

MAIL-MAKER OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, FROM AN  
ILLUMINATION IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

By J. HEWITT.

SEVERAL discussions having taken place in recent meetings of the Archaeological Institute on the subject of medieval chain-mail, and an opinion having been expressed that all, or nearly all, the defences of this fabric were imported from Asia, I beg to call attention to a vellum-painting in a manuscript in the British Museum, representing very distinctly a European armorer at work upon a hauberk of interlinked



mail. The manuscript appears to be of the first half of the fifteenth century; it forms part of the Royal Collection (16 G V.), is in French, and entitled "*Boccace des Clercs et nobles Femmes.*" The illumination here reproduced, occurs on folio 11. It will be seen that the tools employed by both the armorers, the worker in plate, and the mail-maker, are very simple and very few: a hammer and a pair of pincers are all that the illuminator presents to us; and it will be remembered that in the East, where old modes are so long retained, nothing strikes the European more forcibly than the extraordinary simplicity and fewness of the implements employed by native workmen in productions of the most elaborate character.

It being my wish to occupy on this subject a single page only of our journal, I abstain from all excursive topics which may invitingly present themselves.