

**BRUNHILD: A
TRAGEDY FROM THE
NIBELUNG SAGA**

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Brunhild: A Tragedy from the Nibelung Saga by Emanuel Geibel & George Theodore Dippold

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EMANUEL GEIBEL & GEORGE THEODORE DIPPOLD

**BRUNHILD: A
TRAGEDY FROM THE
NIBELUNG SAGA**

BRUNHILD.

A Tragedy

FROM THE NIBELUNG SAGA.

By EMANUEL GEIBEL

TRANSLATED BY

GEORGE THEODORE DIPPOLD, Ph.D.,
AUTHOR OF "THE GREAT EPICS OF MEDIEVAL GERMANY, ETC."

PRECEDED BY A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE NIBELUNG
EPICS AND SAGAS.

SECOND EDITION.

SEE LIST OF
COLUMBIA COLLEGE

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY GINN, HEATH, & CO.

1883.

TO
FRANCIS JAMES CHILD,
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN HARVARD COLLEGE,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY HIS FORMER PUPIL,

GEORGE THEODORE DIPPOLD.

PREFACE.

WHEN Bayard Taylor says: "There are elements in the (Faust) legend, the value of which even a purblind poet could not help seeing, yet which the loftiest genius may admit to be almost beyond his grasp," he states a fact that can be affirmed with equal force and truth in regard to the Nibelung saga. But when the famous translator of the greatest work in German literature reminds us that Goethe in his youth, "although a new Faust was announced in every quarter of Germany, took up the theme already hackneyed by small talents, and made it his own, solely and for ever," the comparison with the Nibelung saga ends. For, while Goethe was the only one who produced from the material of the Faust legend a monument of unsurpassed grandeur, the Nibelung subject has been treated with marked success by several of the greatest minds of modern Germany. Among these, the name of Emanuel Geibel holds a foremost place. His "Brunhild" was received with signal favor in Germany, and deservedly so, as it is a truly grand production, exhibiting the characters and incidents of the Nibelung saga with rare force and clearness of delineation. As the poem has not hitherto been accessible in the English language, the attempt has been made in this volume to present a transla-

tion of this great tragedy, faithful to the original, both in spirit and in form.

The translation is preceded by an introduction containing such suggestions as seem to be indispensable for a right understanding of the poem ; although a full, exhaustive treatise on the whole Nibelung subject cannot be expected in this place. Those versed in a knowledge of German, and seeking more intimate acquaintance with the Nibelung literature, are referred to the well-known names of von der Hagen, Lachmann, the brothers Grimm, Simrock, Zarneke, Hermann Fischer, Holtzmann, Bartsch, Raszmann, and others. To the English reader two works can be especially recommended. The first is Professor R. B. Anderson's "Norse Mythology,"* which is very valuable and highly interesting, not only as forming the first complete and systematic presentation of the northern myths in the English language, but also as being an authority to be consulted by every student of Teutonic sagas. When Max Müller says that he will avail himself of the help and guidance of this "Norse Mythology" whenever he approaches the dark runes of the Edda, he does but justice to the merit of the author. Moreover, the Nibelung subject can be fully understood only with a knowledge of Teutonic mythology ; at the same time, it must be borne in mind that the gods of the North were also, generally speaking, those of the whole Teutonic race. The second work is Auber Forestier's "Echoes from Mist-Land," in which the story of the Nibelungen Lied is retold in pure, simple, yet highly poetic prose.

* Third edition appeared in January, 1879.

If the present volume, by presenting Geibel's great Nibelung drama in the English language, shall contribute its share towards advancing the already powerfully awakened interest in the Nibelung subject and in Teutonic lore generally, the object aimed at in the following pages will be accomplished.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY,

June 10, 1879.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

It has not been deemed necessary to make any essential changes in the translation of the poem. The reader who wishes for a fuller account of the Nibelung traditions than is given in the following introduction, is referred to "The Great Epics of Mediæval Germany, etc.," lately published by the translator of Geibel's "Brunhild."

BOSTON UNIVERSITY,

June 7, 1883.

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