

for Oswald and Edwin, who, crying with sadness and joy embraced each other. Free, Edwin conducted his father to his castle, near Lorch; and although he could not restore his lost sight; he sweetened his last days by filial tenderness.

Bacharach.

Palatine Count Hermann of Stahleck.

In the wildly romantic country of Bacharach, equally charming and engaging for eye, and feeling, is also to be found, as particularly memorable, the so called Bachus-Altar. It stands just below the town, between an islet, and the right bank of the Rhine, but unfortunately it is only possible to see it, and read the inscription, now by time become illegible, when the water is very low. This altar is generally considered to be a Memorial of the Romans, who had placed it here to their wine-god, on a later supposed inundated island, and from which, without doubt, the name of the town must have been derived.

Above Bacharach, lies picturesquely on the summit of a mountain, the ruin Stahleck. This castle was inhabited, in the middle of the 12th century, by Hermann of Stahleck, nephew of the Emperor Conrad 3rd, equally brave and wise, but

an avaricious knight. With his young amiable wife he could have enjoyed a peaceful existence, if his inquiet spirit, and longing for action had not prevented him. It is true, the gentle supplication of his wife exercised so much influence over him, that he did not take the cross and seek danger in the distant Eastern countries; but so much the more was he occupied at home with the execution of a long entertained plan. He wished to obtain a great part of the country subject to the Archbishoprics of Mayence and Trier, to which from more than one reason he believed to have a right of possession.

His hatred against every spiritual domination, and particularly to that of the mentioned bishops, excited him still more to put his plan into execution, with the assistance of the faithful ally necessity, and many other knights of the same opinion as himself. He began the war by storming the castle Treis, which, belonging to the diocese of Trier, and situated on the Mosel, was an important and strong place.

Adelbert of Monstreil, Archbishop of Metz and Trier, thereupon collected his men, to obtain again the lost castle. But not believing himself sufficiently strong against Hermann's united power, he sought his refuge in spiritual weapons. As a battle was about to take place between the two armies, Adelbert with a crucifix in his hand, made a speech to his companions-in-arms, in which he said, the angel

Michael had appeared to him the night before, had handed him the held crucifix, and promised him certain victory, if the same combatant in firm belief on an invisible higher power, would attack the enemy courageously. The speech had the best results; Hermann's troops, perceived the advancing bishop with the crucifix, and the fanatical courage of their opponents, did not remain firm, and fled, without having fought. This unfortunate commencement of his enterprise however, did not deter the Palatinate Count, he continued the war with renewed vigor, also against the Archbishop of Mayence, Arnold of Selnhofen, and would have completely carried out his intentions, if the spiritual gentlemen had not found, and used, another very wonderful party to free themselves from their indefatigable and dangerous enemy.

The chaplain of the castle Stahleck was won by them, and seduced by splendid promises to Intrigue and Treachery. At first he refused absolution, by confession, to the wife of Stahleck, because her husband was unjustly warring against high dignitaries of the Church; and because it was the duty of the wife to use all means in her power, viz; persuasion and supplication, against such crimes; then as in this embarrassment the anxious wife did not know how to act; the chaplain urged her to write a letter to Hermann, to conjure him to cease the struggle, and as this remained without success, he proceeded to the forcible shameful

means which he had already long since prepared. Two discharged criminals, unprincipled villains, were hired by him to ride into the camp of Hermann, announce themselves as soldiers seeking service, and allow themselves to be enlisted. Then they should seize a suitable opportunity to murder the enemy of the bishop, and then return to receive the rich reward of their action, and absolution for past and future sins.

Only too well the hardened villains executed their detestable commission. They forced themselves into the count's tent as the watch was confided to them, struck off his head, with which they fled to the Traitor, as proof of their obedience.

This offering was however remarked by a servant of the countess who was immediately informed. Beside herself with anger and pain, she forced herself, with dagger in hand, into the chaplain's chamber, and there seeing her dear husband's head on the table, she threw herself, with heart-rending cry: „You are the murderer of my husband“ upon the wretch and stabbed him. Then she seized the dear head, and covered it with innumerable kisses, and suddenly changing her conduct, she ran like one insane about the castle. She raved against all who approached her, in a manner, that left no doubt of her insanity, at last fled to the highest garret of the castle and precipitated herself, smashing her bones to pieces.

Later a coffin united the rests of the unfortunate

loving wife. The revenging Nemesis however soon overtook the principal planner of the abominable murder, the Archbishop Arnold of Mainz. By oppressions of all kinds he was since a long time extremely hated by his subjects who forced themselves, in public revolt, into his palace, destroyed all with fire and sword and chased the tyrant. Notwithstanding he returned, to exercise terrible vengeance on the guilty. In vain his friends warned him, uselessly wrote to him the prophetess Hildegarde: „Turn to the Lord whom you have forsaken; it is high time, for the hour of your death is near.“ He paid no attention to it, and took, the castle being destroyed, his seat in the abbey of Jakobsberg, outside the town. This circumstance hastened his ruin. The abbot, a secret enemy of the Archbishop, betrayed him, in giving opportunity to the enraged citizens, who forcibly entered the abbey by night. They overpowered and cut down the garrison, and at last murdered Arnold himself, who had done them so much injury.
