

456 ANCIENT TEMPLES OF MIRAN

I cannot now recall myself that the classical style and colouring was common to any work of ancient pictorial art whether Greek or south of the Indus. The vases were of the large, full proportioned class of the small dingy pottery now brought back by the recent heads of Egyptian expeditions. I remembered having seen a similar collection on panels from Pompeian and Roman periods. Perhaps the influence recognisable in the style was that of one or other of the Indian schools. But then, again, there was the

*Plate IV.*

the outline of

FRESCOES OF WINGED FIGURES FROM DADO OF RUINED BUDDHIST SHRINE M.III., EXCAVATED AT MIRAN SITE.

(CHAP. XLI., XLII. SCALE, ONE-FIFTH).

A B marks line where the two fresco panels join.

I was still wondering whether the classical style in the frescoes was due to the purport of this picture being in iconography, when the excavators made a shout from the area opposite. There was evidence for the dating. From the debris of bricks and plaster filling the panels, emerged in succession three large pieces of silk, evidently belonging to what was a flag or streamer, and each bearing a few characters in Kharoshthi. These pieces measured about four inches in length, with a width of six to eight inches. Fragments of the same excellently preserved were found later, but without writing. In all the pieces the ground colour of delicate cream, with stripes in harmonizing tints of buff, beige, etc.

The Kharoshthi inscriptions on these