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**Head of An Early Fourteenth-Century Effigy in St. Philip's
Church, Bristol**

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HEAD OF AN EARLY FOURTEENTH-CENTURY EFFIGY IN ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, BRISTOL.

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THE Church of SS. Philip and Jacob, Bristol, was in existence in 1174, when it was said to have been a small Benedictine Priory. It was, however, parochial as early as the year 1220; but it must have been some eighty years later that this head was carved.

The view taken by Miss I. M. Roper, in her paper on "Bristol Effigies,"¹ appears to be the correct one, and this head belonged to a monumental effigy, and at some later period it has been severed and placed on a stone bracket.² The head³ is in mail. "The hauberk," as Miss Roper says, "is drawn up beneath the ears, and there fastened on each side by a cord to the flaps of the coif de mailles, which completely covers the head. Beneath the coif would be a small skull-cap of iron, which is shown to be held in place by a cord entwined amongst the rings above the forehead." "This coif de mailles," Mr. Edward S. Prior, F.S.A., informs us, "is an example dating from about 1275 to 1320," and the execution of the face he considers strongly resembles that of Crouchback at Westminster Abbey of about 1292, and a knight at Beer Ferrers of about 1300. Mr. Prior has, therefore, dated this head as belonging to an effigy of the early years of the fourteenth century. Mr. Albert Hartshorne, F.S.A., has also been consulted, and he is of opinion that "this head formed part of an effigy which may be dated about 1300."

The long neck is a characteristic of the London and West-country effigies of this period. The mail is carved

¹ *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xxvii, p. 98.

² 6 in. by 10 in. by 8 in.

³ 1 ft. 3 in. by 10 in.



HEAD OF AN EARLY 14TH CENTURY EFFIGY.
ST. PHILIPS' CHURCH, BRISTOL.

in stone, not modelled in gesso, and Mr. Prior believes that "it was made locally, but was a copy of a London figure."

This head is half built into the south wall of the Kemys Chapel, and rests on a stone bracket of a much later date. It is in excellent preservation; the nose is, however, chipped. The eyes are open, which is a characteristic of early English effigies, and a drooping moustache is depicted. The head is thickly coated with whitewash.
