

**DIE NIBELUNGEN
LIED, OR, LAY OF THE
LAST NIBELUNGERS**

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Die Nibelungen Lied, or, Lay of the last Nibelungers by Carl Lachmann

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CARL LACHMANN

**DIE NIBELUNGEN
LIED, OR, LAY OF THE
LAST NIBELUNGERS**

DAS NIBELUNGEN LIED
OR
LAY OF THE LAST NIBELUNGERS

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

AFTER

Professor Carl Lachmann's

COLLATED AND CORRECTED TEXT

BY JONATHAN BIRCH.



BERLIN.

PUBLISHED BY ALEXANDER DUNCKER.

BOOKSELLER TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

MDCCCLVIII.

THIS FIRST
AND ONLY TRANSLATION
OF
THE NIBELUNGEN LIED
IS DEDICATED,

by *Special Permission,*

TO

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

FREDERICK WILLIAM IV.,

THE WISE, THE ENERGETIC, THE GOOD

KING OF PRUSSIA,

BY

HIS MAJESTY'S

GRATEFUL, LOYAL,

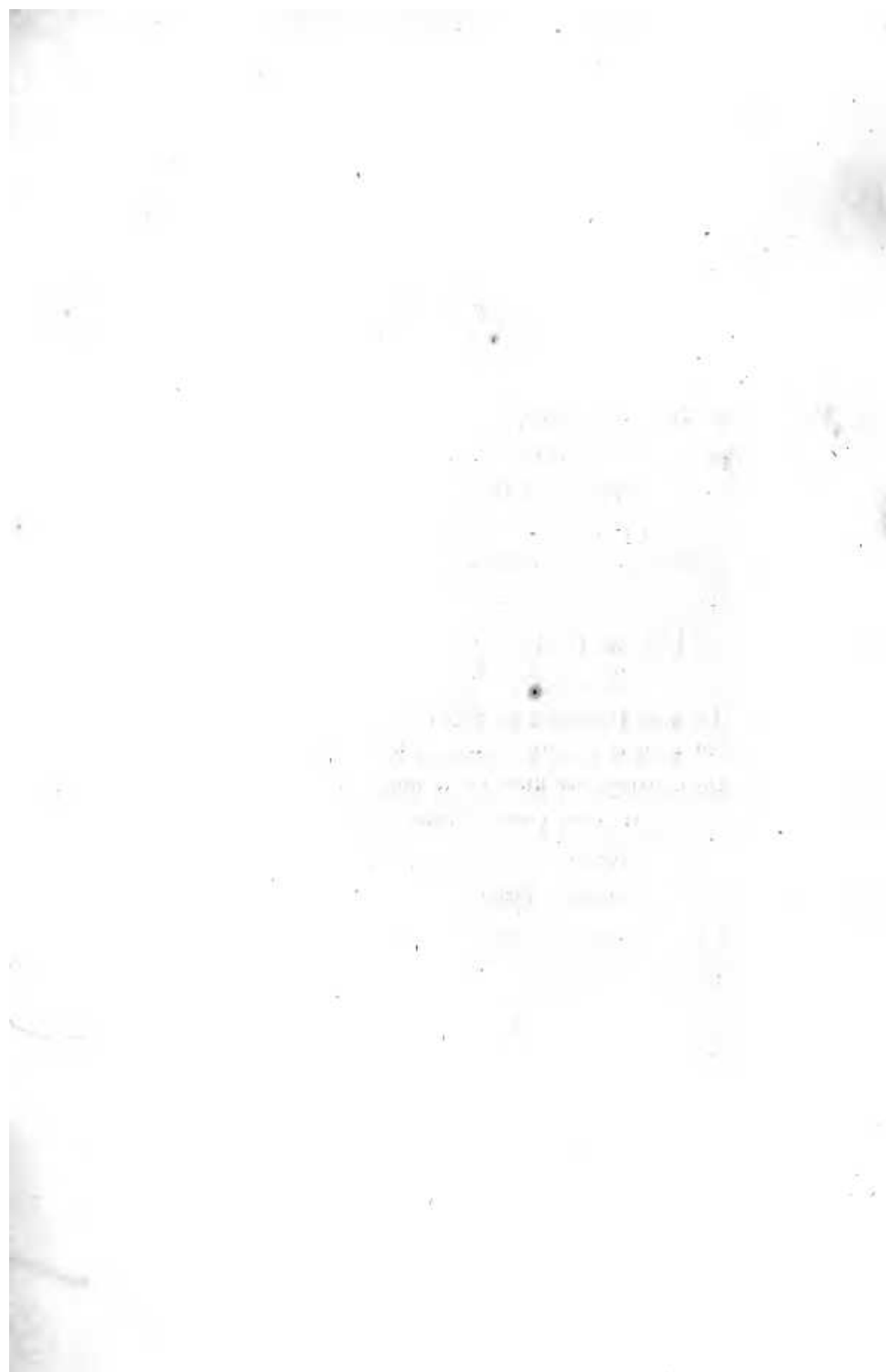
AND MOST DEVOTED SERVANT,

Jonathan Birch.



PATRONS.

- HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA.
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES OF PRUSSIA.
HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE BIRON OF COURLAND.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.
HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF ARCYLE.
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF WESTMORLAND.
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF CRAVEN.
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.
HIS EXCELLENCY THE BARON VON HUMBOLDT.
HIS EXCELLENCY THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN, *Prussian Ambassador.*
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
THE CONSUL GENERAL THREMIN.
CHEVALIER HEBELER, *Consul General for Prussia.*
PROFESSOR C. LACHMANN.
PROFESSOR J. GRIMM.
PROFESSOR W. GRIMM.



INTRODUCTION.

LEGENDS of bygone times reveal wonders and prodigies,
Of heroes worthy endless fame, — of matchless braveries, —
Of jubilees and festal sports, — of tears and sorrows great, —
And knights who daring combats fought: — the like I now relate.

In Burgundie there lived and throve, a truly handsome maid:
Such as in all the countries round — was not, might well be said.
Chriemhilda fair, the maiden hight, — a beauteous dame was she;
On her account did many a knight, lose life and high degree.

Three rich and nobly-meaning kings, her kin and guardians were;
Gunther and Gernot twain were named — both knights beyond compare;
The third one Gisether was called, — young, strong, and versed in arms.
— These brother-princes heeding watched — an only sister's charms.

In Rhenish-Burgundie they dwelt, — at Worms was held their court:
There — from far lands frank-fee to do, did lofty knights resort,
Who served life-long with loyalty, and honourable fames:
Until right woefully they fell — through strife of royal dames.

*Queen Utie was their mother dear — a wealthy dame was she!
Their father, royal Dankrath was: — he left unto the three
When near his end an ample realm, — ere then a stalwart man!
Who in his early manhood-days — chivalric honours wan.*

*Now these joint-kings of Burgundie — as I've just told to you,
Were strong and very valiant men, with subjects bold and true,
And knights they had of great renown — no better could there be
For strength of arm and daring deed: the pride of chivalry!*

*Even such was Hagen, Tronjé's chief; — and such his brother-kin
Bold Dankwart — he so swift of foot! — and Metz born Ortwin;
Besides — the margraves eminent, Garie and Eckewart;
And Volcher brave of Atzeie, so skilled in every art.*

*Rumolt — chief-steward was, and eke a knight of good report:
Sindolt and Hunolt likewise held — high office at the court:
Moreover, there were many else of far extended fame
Within the realm; — but they are sooth too manifold to name.*

*Dankwart was marshal, — and his kin (own sister's son more'er)
The valiant Ortwin of Metz, was royal Gunther's sewer.
Sindolt cupbearer to the kings — was knight of great import;
And chamberlain was Hunolt keen: all honouring the court.*