

THE STUDIO

A RTISTS AS CRAFTSMEN. NO. I. SIR FREDERIC LEIGHTON, BART., P.R.A., AS A MODEL- LER IN CLAY.

PERHAPS no one ever expressed so clearly as Browning the delight an artist experiences in "using nature that's an art to others, not this one-time art that's turned his nature." In the most lucid and delicately wrought of all his poems, "One Word More," he tells us how "Rafael made a century of sonnets," and how "Dante once prepared to paint an angel;" but in the series of papers that begin with Sir Frederic Leighton, P.R.A., as a modeller, we shall not often find an artist, using the word in its broadest sense, straying so far as did these two from the fields he has chosen for his life's work. At the same time there are not a few who find pleasure in occasional experiments in a new medium. The painter carves in wood, the sculptor "curbs the liberal hand subservient proudly, cramps its spirit, crowds his art in little," and fashions medals, and so on; but those workers in the fine arts who essay literature need not be included. Yet although a craftsman is rightly held to be the actual worker, we may strain the sense a little for our purpose and permit the designer for various definite industries, one who has mastered the technical requirements of the process, to be included among craftsmen, whether he really sets the tesserae together for mosaic panels, cuts and fits the coloured glass for windows, or merely provides working drawings, and is content with experiments sufficient to thoroughly

master his material, leaving its ultimate fashioning to be carried out by other hands.

Sir Frederic Leighton is not unknown as a sculptor; the fine *Athlete struggling with a Python* has been exhibited in England, France, and Germany, with unqualified success. To-day we are not directly concerned with his sculpture, but with certain delightful models which this artist has prepared from time to time as lay figures for his draperies.



THE CLAY MODEL FOR THE "ANDROMEDA"

Although some of these have been already illustrated, there are not a few important figures which,