

9. DONATELLO. Museo Nazionale, Florence.

This figure, perhaps Donatello's most popular work, was originally made in 1416 for the gild of armourers, and stood in a niche of Or San Michele; it has now for some years been removed to the Bargello. Marvellous as it is as a lifelike figure of a youth, with armour fitting so perfectly that Donatello's patrons must have been delighted, it is difficult to see in it any attempt to realize the ideal of chivalry and romance; the Tuscan peasant model stands plain to view.