

2322

"Alack, O faithful Wolhart, must I thy death now mourn,
Soon have I cause to rue me that ever I was born.
Siegstab and Wolfwein and eke Wolfbrand!
Who now shall be my helpers in the Amelungen land?"

2323

"Helfrich, thane full valiant, and is he likewise slain?
For Gerbart and Wichart when shall I cease to plain?
Of all my life's rejoicing is this the latest day.
Alack that die for sorrow never yet a mortal may!"

THIRTY-NINTH ADVENTURE

How Gunther and Hagen and Kriembild were Slain

2324

Himself did then Sir Dietrich his armor take in hand,
To don the which did help him Master Hildebrand.
The doughty chieftain meanwhile must make so loud complain
That from high palace casement oft came back the sound again.

2325

Natheless his proper humor soon he did regain,
And armed full in anger stood the worthy thane;
A shield all wrought full firmly took he straight in hand,
And forth they strode together, he and Master Hildebrand.

2326

Spake then of Tronje Hagen: "Lo, where doth hither wend
In wrath his way Sir Dietrich. 'Tis plain he doth intend
On us to wreak sore vengeance for harm befallen here.
To-day be full decided who may the prize for valor bear!"

2327

"Let ne'er of Bern Sir Dietrich hold him so high of might
Nor deem his arm so doughty and terrible in fight
That, will he wreak his anger on us for sorest scathe,"—
Such were the words of Hagen, —"I dare not well withstand his
wrath."