

**IÖLANDE; A TALE OF THE
DUCHY
OF LUXEMBOURG,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Iölande; a tale of the Duchy of Luxembourg, and other poems by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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TO

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.,

OF ABBOTSFORD,

THE FOLLOWING VOLUME IS, BY PERMISSION,

INSCRIBED,

BY ONE WHO HAS FROM CHILDHOOD LOOKED UP TO HIM

WITH AFFECTION, ADMIRATION, AND RESPECT.

866723

INTRODUCTION TO IOLANDE.

THE castle of Vianden, the scene to which the following tale relates, is one of the oldest possessions of the house of Nassau, whose property it became by marriage during the thirteenth century: and it now belongs to the present, or at this day, we should perhaps say, the late king of the Netherlands.

It was on visiting the very romantic and striking ruins of that old feudal fortress during a short stay that I made some time since at the house of a nobleman in that highly picturesque country, that the idea of making it the subject of a poem first suggested itself.

And that idea was more deeply impressed on reading a passage in Bertholet's account of the duchy of Luxem-

bourg: so that although all the fidelity of history is not to be expected, and the tale may rather be regarded in the light of fiction than of truth, yet it is not entirely without foundation, for the account given by Bertholet is, as far as I can recollect, that about the eleventh century, Hermandine, the Baroness of Vianden, and the mother of Iolande (the heroine of the story), wished to persuade her daughter to enter into marriage with a nobleman to whom she was much averse, and used menaces and much violence to force Iolande into the hated alliance. All persuasion and threat, however, proved of no avail, and the story is, I believe, concluded by Iolande taking the veil, and ultimately becoming abbess of the convent of Marienthal, whose ruins still occupy a most romantic situation, and command an extensive view on the banks of the Moselle.

The idea of a secret lover who returned her affections with equal warmth, though highly probable, is not, as far as I know, corroborated by history; and his joining the

crusade is merely a poetic licence introduced as in consonance with the spirit of those times. I have likewise judged it better to diverge from the course of history in bringing the heroine to the altar as a bride and not as a novice, and thus conclude the tale more happily by the death of the rival, the return of the favoured lover, and his union with the fair Iolande.

The occurrence of a *Metternich* as the rival of the hero may require a word of explanation to the English reader. The great family of that name belonged originally to the district in which the scene is laid: and indeed the present celebrated minister of the Emperor of Austria still possesses wide estates in the duchy of Luxembourg, especially Burtschied, with its noble castle seated on a lofty rock overhanging a mountain stream, whose waters join those of the Ours not far below the castle of Vianden.

IOLANDE.

A TALE OF THE DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG.