

I
“OUR FATHERS HAVE TOLD US”
THE BIBLE OF AMIENS
(1880–1885)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00881-5 - The Works of John Ruskin, Volume 33
John Ruskin
Excerpt
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“OUR FATHERS HAVE TOLD US”

SKETCHES OF
*THE HISTORY OF CHRISTENDOM FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS
WHO HAVE BEEN HELD AT ITS FONTS.*

BY
JOHN RUSKIN,
HONORARY STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, HONORARY FELLOW OF CORPUS CHRISTI
COLLEGE, AND SLADE PROFESSOR OF FINE ART, OXFORD.

PART I.
THE BIBLE OF AMIENS.



GEORGE ALLEN,
SUNNYSIDE, ORPINGTON, KENT.
1884.

Cambridge University Press

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[*Bibliographical Note.*—*The Bible of Amiens* was intended to be, and is described on the title-page as, Part I. of a series of sketches of Christian Art and History, entitled *Our Fathers have Told Us*; but no other Part was issued by Ruskin, though some chapters intended for the work were printed (see below, p. 190).

A lecture on “Amiens” was given by Ruskin at Eton College on Saturday, November 6, 1880. The minute-book of the Eton Literary and Scientific Society contains the following account of the lecture:—

“On Saturday, November 6th, Professor Ruskin gave a most interesting lecture on ‘Amiens.’ After premising that, the written lecture not having arrived, he could hardly do justice to his subject (a prediction which was by no means realized), the lecturer described first the position held by Amiens in the Middle Ages, as the Venice of France, and proceeded to draw out the contrast between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries, which ‘the intelligent traveller sees so strongly marked nowadays in passing through the town in the shape of fifty black smoking chimneys, and in the midst a tall fair minaret, that does not smoke.’ Then after dwelling for a little on the general features of the Cathedral, the lecturer passed on to describe the statues of the Apostles in the Central Porch of the West Front, each statue with its representative virtue and opposite vice below it. A sketch of the legend of St. Firmin, the patron saint of the place, next led to a stirring description of true martyrs. And then followed a description of some of the eventful mediæval history connected with the Cathedral, and especially the arbitration of St. Louis between Henry III. and his barons.¹ In conclusion, Mr. Ruskin spoke of the coinage of the earlier English kings and its various mottoes,² exhibiting in illustration a groat of Henry V. This coin he most kindly presented to the Literary Society to form a nucleus for a collection of English coins. He has also given to the School Library some beautiful photographs and a book illustrative of the stalls and carving in Amiens Cathedral. At the conclusion of the lecture the Head Master, who had kindly consented to take the chair, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ruskin, which was carried by acclamation.

“H. B. SMITH, *Secretary.*”

This report is here reprinted from *The Bookman*, March 1900, pp. 175–176.

A shorter sketch of the lecture appeared in *The Eton College Chronicle*, December 9, 1880.

The Bible of Amiens has been published:—(1) in five separate octavo “Parts”; (2) in a collected volume; (3) in a smaller “Travellers’ Edition” (Chapter iv. only).

¹ See below, p. 233.

² See Vol. XXX. pp. 268–277.

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THE BIBLE OF AMIENS

ISSUE IN PARTS

Part I., comprising Chapter i. and Preface.

First Edition (December 21, 1880).—The title-page of this Part was as follows:—

“Our Fathers have Told Us.” | Sketches of | the History of Christendom
| for Boys and Girls | who have been held at its founts. | By | John
Ruskin, | Honorary Student of Christ Church, and Honorary Fellow
of Corpus | Christi College, Oxford. | Part I.—The Bible of Amiens. |
Chapter I.—By the Rivers of Waters. | George Allen, | Sunnyside,
Orpington, Kent. | 1880.

Octavo, pp. vii. + 40. Issued (as also the subsequent Parts) in buff-coloured paper wrappers, with the title-page (enclosed in a plain double-ruled frame) repeated upon the front cover; the *Rose* being added above the publisher's imprint. 2000 copies. Price Tenpence.

In January 1881 the following “Advice” was issued, printed on one side of an octavo leaf:—

“It is intended to issue this book in the same form as the original numbers of ‘Fors,’ with an illustration of some kind to each number, at the price of ‘Fors’—viz, tenpence—with a French edition similarly at a franc in France.

“The first number is, however, published without its illustration (Plate I.), that it may be in time for Christmas; two plates (map and plan) will be given with the second number, and probably some of the author's architectural studies as the work proceeds.

“In connection with its issue, a series of illustrative photographs will be prepared and sold by Mr. Ward. The author has already given a commission at Amiens, for upwards of thirty plates, to be taken from the bas-reliefs of the Cathedral front, forming a series like that which he has already taken and illustrated from the Tower of Giotto; and he trusts that his final efforts (made under much difficulty and discouragement) to preserve some record of thirteenth-century sculpture may be at least so far encouraged by the public as to admit of their continuance without serious loss to himself. Profit in such undertakings cannot be looked for; nor, for special reason, does the author intend, from this work—text, plate, or photograph—himself to receive any.”

The proposed French edition was never issued.

Second Edition (November 1883).—2000 copies. There were no alterations of the text in this edition; but the words “Second Edition” were added on the title-page of the Part, and the date was altered to “1883.”

Third Edition (June 1893).—350 copies.

The sections (§§) of Chapter i. were not numbered in any of the above editions.

The next chapter issued (November 1881) was Chapter IV. in a separate *Travellers' Edition*: see below, p. 11.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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Part II., comprising Chapter ii.

First Edition (December 1881).—The title-page was the same as that of Part I., except for the altered words “Chapter II.—Under the Drachenfels,” and the date “1881.”

Octavo, pp. 41–88. 2000 copies. Price Tenpence. The sections of this chapter were numbered.

With this Part the following circular was issued, printed on both sides of an octavo leaf:—

“OUR FATHERS HAVE TOLD US”

ADVICE

The three chapters¹ of ‘Our Fathers have Told Us,’ now submitted to the public, are enough to show . . . [as now printed in Appendix III., p. 186] . . . united illustration of the power of the Church in the Thirteenth Century.

The next chapter, which I hope to issue soon after Christmas, completes the first part, descriptive of . . . [again as now printed on p. 186] . . . preparatory chapters.

One illustration at least will be given with each chapter,* . . . [again as on p. 187] . . . subscribers only.

Published by George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington, Kent: price Tenpence per chapter.

Carriage Paid to any place in the United Kingdom. Each Bookseller, Mr. Ruskin expects, will add such commission for his own profit as he may deem necessary.

Post Office Orders payable to George Allen at Chief Office, London. Cheques crossed London and County Bank.

PUBLISHER’S NOTICE.—To save the inconvenience of small remittances, and ensure the delivery of each chapter as it appears, Mr. Allen will be glad to receive subscriptions in advance for at least one part (comprising four chapters). Should the work not be proceeded with, all balances of subscriptions will be returned.

Christmas 1881.”

The notice was reprinted in March 1882, when the following note was added at the words “given with each chapter” :—

* The first Plate for *The Bible of Amiens*, curiously enough, failed in the engraving; and I shall probably have to etch it myself. It will be issued with the fourth, in the full-size edition of the fourth chapter.

Second Edition (May 1885).—2000 copies. There were no alterations in the text.

With this Part was issued as frontispiece “Northern Porch before Restoration” (here Plate XI.).

¹ Viz., Chapters I. and II., and the separate Travellers’ Edition of Chapter IV.

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Part III., comprising Chapter iii.

First Edition (September 1882).—The title-page differed only in the words “Chapter III.—The Lion Tamer,” and the date “1882.”

Octavo, pp. 89–136. 2000 copies.

Second Edition (August 1885).—2000 copies. A few small alterations were made in the text; these are noted below (p. 16).

With this Part was issued as frontispiece “Amiens: Jour des Trépassés” (here Plate II.).

Part IV., comprising Chapter iv.

*First Edition*¹ (October 1883).—The title-page, after the author’s name, proceeded:—

Honorary Student of Christ Church, Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi | College, and Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford. | Part I.—The Bible of Amiens. | Chapter IV.—Interpretations. | George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington, Kent. | 1883.

Octavo, pp. 137–216 (last page blank). 3000 copies.

The text of the chapter was revised for this issue (see below, pp. 16, 17).

With this Part was issued the following “Publisher’s Note” :—

“Subscribers to ‘Our Fathers have Told Us’ are requested to note that the present portion of the work (‘The Bible of Amiens’) will be shortly completed by the publication of a final number containing the author’s epilogue, further engravings, appendices explanatory of the photographs and other matters referred to in the body of the work, and a full index to the entire volume. The price of this appendix will be 1s. 8d., remittance for which should be sent in advance to Mr. Allen; the cost of the whole volume thus amounting to 5s., or in plain cloth, 6s.

“SUNNYSIDE, ORPINGTON, KENT.

“Post Office Orders payable to George Allen, at Chief Office, London. Cheques crossed London and County Bank. Stamps not accepted for sums over Five Shillings.”

The promised “author’s epilogue” was never written.

Second Edition (June 1893).—350 copies.

In May 1884 an octavo fly-sheet was issued, headed, “‘Our Fathers have Told Us.’ Advice.” This was a revision of the similar Advice issued with Part II. (see above, p. 7). It is identical with the text of Appendix III. (here pp. 186, 187), except that for “The first part of ‘Our Fathers . . .’” it reads, “The four chapters of ‘Our Fathers . . .’”; it does not contain the words “contrary to my usual custom” before “I now invite subscription”; nor, after those words, the passage “because . . . supporters.” Instead of “The present volume completes,” it reads, “The Appendix, which will be issued shortly, completes.” And finally, instead of the two

¹ That is, first edition in the octavo form. The chapter had been issued in another form in 1881 (see p. 11).

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last sentences as they now stand in Appendix III., it reads, "One illustration will be given with each chapter," adding as a footnote, "The first plate for 'The Bible of Amiens' will be issued with Appendix."

Part V., prepared for Ruskin by Mr. Wedderburn, comprising the Appendices, Index, and Preliminary Matter.

First Edition (June 1885).—On the cover was:—

"Our Fathers have Told Us." | Sketches of | The History of Christendom
| For boys and girls | who have been held at its founts. | By | John
Ruskin, | Honorary Student of Christ Church, Honorary Fellow of
Corpus Christi | College, and Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford. |
Part I. The Bible of Amiens. | Appendix. | [*Rose.*] | George Allen, |
Sunnyside, Orpington, Kent. | 1885.

There was no separate title-page. Octavo, pp. i.–viii., 219–263. For collation of pp. i.–viii., see below. On p. 217, list of "Appendices"; p. 218, blank; Appendix I., pp. 219, 220; Appendix II., pp. 221–230; Appendix III., pp. 231, 232; p. 233, "Index"; p. 234, blank; Index (by Mr. Wedderburn), pp. 235–263.

3000 copies. Price 1s. 8d.

With this Part were issued a frontispiece, "St. Mary. By Cimabue, at Assisi" (now Frontispiece to this volume); Plate I., "The Dynasties of France" (here Plate VI.)—a leaf was inserted after Plate I. containing a "Notice" with reference to the subjects represented on it (see now, p. 33 *n.*); and "Plan of West Porches," which was a double-page Plate (unnumbered), folded (here Plate XII.).

There was a confusing misprint in Appendix II., List ii., photograph "18" being misprinted "13." This misprint has been repeated in all the small editions.

IN VOLUME FORM

The Bible of Amiens, being thus completed, was now issued in volume form, bearing the date "1884," though not issued till the next year. The title-page is as here given on p. 3.

Octavo, pp. xiv. + 263. The collation of pp. 1–263 has been already given. Half-title (with blank reverse), *unnumbered*; Title-page (with imprint at foot of the reverse, repeated at the foot of p. 263—"Printed by Hazell, Watson, & Viney, Limited, London and Aylesbury"), pp. i., ii.; Corrigenda (with blank reverse), *unnumbered* (see p. 10); Contents (with blank reverse), *unnumbered*; Preface (here, pp. 21–24), pp. iii.–vii.; p. viii. is blank. The headlines are, on the left-hand pages, "The Bible of Amiens," except that in the cases of the Notes to Chapter i., Appendices and Index, the headlines are "Notes," "Appendices," "Index" on both left-hand and right-hand pages; on the right-hand pages, the title of the chapter occupying them.

Issued in June 1885 in cloth boards (red, brown, or green), lettered across the back, "Ruskin | 'Our Fathers | have Told Us' | I | The Bible | of Amiens." Issued also in mottled-grey paper boards, with white paper label on the back. Price 6s.

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The list of Corrigenda was as follows; references to the sections and lines in the present edition being now added at the end of each entry:—

- Page 8, lines 8 and 9, *for* "our first photograph (see prefatory references)," *read* "our first choir photograph"¹ (*N.B.*—This series is not yet arranged, but is distinct from that referred to in Chapter iv. See Appendix II.).—§ 7, line 18.
- „ 19, line 12, *for* a young person, *read* young persons.—§ 18, line 8.
- „ 25, line 16, *for* who accusing him, *read* on whose accusation of.—§ 24, line 18.
- „ 34, The plan for numbered and lettered references is not followed after the first chapter.—This was added as a note in small ed.; see now, p. 48 *n.*
- „ 44, lines 8 and 9, *for* armies reverberated, *read* armies, reverberate.—Ch. ii. § 4, last line.
- „ 48, line 8, *for* nomade, *read* nomad.—Ch. ii. § 10, line 5.
- „ 58, line 18, *for* Eisenbach, *read* Eisenach.—Ch. ii. § 24, line 22.
- „ 58, line 20, *for* by, *read* beyond.—*Ibid.*, line 24.
- „ 61, note, *for* Actuarii, *read* Attuarii.—Ch. ii. § 28, line 4 of note.
- „ 62, note, *for* brise, *read* bise.—*Ibid.*, p. 68, line 2 of quotation in note.
- „ 62, note, *for* coulous, *read* coulons.—*Ibid.*, line 8.
- „ 78, line 20, *for* Batoerans, *read* Batavians.—Ch. ii. § 45, line 3.
- „ 89, line 11, *for* burrow; *read* burrow.—Ch. iii. § 1, line 9.
- „ 186, line 21, *for* herself, *read* himself.—Ch. iv. § 41, 8 B, line 1.
- „ 190, note, *for* No. 10, *read* No. 9.—Ch. iv. § 42, 16 B, line 2 of note.
- „ 192, line 7, *for* (2 Kings), *read* (1 Kings).—Ch. iv. § 43, 20 A.
- „ 195, line 3, *for* Two more are, *read* Another is.—Ch. iv. § 43, 24 B.

SMALL EDITION (1897)²

The Bible of Amiens was next issued in a smaller form, uniform with the "Small Edition" of Ruskin's other books. It was called (not quite correctly) "Third" Edition. The title-page is:—

"Our Fathers have | Told Us" | Sketches of the History of Christendom | for Boys and Girls who have been | held at its Fonts | By | John Ruskin, LL.D., D.C.L. | Honorary Student of Christ Church, Oxford; and | Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi | College, Oxford | The Bible of Amiens | Third Edition | George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington | and | 156, Charing Cross Road, London | 1897 | [*All rights reserved*].

Crown 8vo, pp. xvi.+310. Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i., ii.; Title-page (with imprint at the foot of the reverse—"Printed by Ballantyne, Hanson & Co. | At the Ballantyne Press"), pp. iii., iv. On p. v. (blank reverse) is the following:—

EDITOR'S NOTE TO THE 1897 EDITION

IN this edition, Chapter I. has, for convenience of reference in the Index, been divided into numbered sections, and the references are throughout to the section of each chapter, and not to the page. Otherwise the text is unaltered, save for the correction of misprints in earlier editions, and one or two notes (marked Ed. 1897) added by the compiler of Appendix I., the two lists in Appendix II., and the Index.

Preface, pp. vii.-xi. (blank reverse); Contents, pp. xiii.-xiv.; List of Illustrations, p. xv. (blank reverse). Text, pp. 1-256.³ On p. 257 is the "Plan of West Porches," reduced in scale from the octavo edition. On p. 259 is fly-title for Appendices. Appendix I., pp. 261-262; Appendix II.,

¹ The correction here itself has been corrected; for it was misprinted in the list, which read (among other typographical errors) "our first choice photographs."

² Though the title-page bears the date "1897," the book was not in fact issued till 1898.

³ Curiously, there are no pages 49 or 50.

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pp. 263–274; Appendix III., pp. 275–277; Index, pp. 279–310. The imprint is repeated at the foot of the last page.

Issued on June 9, 1898, in green cloth boards, lettered on the back, “Ruskin | ‘Our Fathers | have Told Us’ | The Bible | of Amiens.” 2000 copies. Price 5s.

A curious error crept into the Small Edition of 1897. In Appendix I., the references had in the octavo editions been to *pages*. They were now altered to *sections* (§§); but whereas in the text the sections of the chapters were not numbered continuously, but separately for each chapter, some of the references in this Appendix were given as if the continuous plan had been adopted. This error has continued until the present edition.

Reprinted in November 1902, without alteration except of the date on the title-page and of the addition of the words “Seventh Thousand.” This edition is still current. The price was reduced in January 1904 to 4s., and in July 1907 to 3s. 6d.

POCKET EDITION

From the electrotype plates of the Small Edition, a Pocket Edition was issued in 1907, uniform with other volumes in the same edition (see Vol. XV. p. 6). The title-page is:—

“Our Fathers have Told Us” | The Bible of Amiens | By | John Ruskin | London: George Allen.

Foolscap 8vo, pp. xv.+310. On the reverse of the title-page, “June 1907 | Eleventh Thousand | All rights reserved.” Price 2s. 6d. 4000 copies.

SEPARATE TRAVELLERS’ EDITION OF CHAPTER IV. (1881)

This is, as already explained, the first edition of Chapter iv., which was not issued uniformly with the other chapters until 1883. The title-page is:—

“Our Fathers have Told Us.” | Part I. | The Bible of Amiens. | Chapter IV. | Interpretations. | (*Separate Travellers’ Edition, to serve as Guide to the | Cathedral.*) | By | John Ruskin, LL.D., | Honorary Student of Christ Church, Oxford, and Honorary | Fellow of Corpus Christi College. | George Allen, | Sunnyside, Orpington, Kent. | 1881.

Crown 8vo, pp. iv.+75. (“Our Fathers have Told Us.”) Half-title with blank reverse, pp. i., ii.; Title-page (with imprint at the foot of the reverse, repeated at the foot of p. 75—“Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Printers, London and Aylesbury”), pp. iii., iv.; text, pp. 1–75. The headline on the left-hand pages is “The Bible of Amiens”; on the right-hand pages, “Interpretations.”

Issued (in November 1881) in red leatherette covers (similar to those of the original issues of *Mornings in Florence* and *St. Mark’s Rest*); lettered, in gold, on the front: “The Bible of Amiens. | No. 4. Interpretations. | Separate Travellers’ Edition. | By J. R. | 1881.” The edges were cut and gilt. 2000 copies. Price 10d.

Second Edition (November 1890).—2000 copies.

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THE BIBLE OF AMIENS

Third Edition (1897).—This is a newly-set edition. The title-page is:—

“Our Fathers have | Told Us” | The Bible of Amiens | Chapter IV
| Interpretations | (*Separate Travellers’ Edition, to serve as* | Guide to
the *Cathedral*) | By | John Ruskin, LL.D., D.C.L. | Honorary Student
of Christ Church, Oxford; and | Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi
| College, Oxford | Third Edition | George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington
| and | 156, Charing Cross Road, London | 1897 | [*All rights reserved*].

Crown 8vo, pp. iv. +98. Half-title (“The Bible of Amiens | Guide to Cathedral”), with blank reverse, pp. i., ii.; Title-page (with imprint at foot of the reverse—“Printed by Ballantyne, Hanson & Co. | At the Ballantyne Press”), pp. iii., iv.; text, pp. 1–93. On p. 94 is the “Plan of West Porches.” On pp. 95–98, is the Advice, as described below (p. 14). Imprint repeated at foot of p. 98.

Issued in 1897, in red leatherette, and lettered as before. 2000 copies.

ADVICE TO CHAPTER IV

With the *Separate Travellers’ Edition* an “Advice” was issued.

First Edition (November 1881).—There was no title-page, but on p. 1 was the following drop-title:—

Part I. | *The Bible of Amiens.* | Chap. IV. | Interpretations. | (*Separate Travellers’ Edition, to serve as Guide to the* | *Cathedral*) | Advice.

Crown 8vo, pp. 4. There are no headlines, pp. 2–4 being numbered centrally.

The substance of this “Advice” was embodied in Appendix II. of the complete work, but as there are many variations, the original Advice is here reprinted:—

PART I.

THE BIBLE OF AMIENS.

CHAP. IV.

INTERPRETATIONS.

(*Separate Travellers’ Edition, to serve as Guide to the Cathedral.*)

ADVICE.

THIS fourth number of the BIBLE OF AMIENS is printed before the second and third, (on which I am earnestly occupied,) in a reduced size for the convenience of travellers, who may wish to possess this number only as a guide to the Cathedral, without bringing the whole work. It will, however, be printed uniformly with the rest, for the subscribers to the complete series. The second number is finished in MS., but I find correction of press very irksome, and can only add a very little of that work to the task of composition, besides that I am at last completing the second volume of the small edition of the ‘Stones of Venice.’

The quatrefoils on the foundation of the west front of Amiens Cathedral,