

MICHAEL ANGELO BUONARROTI



MICHAEL ANGELO

From an early proof of the engraving by
GIULIO BONASONI

(In the Print Room of the British Museum)

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MICHAEL ANGELO BUONARROTI,
BY CHARLES HOLROYD, KEEPER
OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF
BRITISH ART, WITH TRANSLATIONS
OF THE LIFE OF THE MASTER BY HIS
SCHOLAR, ASCANIO CONDIVI, AND
THREE DIALOGUES FROM THE POR-
TUGUESE BY FRANCISCO D'OLLANDA



LONDON: DUCKWORTH AND CO.
NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1903

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Л. В. И. Демкина

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PREFACE

OF all the many lives of Michael Angelo that have been written, that by his friend and pupil, Ascanio Condivi, is the most valuable. For not only is it a contemporary record, like the lives inserted by Giorgio Vasari in the two editions of his famous book, "The Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects," published in Florence in 1550 and 1568; but Condivi's work has almost the authority of an autobiography, many phrases are in the same words, as certain letters in the hand of Michael Angelo still in existence, especially those relating to the early life and the ancestry of the master, to his favourite nephew Lionardo, and concerning the whole story of the Tragedy of the Tomb to Francesco Fattucci and others.

Condivi's description of his master's personal appearance is so detailed that we can see him with his sculptor's callipers measuring the head of his dear master, and gazing earnestly into his eyes, recording the colours of their scintillations, with the patience of a painter.