

HOUSE OF WAYLAND.



WELOND, or the Smith, was the Vulcan of northern mythology; that is to say, it was a generic term, a symbolical impersonation standing for a skilled artificer, derived from some Scandinavian verb, signifying to work with ingenuity, (and perhaps surviving in the English term "to weld") as Dædalus among the Greeks was derived from δαιδαλλω to work artistically, and Fabricius in Latin from *fabrico*. It was in this sense that King Alfred understood it when in his translation of Boethius's *De consolations philosophicæ*, he thus paraphrased the passage commencing "*Ubi nunc fidelis ossa Fabricii manent?*"

"Where are now the bones of the wise Weland
The goldsmith formerly so famous? . . .
Under what tumulus do they lie hidden?"

So also the French romancers were fond of attributing the armour of Charlemagne and other warriors to the skill of Weland, or "Galannus" as they would call him. Matthew Paris is but adopting the same poetic fiction when he informs us that among the suit of arms presented by Henry I. of England to the young Count Geoffrey of Anjou, the sword was of Weland's superlative manufacture. *Hist.* xii. 521. And in the same symbolic strain, other mediæval writers have furnished with weapons from this armory, Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Ptolemy, Judas Maccabæus. and the Emperor Vespasian.

In the Vale of White-horse at Ashbury near the borders of Wilts and Berks, may still be seen the remains of a Celtic sepulchre or cromlech bearing the name of Wayland Smith's cave. Though it bears this Saxon name it is much older than Saxon times, and is just one among many other illustrations of the tendency of that tribe to connect their own traditional legends with the objects which they found on their arrival in England. Sir Walter Scott has made