

Conrad Bayer of Boppard.

The lords Bayer of Boppard, whose male line became extinct in 1598, were descended from an ancient and illustrious family in the neighbourhood of the Rhine. The knight Conrad Bayer of Boppard was greatly distinguished for his heroic valor at the siege of Ptolemais, at which he bore the banner of the Templars. (Beauséant.)

The ancient nunnery of Marienberg, situated on a mountain close to Boppard, was founded, and richly endowed, in 1123, by the lords of this family. The legend relates, that, the knight Bayer of Boppard, having violated the faith which he had sworn to his mistress, the latter, disguised in the armor of her brother, chal-

lenged her lover to single combat, hoping to perish by the hand of him whose heart she now no longer possessed. Her wish was accomplished. Sinking beneath the blows of her perfidious lover, she fell expiring at his feet. On removing the helmet of his vanquished antagonist, Conrad was struck with horror and contrition at beholding the features of her who had once been so dear to him. This is the moment chosen by the artist, and which he has portrayed with such truth, that the whole romantic tale of the ballad is told at once.

The Templars of Lahneck.

The castle of Lahneck, the beautiful ruins of which are still seen on a steep, coniform mountain near Oberlahnstein, at the confluence of the Lahn and Rhine, belonged in the 14th century to the chapter of Mentz.

According to an ancient tradition, the castle of Lahneck was once in the possession of the Templars,

and laid waste in 1312, when the extermination of this order was carried on with so much inhumanity. We learn from an historical source, that after their expulsion from France, the Templars maintained themselves for some time afterwards in the electorates of Mentz and Treves, where they were in possession of vast domains.*)

*) Harro, Geschichte von Deutschland, Vol. IV, p. 470.