

The German translator observes, "What characterizes the mountain lays is a vigorous tone, a wild intrepidity in thoughts and images, and a mood which takes up the most marvellous subject, and treats it as freely and familiarly as the most common. The bards sing, as the Klephts strike. They are all marked by a like patriotic enthusiasm, hatred for the Turk, love for freedom and independence. Not only the air of the mountains blows upon us, but the steep and wild forms of the rocks, from whose clefts they echo, are to be found in these ballads."

They present a striking contrast to the Rhine ballads in this; they are entirely destitute of that symbolical character which gives such interest to the minutiae of the latter. The Romaic are a plain transcript of realities, which happen to be of the class called Romantic. They please by their scenery and exhibition of character. The Rhine ballads are the growth of a national thought, and a religious faith.

---

### THE BLACK KNIGHT.

BE sure your fate  
 Doth keep apart its state,  
 Not linked with any band,  
 Even the nobles of the land;  
 In tented fields with cloth of gold  
 No place doth hold,  
 But is more chivalrous than they are,  
 And sigheth for a nobler war;  
 A finer strain its trumpet sings,  
 A brighter gleam its armor flings.  
 The life that I aspire to live  
 No man proposeth me,  
 Only the promise of my heart  
 Wears its emblazonry.

H. D. T.