

**STORIES FROM OLD  
GERMANY, VOLUME 1:  
THE NIEBELUNGEN LIED-  
LOHENGRIN-BEOWULF**

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Stories from Old Germany, Volume 1: The Niebelungen Lied-Lohengrin-Beowulf by Mara L. Pratt

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**MARA L. PRATT**

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STORIES  
FROM OLD GERMANY.

VOLUME I

THE NIBELUNGEN LIED—LOHENGRIN—BEOWULF.

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BY MARA L. PRATT. *Ch. 10. 10. 10.*

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## PREFACE.

In the compilation of these legends, it has been the writer's plan to take from the *Nibelungen Lied* only such parts of it as appeal to the poetic imagination of the child reader, and to hold before him such pictures of the hero Siegfried as are safe to influence the boy's conception of what a hero should be.

The last half of the story—Kriemhilde's sufferings at Brunhilde's hand, and her own fierce revenge—has been omitted. Such stories may be—and are—of value to the historian, the philologist, and the searcher into race distinctions and common characteristics. To these the whole story has its value; but for the child to whom the *Lay* is but a fairy tale, may we not presume to select from and prune a little even from so rare a bit of ancient literature?

MARA L. PRATT.









## THE NIBELUNGEN LIED.

### KRIEMHILDE'S DREAM.

*A dream was dreamt by Kriemhilde, the virtuous and the gay,  
How a wild young falcon, she trained for many a day,  
Till two fierce eagles tore it; to her there could not be  
In all the world such sorrow as this perforce to see.*

— LETTSOM'S TRANSLATION.

“Come near, my sons,” spoke the old Burgundian king; “come near; for before the sun rises again upon our royal palace, thy father will be no more. Come near, Gunther, and Gernot, and Giselher, and hear what thy father would say to thee.”

Softly and with bowed heads the three princes came near and knelt beside the couch. They were brave youths, and the old king's face softened as he looked upon them kneeling there.

"Ours is a vast kingdom," said he, laying his hand upon the head of Gunther, the eldest son. "Noble has been its history. Brave have been its knights. Behind us lie a long line of Burgundian kings; and with each has our kingdom risen in honor and greatness.

"The time now draweth near when this mighty territory shall be yours, and over it as kings, each in his own right, it is my wish that you reign together.

"You, Gunther, are the eldest. Take thou the royal city, and sit upon my throne, wearing my crown and wielding my sceptre.

"And you, Gernot and Giselher, divide