

The seven Warriors.

During the thirty years war, the famous tower of Hatto, or the Mouse tower, situated in the Rhine, near Bingen, was blockaded by the Swedes and valiantly defended by seven German soldiers. The Swedes at length resolved to carry the tower by storm, and as they suffered severely in the assault they instantly put the garrison to the sword. All perished but one, who

fought his way through the host of his assailants with the design of reaching the river. Struck with the bravery of this warrior the Swedes offered to give him quarter; disdainful of their offer, however, he dashed forwards into the stream, preferring death rather than surrender. This is the scene which is so admirably represented in the design.

The Betrothed of Rheinstein.

The erection of the castle of Rheinstein dates from the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century. Its position on a lofty and precipitous rock, on the right bank of the Rhine opposite to Asmanshausen, gives it an almost unrivalled air of picturesque and wild beauty. Its name of Rheinstein, which has been known in the district from time immemorial, seems to have been derived from Rheinbotenstein; for the ancient family of Rheinboten, of Bingen, in which the hereditary office of magistrate of the town was vested, resided in this castle, built on an elevated rock over the Rhine.

The most ancient member of this family, of whom we have any knowledge, was Valbert, Vogt or Prefect of Bingen; (in old German Voit) the name of whom

occurs in 1148. Hence in the ancient records the castle is denominated, from the title or dignity of its possessors, Voitsberg, and Vogtsberg. As early, however, as the year 1209 mention is made of the last branch of this family, and in the Rhenan archives a family named Rheinstein occurs. In a document of Mentz-Rieneck a Henry of Rheinstein is mentioned; while in some ancient records of Katzenelbogen *) of 1309, we meet with the names of four brothers Sifrid, Walther, Zachir and Franco, sons of a knight Herrmann of Rheinstein. What relation this family may have had with the castle is difficult now to determine.

At about two miles distance from Rheinstein, near the small village of Drehtingshausen, are seen, on a

*) See Dab's description of the castles of Rheinstein and Reichenstein, together with the Church of St. Elizabeth.