

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE,
WITH FIVE BOOKS OF THE
NIBELUNGEN**

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A Brief History of the German Language, with Five Books of the Nibelungen by Albert M. Sells

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A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE,
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FIVE BOOKS OF THE NIBELUNGENLIED,

Edited and Annotated,

BY

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P R E F A C E .

THE increasing attention paid in this country to Teutonic Philology requires the publication of some handbook like the present to set forth the rise and progressive development of the German Language. The scholar will not be content with a knowledge of its present condition and capabilities, but will desire to trace back each of its characteristic qualities to its fountain head; and such a task, while satisfying the philologist, opens up a most instructive chapter of history and civilization. To guide and assist the student in prosecuting his researches in this field of literature is the design and object of this little work. The need of it is especially felt in the Royal University of Ireland, which has adopted the subject as a portion of its regular course in Arts, and requires from all students who take up German a competent acquaintance with Teutonic Philology. In the older Universities of the United Kingdom this subject is also claiming much attention.

The place of Modern Languages in the curriculum of our Universities depends a good deal upon the amount of scientific treatment they are capable of receiving; and it is only when philological research can be usefully allied to the study of the Mind and Literature of nations that they can rightly demand a conspicuous position amongst University studies. To assist in vindicating for Modern Languages such a place of honour beside the long-established Classics of Greece and Rome is one of the objects which the author has proposed to himself in the compilation of this sketch; and a portion of the *Nibelungenlied* has been annotated and appended as a specimen or illustration of the ancient literature of Germany.

A. M. S.

* 38, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,
July, 1885.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 40, l. 24, for 'Unsar Trahtin,' read 'Unsar Truhtin.'
" 76, l. 28, for 'spanen,' read 'spanen.'

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