

vested the office of Provincial judges (Gaugraves), and in which capacity they exercised the supreme provincial jurisdiction in civil as well as in criminal matters; the former as fcoffees of the chapter of Mentz, ⁽²⁾ and the latter as holding immediately of the emperor. The archbishops of Mentz, jealous of the extensive rights and advantages enjoyed by the Rhinegraves, endeavoured by secret negotiation to restrict or suppress the charge of provincial judge; but as their efforts proved unsuccessful, Werner Archbishop of Mentz, sixty years afterwards, resolved on employing open force to get this dignity out of their hands. The Rhinegrave Sifrid, having espoused the interests of count Sponheim in a quarrel with the archbishop, laid waste the territory of the latter, closed the navigation of the Rhine, had certain merchants seized and put to death, besides committing other acts of violence. On this the Archbishop invested the castle of Rheinberg, took and destroyed it, and stripped the Rhinegraves of all the fiefs they held of Mentz. Not satisfied with this signal act of

vengeance, the chapter completed the destruction of the powerful Rhinegraves by depriving them of all their allodial possessions in the Rheingau. Soon after this they entirely left the country and established themselves in the neighbourhood of Kreutznach, where they built the castle of Rheingravenstein, of which some ruins still exist.

The ballad which is linked to this historical sketch, is, properly speaking, merely a poetical monument consecrated to the memory of the ancient family of the Rheinbergers. The forsaken mistress of one of these knights, who had been banished and afterwards fell in combatting the troops of archbishop Werner, goes in search of the solitary grave of her deceased lover, which, by the aid of a native of the district, she at last discovers. After paying this last tender tribute to his memory she retires to a convent to end her life in meditation and prayer.

The lithographic design will be best understood after a perusal of the well-written ballad which accompanies it.

²⁾ Vide Bodmann on the Antiquities of the Rheingau, (Rheinische Alterthümer. Vol. II. p. 377.

The Count Palatine, Herrmann of Staleck.

The castle of Staleck, towering from the summit of a mountain over the town of Bacharach on the Rhine, and whose ruins, even at the present day, offer an imposing aspect, is said to have been built on the site of an ancient Roman citadel.

According to records of the year 1190, its ancient name was Stalekun. For its historical details, however, the reader is referred to Widder, Vogt etc.; we shall

confine ourselves to a brief notice of one of its most ancient and illustrious possessors.

Herrmann of Staleck was distinguished as one of the most valiant knights of his time. He was nephew of the emperor Conrad III. by whom he was created Count Palatine in 1142, and who, at his departure for Palestine during the Crusade of 1148 and 1149, entrusted to him the regency of the empire. At this

rude period, when right consisted only in the will of the strongest, he became involved in a quarrel with Arnold of Seelenhofen, Archbishop of Mentz. These two powerful adversaries laid waste each other's territories, and endangered the order and tranquillity of the state. Frederic I. emperor of Germany summoned them before the Diet assembled at Worms, in 1155, and passed on them, as well as their adherents, the ignominious sentence to carry about a dog — the punishment usually inflicted on the disturbers of the public order among the Franks, Swedes, Saxons and other northern nations. *)

In consideration of his great age and pontifical dignity the punishment was remitted to the Archbishop; but the Count Palatine, together with six of his partisans, was compelled to submit to it; by which his haughty spirit was so much wounded that he renounced

*) Vile Barre's History of Germany, V. II. p. 461.

**) Universal History, Germany: p. 568.

the world and retired to end his days in the monastery of Ebrach, in Franconia, where he died in 1156. **) The Archbishop was killed during a tumult at Mentz, in 1160, as had been predicted of him by the seeress Hildegard.

The design which relates to this narrative represents Count Herrmann overwhelmed with grief at the humiliating sentence passed against him. He is seen distributing his wealth and objects of value to his faithful vassals, who receive with painful emotion presents which can afford them no pleasure, but rather serve only to attach them still more to a beloved master from whom they are about to separate for ever.

The distribution of the groups and expression of the individual figures are in perfect keeping with the scene so admirably depicted in the ballad.

The Castle of Gutenfels, near Caub.

The ruins of the stately castle of Gutenfels are picturesquely situated on a rock on the right bank of the Rhine and approached by means of a flight of steps cut out of the rock. The town of Caub stretches along at the foot of the mountain, whilst, from the middle of the stream, rises the Pfalzgrafenstein, or castle of the ancient Counts Palatine; an edifice of a singular construction but in excellent preservation, and within which, according to vulgar tradition, the ladies of the Counts

Palatine were required to be at the period of their confinement.

The style of architecture of the main building seems to belong to 11th or 12th century; but the exterior fortifications have at different times been repaired and enlarged according as the principles of the military art required. This castle, (designated in ancient documents under the name of Cube or Chaube) together with the town of Caub and certain other possessions, belonged