

artist, creating the impossible in the field of the ideal. One soon recognizes him for what he is, a posthumous brother of Dante and Michael Angelo, though they worked on paper and with marble; he worked upon the sensitive, suffering flesh of living man. Neither in the *Malatestas* nor the *Borgias* does one find such an impulsive brain, in which the internal tempest is so continuous, so menacing, so sudden in its flashes, capable of such electrical changes and discharges, and so irresistible in its shocks. In him no idea remained in a mere state of speculation, each was equivalent to an inward convulsion, which immediately extended into an act." This wonderfully reproduces the epileptic mind in its greatest hypertrophy.

Although he traveled through Europe so much he never had a clear idea of the social conditions of the people. He thought that in a hundred years Europe would be Russian or republican. He was blind to the facts of social life. His was an intense intellect, with rays of light in various directions, rather than a solar intelligence which sheds light upon all; he felt the truth in an attack of clearness, or he understood nothing. There were many odd contradictions in his politics, as when he re-established the catholic religion and seized the pope. He forbids Gerardin to appear at court, because he is divorced, and later Napoleon is himself divorced. He declares the glory of his race to have risen at the battle of Marengo, and then affects regal pomp and heraldry. One of his oddest caprices was his passion for making marriages; the number he made and imposed was extraordinary. When convalescent at Valencia he married the daughter of his attendant to a young acquaintance. He married his brothers, his sisters, his nephews, almost all his generals. When someone refused one of his sisters, he offered her to another, and obliged the marriage to be consummated in two days. At St. Helena he continued to make marriages among his attendants, and among the children of the generals and governors of his suite. Even in his will, in a codicil, he asked the Duke of Istria to marry the daughter of Duroc. He believed that a star guided him, and at St. Helena he showed fear of a

comet. He was superstitious about Friday. When he broke the glass of the picture of Josephine, which he always carried with him he feared for her life. In making war he always selected propitious days. He had the rudimental form of doubting insanity, and was not able to go through a street, even at the head of an army, without counting the windows in pairs. There is in this great man the combination of genius with convulsive and psychic epilepsy, which is manifested by impulsiveness, mental absences, cynicism, excessive selfishness, and megalomania. And by this example, which cannot be an isolated case in nature, one can believe it possible that epilepsy is the substratum of genius.

If we further analyze the phenomenon of genius under the light of the new theories upon epilepsy which are being solved to-day by the clinics and experimentalists, we see the justice of the conclusion that genius is a form of psychic degeneration, of the species epileptoid. The lesser number of women of genius supports this theory, as women are more rarely degenerate and more rarely have psychic epilepsy. It is proved by the frequent anomalies of asymmetry of the cranium; moral insanity, which I have demonstrated in "Criminal Man" as being a variation of epilepsy; hallucinations, intellectual and venereal precocity, somnambulism, double personality, which has two and sometimes three opposing natures; sometimes obtuse, sometimes exaggerated sensitiveness; the anomalies of the field of view, bluntness of perception, the frequency of suicide, which is very common in epilepsy; and above all, amnesia and analgesia. It is also demonstrated by a roving tendency and strange fears by which one is seized; misanthropy, and an affinity to criminality, the point of union of which is moral insanity. Add to it the origin and descent from criminals, inebriates or from imbeciles, which often marks both the genius and the epileptic, and which is seen in the families of the *Cæsars* and of Charles V. It is shown by insensibility and a lack of moral perception which is common in geniuses. One might doubt the conclusion who does not know the extent of the field of epi-