

The lithographic design, which represents the historical fact above mentioned, presents to us the interior of the court of Klopp castle, in which is seen the captive emperor, surrounded by his enemies who are preparing to load him with irons. His faithful followers, disarmed and wounded, are stretched at the feet of the unfortunate monarch, who, overcome by the

depth of despair, pronounces his paternal malediction against his unnatural son. The latter is discovered at one of the windows of the castle looking with indifference at the revolting scene.

The groups in this design are admirably distributed; nor is the expression of the individual figures less successful.

The Mouse-Tower.

The vulgar tradition which has existed for ages concerning the Mouse Tower cannot but find a place in the present collection.

Bodmann *) has given a tolerably detailed account of it, as also of the origin of the tower which at present appears on a rock in the middle of the Rhine. It was built in the 13th century, being coeval with the castle of Ehrenfels which stands at some distance on the declivity of the mountain of Rudesheim, and appears to have been formerly a military station, furnished with artillery, for the protection of the tolls on the Rhine. This insulated tower, rising mournfully from the bosom of the tide, gives an additional charm to the romantic character of the scenery; its preservation, therefore, well deserves attention.

According to a tradition, which has been handed down to the present times, Archbishop Hatto, from a feeling of avarice, caused all those poor wretches, who during the time of a famine were clamorous for bread, to be burnt; the prelate, in consequence, was pursued

by mice even into this tower, where he was devoured by them.

The imagination of the artist, in accordance with the conception of the poetess, has embodied this tradition under the form of a vision — the most appropriate that could be conceived, since it is devoid of the least historical foundation.

At a short distance from the Mouse Tower roars the Bingerloch. Ancient and popular belief represented this once dangerous passage as another Charybdis, for what had been swallowed up in this whirlpool was said afterwards to reappear in that of the Goarbank, a rock lying in the middle of the Rhine near St. Goar. The present safety of the navigation of the Bingerloch is due to the wise measures of the Prussian government, at whose order the masses of sunken rock which obstructed this passage were blown up in 1830, and two following years. A monument, erected on the left bank of the river, perpetuates the remembrance of this difficult and important work.

*) Antiquities of the Rheigues. (Rheingauische Alterthümer) Vol. I p. 148.