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# MEDIÆVAL LEGENDS

## Five Legends

BEING A GIFT-BOOK TO THE CHILDREN OF  
ENGLAND OF OLD-WORLD TALES FROM  
FRANCE AND GERMANY

BY

MRS. LEIGHTON



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## PREFACE

IN offering to the Children of England these five Mediæval Legends, no attempt has been made to rectify the legendary caprices in chronology, history, or geography of the German version from which they are taken.

Each legend has been left free to tell the tale of its own time and place with that truth of poetry which has of old been called truer than the truth of fact.

In the Melusina we have a legend of chivalry. The adventures of her many sons, if more impossible, are not more improbable than those recorded of many a poor knight who, by fortune of war or wedlock,<sup>1</sup> rose to royal estate in the far East, or on the classic soil of Greece, where in the Middle Ages each European nation had its castle for munition of war, a relic of such castles being seen to this day in Navarino, once the castle of Navarre.

As gift of our King Richard Cœur de Lion, to whom it did not belong, Cyprus truly fell to a Lord of Lusignan, and during three hundred years was ruled by his descendants, for one of whom, the young King Hugo, St. Thomas Aquinas composed his treatise, *De Principe*.

<sup>1</sup> The cases of distressed heiresses marrying for defence were numerous in Crusading times. A certain Queen Elizabeth of Jerusalem was thus given five times in marriage.