

**ELFREIDE OF GULDAL, A  
SCANDINAVIAN LEGEND;  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Elfreide of Guldal, a Scandinavian legend; and other poems by Elias Marks

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**ELIAS MARKS**

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AND

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BY

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# ELFREIDE OF GULDAL.

A SCANDINAVIAN LEGEND.

*Extra anni solisque vias.*—VIRGIL.

THE following Poem refers to the close of the thirteenth and beginning of the fourteenth centuries ; a period rife with interesting historical associations, and one in which the European mind receives a wonderful impulse. It is the age of the First Edward, of Wallace, and of Bruce ; of Llewellyn, and of the last minstrelsy of the Cambrian bards. It is associated with the Hohenstaufen, a race with whom much of soul-stirring and ennobling deed is connected ; of the rise of the Hapsbourg, who, with the exception of Rodolph, its founder, possess a character the most opposite to the preceding dynasty ; of the great and successful struggle of Helvetic freedom ; of the re-assembling of the *Tiers états* under Philip the Fair, and of the successful opposition to papal tyranny ; of the first *regular* Parliament of England ; of the noble stand made by the Barons of Arragon against monarchical supremacy ; and last, not least, of the discovery of Greenland, and the landing on the New England coast by the Normans—the people who are the subject of this Poem, and the countrymen of *Elfreide*.

## ELFREIDE OF GULDAL.

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### PART I.

MIDNIGHT is past ; the west'ring moon looks down  
Upon a waste of waters, stretching far  
From the Norwegian to Icelandic shore ;  
And surging inland to the rock-girt Nide,  
Laves the gray walls of Drontheim's time-worn towers.  
Swift speeding from its mountain-source, the Moå,—  
It's crisp'd wave lit by the cold moonbeam,—  
Like chief impatient for the battle-field,