

**MODERN IDOLS.
STUDIES IN BIOGRAPHY
AND CRITICISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649530533

Modern Idols. Studies in Biography and Criticism by William Henby Thorne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM HENBY THORNE

**MODERN IDOLS.
STUDIES IN BIOGRAPHY
AND CRITICISM**

MODERN IDOLS.

115.7.1

STUDIES

IN

BIOGRAPHY AND CRITICISM.

BY

WILLIAM HENRY THORNE.

PHILADELPHIA:

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY.

1887.

Copyright, 1886, by WILLIAM HENRY THORNE.



TO MY FRIEND

DR. JAMES E. GARRETSON,

WHOSE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT HAVE BEEN SOURCES OF
INSPIRATION IN MANY TRYING HOURS OF MY LIFE,

THIS BOOK

IS HEARTILY DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

SEVERAL of the following papers were written originally as special articles for the *Philadelphia Times* during the four years the author was a member of its editorial staff. These, however, have been carefully revised, and the rest have been prepared especially for this volume.

An idol is an object set up to be worshipped. The aim of this book is to examine, not to destroy or mutilate the idols under review.

The sketches are not given to detail, but it is believed that certain just discriminations of character and genius are here made that will not be found elsewhere. And in this belief the work is modestly committed to the candid judgment of the world.

WILLIAM HENRY THORNE.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1886.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
MATTHEW ARNOLD	7
ROBERT BROWNING	21
OLE BULL	49
ROBERT BURNS	62
THOMAS CARLYLE	106
GEORGE ELIOT	136
GEORGE SAND	168

MODERN IDOLS.

I.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.*

Out of the darkness, out of the ages,
Out of the nations' conflicts and fears,
Out of the souls of prophets and sages,
Out of love's heart-aches, laughters and tears,
Welcome, thou latest, whitest of pages,
Crest of life's ocean and crown of its years.

SCIENTIFIC biography traces no connection between the distinguished Englishman serving as subject for this sketch and his Italian martyr namesake, who, in Brescia and at Rome in the middle of the twelfth century, tried to do for his day and generation just what Matthew Arnold would like to do for these present times. But somehow there appears to be a spiritual kinship or higher apostolic succession linking their hands. In a pre-eminent sense both men will stand out in history as the persistent advocates of personal culture in a very broad sense, as opposed to all kinds of machine

* Written on the occasion of Matthew Arnold's visit to America.

excuses and substitutes therefor, and of salvation by this method alone.

Our Benedict Arnold, called the traitor, and the English Edwin, of the same name, translator of Asiatic myths, are both of different and lighter mould, with a far less serious mission in this world. In truth, Matthew Arnold is more completely and radically a reformer—not of faith merely, but of practice—than was Luther or Calvin, or Carlyle or Emerson. For what these preached and uttered in various ecclesiastical and transcendental formulas, Mr. Arnold is putting into the exact language of modern thought and modern criticism. He is a unique combination of natural piety in the blood set on fire of the broadest, freest thought of the hour, all combined with exact training and sound English practical sense. And he only fails of being a poet and prophet of the human soul and the future as he fails of the highest Christian faith and an utter abandonment of all his powers to some strange new preaching of it. He may think that this is what he is doing; but it is not. To do this a greater than Mr. Arnold is needed, and, of course, will come in due time.

Matthew Arnold's grandfather, William Arnold, was a respectable politician in Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, toward the latter part of the last century; and there, in 1795, Matthew's father, Thomas Arnold, afterward master of Rugby School and