

The rock of the seven Sisters.

The castle of Schoenberg, the beautiful ruins of which are seen towering amidst the mountains of Oberwesel, was, according to tradition, once inhabited by seven fair sisters, who, as a punishment for their haughty and disdainful disposition, were metamorphosed by the Naiad of the Rhine into seven rocks.

The lithographic design represents the nymph Lurley on the agitated waves of the Rhine about to revenge the death of the youthful bard Walter of Schoenberg, whom the cruelty of Adelgonda, one of the seven sisters, had driven to seek refuge in the bosom of the tide. The cruel beauties, in expiation of their disdain, still

await their deliverance under the form of seven rocks, at whose feet they see the merry groups as they float along upon the stream. Those who have made the pilgrimage of the Rhine will instantly recognise in the design the rocks of Lurley, the spot at which the ears of the wanderer are greeted by the multiplied echo of a blast from the bugle-horn.

Schoenberg was the residence of a race of knights who flourished as early as the 11th century, and from whom was descended the celebrated Frederick, count of Schoenberg, who met an heroic death at the battle of the Boyne, in 1690. *)

*) Vide Hubner's Geographical Tables. Part 4. tab. 1223.

Tradition of the nymph Lurley.

The inventive imagination of the dwellers on the Rhine has given birth to various fictions concerning the narrow passage formed by the rocks of Lurley. Saints, spirits, and sometimes even demons are mixed up in these popular narrations. Among the most interesting is that of the Naiad Lurley, whose dwelling is here beneath the waters of the Rhine. The stupendous rock which bears the same name proudly towering above the stream affords, with its fantastic shape and numerous

clefts, a striking specimen of the picturesque and grand. When, from the middle of the river or from the opposite bank, a pistol is discharged or a horn blown, it reverberates the sound from its massy sides in multiplied echoes; whilst the river straightened, and hemmed in by the giant rock seems striving to make its way to some more smiling region. On both banks salmon fisheries are established at this spot which prove extremely productive.