

### Hammerstein, the Asylum of the Emperor Henry IV.

Between Coblenz and Bonn, on the right bank of the Rhine, is seen a black rock of gigantic size picturesquely crested by the ruins of the castle of Hammerstein. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century this castle belonged to a count Otto from whom, it is believed, are descended the race of the counts of Nüringen and Hammerstein.

The unfortunate Henry IV., after his escape from the captivity in which his son held him, first in the castle of Klopp, and afterwards at Ingelheim, sojourned for a short time within this castle, whence he repaired to Cologne, a city which had throughout remained faithful to him. After several fruitless attempts to regain the sovereignty, of which he had been so cruelly deprived, he at length ended his life at Liege, in 1106.

We learn from the ballad that Wolf of Hammer-

stein, an old companion in arms of the emperor Henry, towards the close of his life, complained of his hard lot in having only two daughters, instead of a son by whom his name might be transmitted to posterity. Whilst he was thus repining, his old master the emperor suddenly stands before him imploring from him an asylum and protection against his own son, by whom he had been dethroned and driven from his dominions. Struck with this mournful sight the old count perceives that domestic happiness is not always ensured by the possession of a male descendant, and returns thanks to heaven for having made him the father of two beloved daughters whose virtues constitute the delight of his old age. Such is the subject of the lithographic design which accompanies the ballad.

### Roland, the faithful Paladine.

The castle of Rolandseck, the ruins of which are seen mournfully towering over the lofty rocks on the left bank of the Rhine, was built, as is believed, by Roland the bold, nephew of the emperor Charlemagne, in order to live near the lady of his love, who had

been induced, by a false report which had reached her of his death, to take the veil in the monastery of Nonnenwerth, situated on an adjacent island of the Rhine. According to tradition it was within this castle that the heroic Roland died.