

# **MOMENTS OF GENIUS**

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Moments of genius by Arthur Lynch

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**ARTHUR LYNCH**

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OF GENIUS**



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BY  
ARTHUR LYNCH



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## THE PUBLISHER TO THE READER

THESE studies might be called the synthetic side of the work of which the Author's previous book, *Human Documents*, represents rather the analytical aspect. A great representative of some form of human faculty or accomplishment is taken at a critical moment of his career, the personality is vividly stamped as in a cameo, in the fore-part of the study; then, as in a vista, is shown the vision of his past, and (as following on the Moment of Genius) the adumbration of the future, all expressed in the feelings of the subject and the aspirations of his soul. The Author considers various forms of human greatness in turn, even the glory of physical perfection, choosing, for the sake of similarities or contrasts, two representatives of each.

The characters studied are :

Julius Caesar	}	Types of the Soldier
Buonaparte		
Demosthenes	}	Types of the Orator
Danton		
Zeno	}	Types of the Stoic
St Just		
Muesarete	}	Type of Female Beauty
Frank Hewitt		Type of Athletic Grace
Carpeaux	}	Types of the Artist
Albert Moore		
Dante	}	Types of the Poet (Southern)
Camocns		
Milton	}	Types of the Poet (English)
Keats		
Aristotle	}	Types of the Philosopher
Descartes		
Abel	}	Types of the Mathematician
Galois		
Schwann	}	Types of the Biologist
Darwin		

These studies were not written as task-work for the completion of a book, but (the thought of the synthetic expression of the faculties being always with the Author) they grew with the years, until finally, having completed twenty, he has formed them into a volume. By this



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association the whole has acquired a new feature. That is to say, the studies should not be regarded as merely individual and separate: together they form an expression of the glory of the powers of man. This aspect is brought into relief in an introduction, of which the keynote is: "The world is always magical, and the key to that magic is in the soul of man."



## THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE

HALF way up the mountain the pilgrim had reached an eminence from which he could view more clearly the summit as well as the extent of the road he had traversed. The journey had been rough and perilous. Out of breath with the exertion of the ascent he threw himself upon the ground. A sense of fatigue for a few moments overpowered him, yet it was not an ungrateful sense. The distant mountain top soared above him, enchanting by its beauty, its mystery; the path he had traversed was plainly traced in that fine atmosphere.

The fatigue of the body acted like a narcotic. He was carried down into his memories, deeper and deeper; he seemed to be descending into an abyss not yet illuminated, feeling that at every step he had power to mount again; yet feeling also the delicious