

# LEIGHTON'S CHARACTER & APPEARANCE



**Lord Leighton, with his singularly handsome head of white hair, was in appearance an ideal artist.**

Many descriptions of Leighton are contained in contemporary references. Here is a selection:

'There was a foreign tone about him, mingled with the bel air of the best cosmopolitan society'

'A tall, fine figure, an intelligent handsome face, a profusion of dark brown curly hair, quick penetrating eyes, urbane, and with that old world courtesy that is now so rare.'

'He was a good horseman and neither drank or smoked in public.'

'Out-of-doors he was always dressed in the fashion, even in hot weather.'

'He speaks very softly, with combined gentleness and deliberation. His heart is evidently in every subject upon which he converses.'

'Leighton was passionately fond of music...his voice was a rich, high tenor.'

'Few things were more attractive about Leighton than his pleasant musical voice, his clear and correct articulation, and his charming command of words.'

'I never heard any fault found with Leighton's French except that it is too good, though I have heard people declare that his Italian and his German were yet better'

'He never forgot faces or names... He had an eye for everything and everybody'

'... at start his punctuality was astonishing and was attested by his own personal habits – which never varied – by the arrangements of his household, which were dependent on strict regularity, and by promptness in his dealings with his models.'

'With himself he was sternly strict. He never let himself go. He never failed by want nor by excess. With others he was quite the reverse, being most lenient and making excuses for them.'