# The World's Great Classics, Volume 21

**Hawthorne Julian**

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**Author: Hawthorne Julian**

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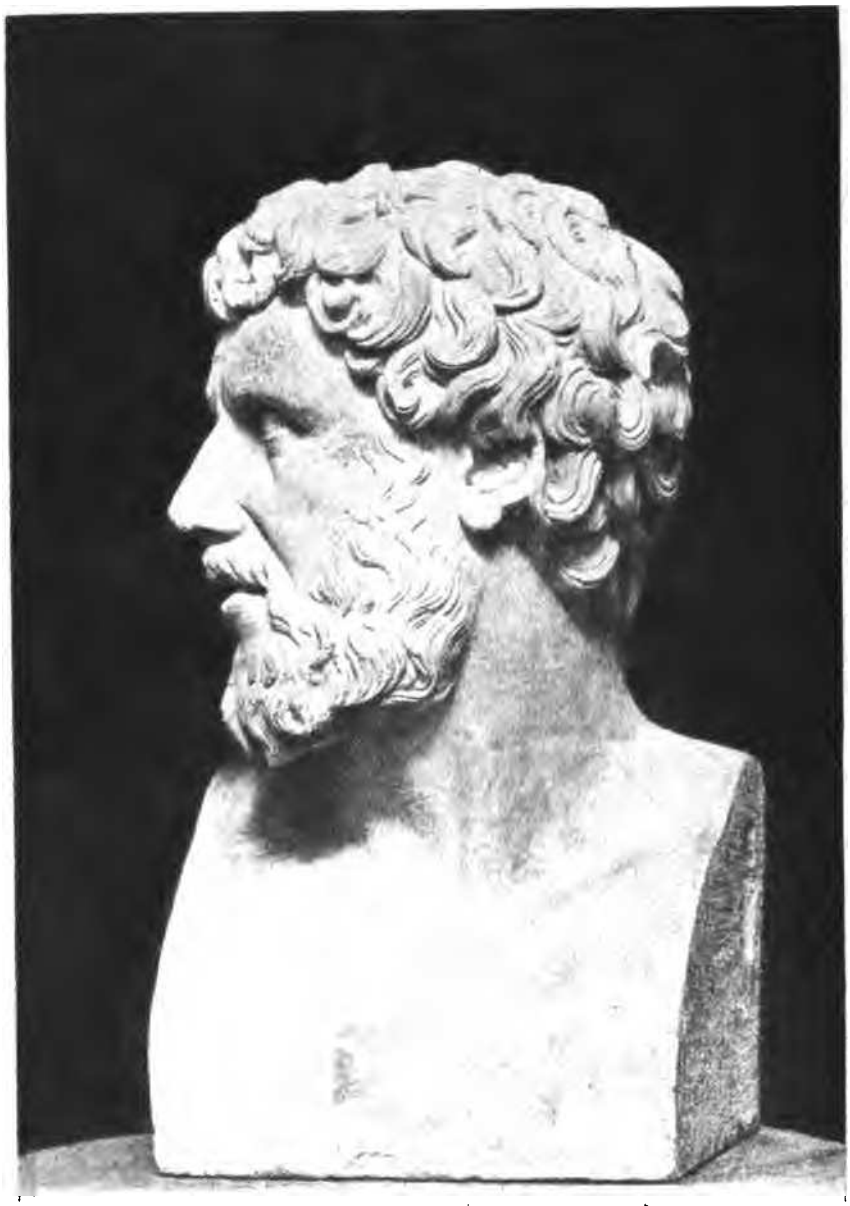

*DEMOSTHENES.*

***Photogravure from the marble busi in the Prado Gallery at Madrid.***

# ORATIONS

OF

DEMOSTHENES

PRONOUNCED TO EXCITE THE ATHENIANS AGAINST PHILIP, KING OF MACEDON; AND ON OCCASIONS OF PUBLIC DELIBERATION

WITH INTRODUCTIONS BY THE TRANSLATOR,

THOMAS LELAND, D.D.

AND A SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY

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REVISED EDITION

THE COLONIAL PRESS
FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK

## SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

DEMOSTHENES, the most famous of Greek orators, was born in Attica in the *deme* or ward Pæania in the year 384 B.C. His father was a wealthy man, being a manufacturer of swords, and owning also a furniture factory; he died when Demosthenes was a child of seven. For his early nurture and training Demosthenes was indebted to his mother Cleobule, and his inherited wealth was put in charge of three trustees, who however dishonestly squandered it, so that instead of yielding an income of three thousand dollars a year, it was found, when Demosthenes at length acquired it, to give but three hundred at the most.

The natural genius of Demosthenes was directed towards the study of oratory by the brilliant successes of Callistratus, and he was also anxious to prosecute at law his dishonest guardians, Aphobus, Demophon and Therippides. He accordingly put himself under the instruction of Isæus, who is reckoned fifth among the ten Attic orators. Demosthenes, like Cicero, had to contend with serious physical disabilities in fitting himself for the contests of the bar and the public assembly. There are many stories told about the methods he adopted to acquire strength of lung and clearness of articulation. He is said, in his desire for solitary study and training, to have secluded himself in a cave, shaving half his head so as to unfit himself for appearing in public; to have practised speaking with pebbles in his mouth; and to have harangued the roaring waves that he might learn to outclamor the noise of the assembly. Although, as is averred, he copied out Thucydides eight times for the purpose of acquiring a lofty style, he has little trace in his clear and perspicuous sentences of the rugged terseness of the Attic historian, from whom doubtless he learned many lessons in states-