

**THE LAST KNIGHT,
A ROMANCE-
GARLAND**

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The last knight, a romance-garland by Anastasius Grün & John O. Sargent

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ANASTASIOS GRÜN & JOHN O. SARGENT

**THE LAST KNIGHT,
A ROMANCE-
GARLAND**

The Last Knight,

A ROMANCE-GARLAND.

FROM THE GERMAN OF ANASTASIUS GRÜN.

TRANSLATED, WITH NOTES, BY

JOHN O. SARGENT.



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TO
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

IN MEMORY OF YOUNG DAYS NOW

OLD TIMES,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED BY

HIS FRIEND

JOHN O. SARGENT

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INTRODUCTION.

ANASTASIUS GRÜN is the poetical pseudonym of Count ANTON ALEXANDER VON AUERSPERG, who was born April 11, 1806, at Laibach in the Austrian duchy of Craniola. His father died early and left him the family estates at Gurkfeld, and the Castle of Thurn-am-Hart. He was educated in philosophy and jurisprudence at Vienna, where he went in his childhood and remained till his twenty-fourth year, passing only his vacations at the rural homestead. He afterwards lived alternately at Vienna and on his estates, making occasional journeys into France, North and South Germany, Italy, and Belgium. In 1838 he married the Countess Maria Attems, daughter of the Governor-general of Styria. Ten years later he was sent by the estates and the men of letters of Austria to the German *Vor-Parlament*, and was then elected by the circle of Laibach to the National Assembly, which he left in the autumn of the same year, without having taken a very active part in their proceedings. On some important questions he voted with the Left Centre. At Frankfort he was the witness of stormy scenes, and after the catastrophe of the eighteenth September (when his fellow-members, Major Auerswald and Prince Lichnowski, were murdered by the mob), he seems to have retired from public life. Regarded as the head of the liberal party, his opin-


ions exposed him to the attentions of the Austrian police, and he was fined five and twenty ducats (afterwards remitted) for the violation of the ordinance that forbade the publication of anything by an Austrian, even in a foreign country, without previously submitting it to the domestic censorship. He was unjustly accused of having changed his political professions, in order to obtain a seat in the House of Lords, which enabled him with his wife to appear at court.

After publishing several minor pieces in the almanacs — at that time a usual channel for the production of rising authors, — he appeared for the first time, in 1830, in a volume of collected poems entitled "*Blätter der Liebe*." These poems were said by the critics to be written in the prevailing Austrian vein, with a strong dash of HEINE. The same year he published at Stuttgart "*Der Letzte Ritter*," THE LAST KNIGHT, — a series of ballads founded on incidents in the life of the Emperor MAXIMILIAN I., — and forming a national poem, which gave him immediate and wide reputation. His fame was increased by the "*Spaziergänge eines Wiener Poeten*," political lyrics, that well deserved the celebrity they attained. These works, with his other productions — "*Schutt*," "*Gedichte*," "*Nibelungen im Frack*," and "*Pfaff Vom Kahlenberg*," — exhibiting powers of humor and irony no less than a high order of imagination, and great vigor and beauty of expression, entitled him to rank, and have maintained his position among the best and most distinguished of the living poets of Germany.



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