

Mainz.

Heinrich Frauenlob.

Heinrich of Meissen according to some reports Canon, by others Doctor of Divinity, living in Mainz, at the beginning of the 14th century devoted himself besides the sciences, especially to Poetry, as then with him is said to have begun the incorporated principal school in Mainz. He dedicated his songs mostly to the holy Virgin Mary, in which he sang the ideal of the highest goodness and piety, but later his poems praise the female sex principally, and especially many separate women, so that with right, he received the name of Frauenlob, and under this name he is also known in the history of German poetry.

The love and veneration which the grateful sex paid him was so great, that his death spread a general mourning, and that the maidens and wives of the named town arranged him a burial as by the fair ones no man had ever before received.

The tolling of all bells announced the mournful day, and a long funeral procession moved along the streets, to the Dome, where his grave had been prepared. The greater part of the very numerous train were women in mourning garments, and eight of the most beautiful carried the coffin which was adorned with roses, lilies,

and myrtles. At the grave resounded songs of lamentation from female mouths, and a quantity of the most delicious flowers were strown upon it. The favorite drink of the poet, which had so often inspired his poetry, the delicious, noble Rhine wine, was here in death lavishly spent on him, so that, as the legend relates, the entrances of the Church were flooded by the Libation. Only late, and amid many tears the women left the grave.

A stranger who had come to Mainz on this day, would have believed a great prince, a great benefactor to the country, had been accompanied to his last resting place. In the Dome, on the place of an old damaged Monument of Frauenlob in the year 1842, was erected a figure stone by Schwanthaler (a beautiful female figure in white marble, placing a wreath on the master singer's coffin).

Rabbi Amram.

This most learned Rabbi was born in Mainz in the 13th century, and lived in Cologne, where he founded a high Jew's school, of which he was the principal, and by his widely known learning and piety, made renown also in foreign countries. During a severe illness, he expressed the wish to his scholars to be buried beside his parents in Mainz. By the representations of the scholars,

that this could not be done without danger, he ordered the following: „When I am dead, clean me, lay me in my coffin, place it in a little vessel on the Rhine, and let it go wherever it chooses.“ When he died his wish was fulfilled, and the small ship, without guide, floated up the Rhine towards Mainz, as here the people seized the vessel, to draw it on land it floated back, so that it was not possible to hold the vessel.

The news of this miracle was heard of by the bishop, who went to the Rhine, to convince himself of the truth of the affair; indeed the whole population of Mainz had streamed to the bank to see the strange and inexplicable ship. Naturally were also Jews on the Rhine, to whom, to the greatest astonishment of the multitude, the ship floated, but if Christians attempted to take it, it floated back, so that apparently the vessel would only go to the Jews. The bishop allowed the Jews to bring the vessel to the bank, in order to see what it contained, meanwhile they had brought the vessel to land, and found in it a coffin with a dead person in a Jewish death shirt, and an inclosed letter, with the following contents: „My dear brethren and friends, Jews of the holy communion of Mainz, I am come to you, for I have died in the holy communion at Cologne, and beg you to bury me beside my parents, who are buried at Mainz, and wish you all much happiness and a long life. This begs

the Amram." The Jews brought the coffin to land, but the Christians struggled with the Jews, to get the coffin, but they could not carry it from the place. The bishop now ordered the coffin to be kept there, that it should not be carried away by the Jews, and had a crypt built over the coffin, from which one formerly believed they have given the name, and origin, to the present St. Emeran's church, which was very large. All applications and requests to keep the coffin were useless. However meantime the Jewish students in Mainz succeeded by cunning to bring away by night the body of the Rabbi Amram; and according to his last wish to bury him with his parents in the present churchyard.

On the wall of one of the formerly standing houses, of the streets running to the Rhine from the Bocks street, which disappeared 1850 by building; one remarked a half effaced Fresco, representing a ship driving up the Rhine, and standing on the banks a multitude of people.
