

2238

Then spake of Bern Sir Dietrich: "Ye men to me full dear,
Now haste ye not unduly. The deeds performéd here
By the stranger warriors show sore necessity.
That peace with them I blighted, let it now their profit be."

2239

Then spake the valiant Wolfhart: "Thither will I run
To make question of it what they now have done,
And straight will tidings bring thee, master full dear to me,
When yonder I inform me, whence may so great lamenting be."

2240

Answer gave Sir Dietrich: "Fear they hostility,
The while uncivil questioning of their deed there be,
Lightly are stirred to anger good warriors o'er the thing.
Yea, 'tis my pleasure, Wolfhart, thou sparest them all such question-
ing.

2241

Helfrich he then commanded thither with speed to go
That from men of Etzel he might truly know,
Or from the strangers straightway, what thing there had been.
As that, so sore lamenting of people ne'er before was seen.

2242

Questioned then the messenger: "What hath here been wrought?"
Answered one among them: "Complete is come to naught
What of joy we cherished here in Hunnish land.
Slain here lieth Ruediger, fallen 'neath Burgundian hand.

2243

"Of them that entered with him not one doth longer live."
Naught might ever happen Helfrich more to grieve,
Nor ever told he tidings so ruefully before.
Weeping sore the message unto Dietrich then he bore.

2244

"What the news thou bringst us?" Dietrich spake once more;
"Yet, O doughty Helfrich, wherefore dost weep so sore?"
Answered the noble warrior: "With right may I complain:
Yonder faithful Ruediger lieth by the Burgundians slain."