

ON TWO RELICS FOUND AT LEWES

BY MR. WILLIAM FIGG.

DURING the excavations for the Brighton and Hastings Railway within the ruins of the priory of St. Pancras at Lewes, on February 13, 1846, a portion of a cross-legged effigy was found; it was nearly at the top of the slope on the northern side of the cutting, in which the leaden cists containing the bones of William De Warrenne and Gundrada were discovered in the autumn of 1845. Unfortunately the head and lower part of the legs are gone. This portion of the figure is two feet nine inches long; it is of Purbeck marble, and represents a knight of the time of



EFFIGY.

Henry III; the left leg is passed over the right; in general character it bears a strong resemblance to the effigy in the Temple Church, supposed to represent Robert de Ros, surnamed Fursan, who died in 1227, particularly in the position of the right hand and arm. The hauberk of ring mail has been gilt; the surcote was first covered with a white ground, and the proper colour, blue, was laid over this ground, the lining is scarlet. The hip-belt, which sustains the sword, and the guige, supporting the shield, were both coloured vermilion, and ornamented with gilding, a small portion of which still remains. The shield retains small portions of the blue colour, it covers the left arm, and is much broken; between it and the body is the sword, the pommel of which is placed so unusually

high, that it nearly reaches the armpit; in a fold at the lower part of the surcote on the left side is a cross botone, which was outlined with black, and coloured with an ochrey yellow, as a ground for gold.

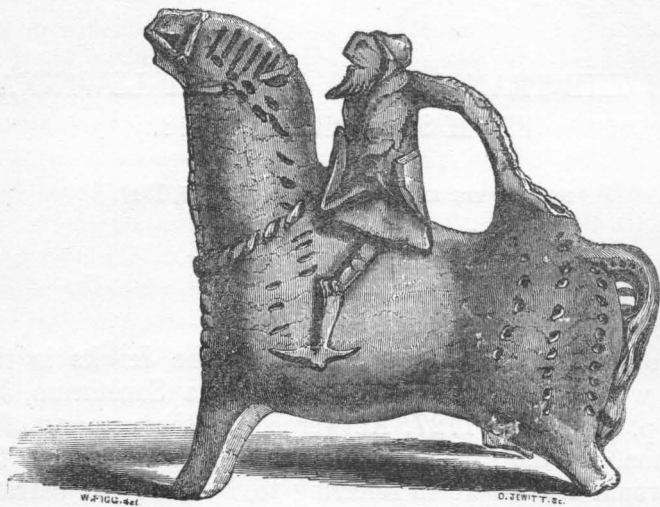
It has been conjectured, from the tincture of the surcote and the cross, that this figure is intended for one of the family of Braose, lords of Bramber, and we find that Philip de Braose was among the earlier benefactors of Lewes Priory, giving them four saltpans (*quatuor salinas*) at Bramber; the arms of Beauchamp would also agree, Dionysia the widow of the Lord Robert de Beauchamp having, also been a benefactor to the Priory; the portion of the arms remaining would also agree with those of the Barrs, and we find that John, the eighth Earl of Warrenne, who died in 1337, married Joanna, daughter of Henry Comte de Barr, and bore the arms of Barr on his seals.

The costume appears, however, somewhat too early for this earl, and, from the small remains of colour and of the armorial bearings on the effigy, though any opinion as to the individual intended to be represented must be conjectural: he may more probably have been of the Braose family.

The following singular, and it is believed *unique* specimen of mediæval pottery was found at Lewes, within the ancient circuit of the walls of the town, in the early part of 1846, in excavating for the southern entrance to the tunnel under the town, on the Keymer Branch Railway. It is of coarse clay, glazed of a dark-green colour, and is in height ten inches, and in length ten inches and a half; had the head of the horse remained entire, it might have been thirteen or fourteen inches long.

It has been conjectured that it is not earlier than the time of Henry II, and is probably a century later. It seems adapted for holding liquor at table; but "it is possible that this remarkable grotesque may have been intended rather to make disport in the festive hall, than as a recipient for exhilarating drinks dispensed to the guests." There are more

remarks on this subject in the fourth vol. of the 'Journal of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland,' pp. 80, 81, 82. This curious relic is still in my possession.



It is a common idea that railways are destructive in their tendencies, and *can* be but of little use to archæology or the arts; but the exhumation of the above-described effigy, and this singular specimen of fictile manufacture (within a few hundred yards of each other), not to mention the still more valuable discovery of the relics of William De Warrenne and Gundrada, was brought about by a railway project, and it is but due to the directors, and the persons employed in carrying it out, to say that every facility was afforded and every assistance rendered to those engaged in rescuing from destruction the various relics and fragments discovered in the interesting localities, through which the works were carried on in the neighbourhood of Lewes.
