliage which surrounds the compartments is composed of the leaves of the vine, oak and ivy. The lesser allegories and ornaments, to the right and left of the principal group, are emblematical of the simplicity and sweetness of the Pastoral Song.

The death of Henry of Meissen, surnamed the Panegyrist of Women.

About the year 1317 died Henry of Meissen, a Canon of Mentz and celebrated Troubadour. He wrote various Canticles in honor of the Virgin, and his poems in praise of women gained him the honorable surname of Frauenlob, or the Panegyrist of Women.²⁰ The ladies of Mentz amidst tears and mourning attended him to his grave. Eight of them bore his coffin, while copious libations of wine were poured to the manes of their beloved poet. The lay of the poetess refers to this traditional scene, so beautifully depicted in the accompanying design, in which the chasteness of the general grouping and the beauty of the individual attitudes is

heightened by the exact representation of the interior of the cathedral. On the ancient monument erected in the cathedral of Mentz, and which was destroyed in 1744 by the carelessness of some workmen, was seen his bust encircled with laurel, together with his coffin, decorated with garlands of flowers, and borne by eight females with dishevelled hair and in long mourning dresses. By the mediation of the distinguished historian of the Rhine, M. Vogt, the loss of this ancient memorial has been supplied by the erection of another, after the original design, and which is placed about 22 paces from the spot occupied by the former monument.

²⁰ In the Quarterly Journal, published by the Society of Literature and Arts at Mentz, (1832) Dr. Eitzmüller has given a selection of the unpublished songs of this poet, taken from the *Zeus Manuscript*; and our ingenious poet and countryman Professor Braun, has inserted, in the 4th number of this Journal, for the same year, an interesting article on the life, death and obsequies of Frauenlob, of which we have availed ourselves in the above sketch.