

## On an Incised Slab at Etwall Church.

BY REV. J. CHARLES COX.

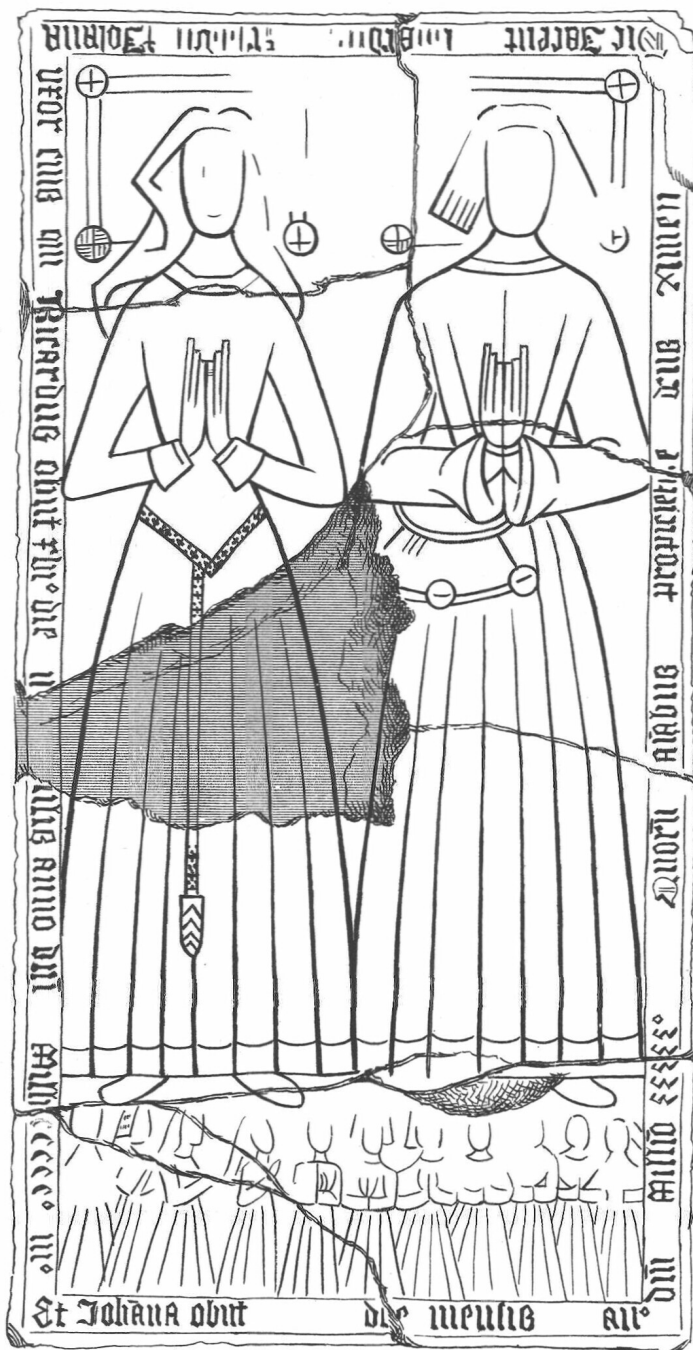
**D**URING the alterations that took place at the Church of S. Helen, Etwall, in the course of the past year (1881), a large incised slab of alabaster was found, but unfortunately broken into many pieces. These have been carefully put together again, and the slab is now tolerably perfect as shown on the plate.

The figures in the centre of the slab are those of a civilian and his wife. The man is clad in a long robe or coat, falling in folds to the feet. It is rather singular that it is not represented as lined or trimmed with fur, as is almost invariably the case with civilians on brasses or stones of this date. Appended to the girdle is a large gypciere or pouch-bag. The woman wears the diamond-shaped hood or head-dress, with long lappets falling in flowing folds, and a close-fitting gown, with long embroidered girdle fastened across the hips. The pendant to the girdle seems to be ornamented with two chevrons, but we scarcely think it is intended for an armorial bearing; we know of no parallel case of heraldry in such a position. The head of each figure rests on a square cushion. Below the woman are the small figures of four daughters; below the man are figures of seven sons. Round the margin is the following inscription:—

Hic jacent Ricardus. . . . . et Johana uxor eius qui Ricardus  
 obiit xbi<sup>o</sup> die m[ensis]. Ap[ri]lis anno dni Millio cccc<sup>o</sup> iii<sup>o</sup> Et Johana  
 obiit                    die mensis                    an<sup>o</sup> dni Millio cccc<sup>o</sup>  
 Quorum animabus propicietur deus Amen.

The stone was evidently cut to the memory of both husband and wife at the death of the former, and then, as was so often the case with similar memorials, the space left for the day, month, and year of the wife's decease never filled in.

It is most unfortunate that the family name on this inscription should be the very word that is so illegible. In 1370 the manor of Etwall was conferred on Beauvale Priory, and it was not until the Reformation that it was again in lay hands; but we are not aware of any family of note resident on the manor during that period.



INCISED GRAVESTONE DISCOVERED DURING THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH AT EGMALLEN IN AUGUST 1881.