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John Ruskin  
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# The Works of John Ruskin

VOLUME 36: THE LETTERS OF JOHN RUSKIN  
1827–1869

JOHN RUSKIN  
EDITED BY EDWARD TYAS COOK  
AND ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN



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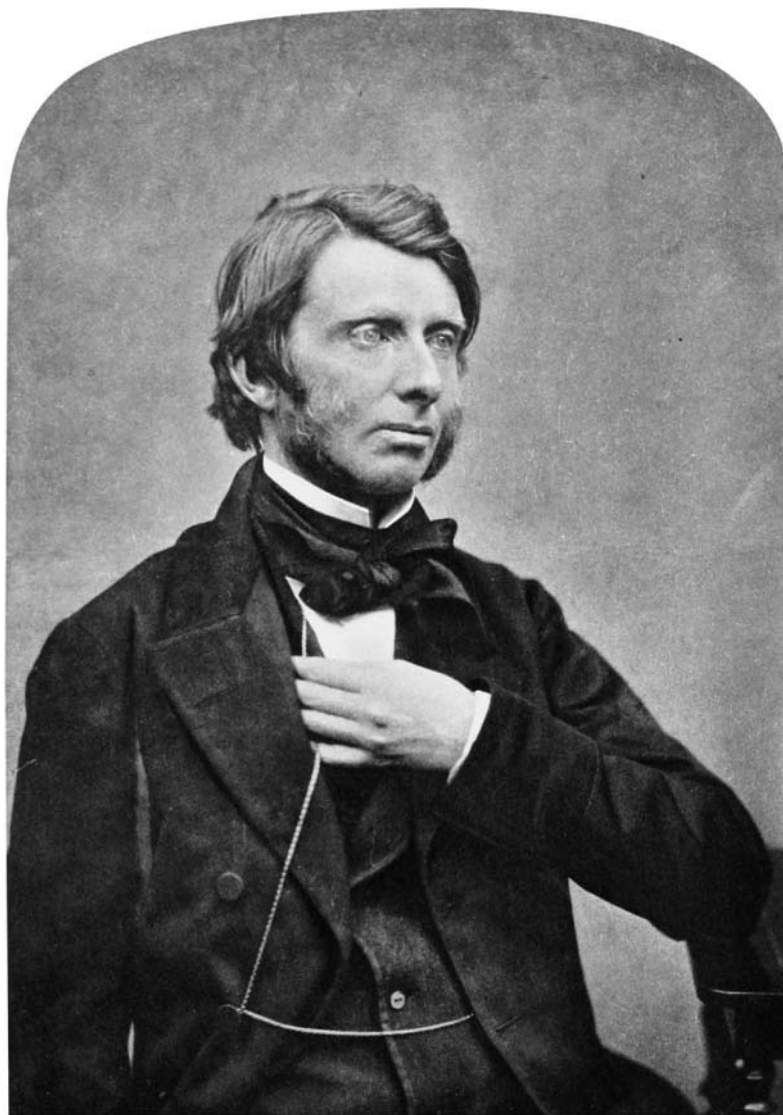
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John Ruskin.

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THE WORKS OF  
JOHN RUSKIN

EDITED BY  
E. T. COOK  
AND  
ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN



LONDON  
GEORGE ALLEN, 156, CHARING CROSS ROAD  
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VOLUME XXXVI

THE LETTERS OF  
JOHN RUSKIN

1827–1869

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THE LETTERS OF  
JOHN RUSKIN

VOLUME I

1827–1869

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*Note.*—Of the drawings by Ruskin included in this volume, eight have been published before:—No. I. at p. 242 of the *Magazine of Art*, April 1900. No. II. at vol. i. p. 51 of *W. G. Collingwood's Life and Work of John Ruskin*, 1893. No. IV. at p. 3 (Plate ii.) of *Verona and other Lectures*, 1894. No. VI. at p. 22 of *Josiah Gilbert's Cadore, or Titian's Country*, 1869. No. IX. in the *Leisure Hour*, April 1900, pp. 540, 541 (where the sketches are wrongly described as "Scene in Lucerne"). No. XIII. at p. 60 (Plate viii.) of *Studies in Both Arts*, 1895. No. XVI. at p. 241 of the *Magazine of Art*, April 1900, and again at vol. iv. p. 295 of *E. Gosse's English Literature, an Illustrated Record*, 1903. No. XVII. at p. 666 of *Scribner's Magazine*, December 1898.

Of the drawings by Ruskin, nine have been exhibited:—That shown on Plate II. in the Ruskin Exhibition at the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours, 1901, No. 416, and at Manchester, 1904, No. 85. No. III. at Coniston, No. 47, and the Water-Colour Society, No. 290. No. IV. at the same exhibition, No. 176. No. V. at Manchester, No. 336. No. IX. is in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. No. XI. was exhibited at Manchester, No. 324. No. XVI. at Manchester, No. 340. No. XVII. at the Fine Art Society, 1878, and at Boston, 1879. No. XIX. at the Water-Colour Society, No. 191, at Manchester, No. 350, and at the Fine Art Society, 1907, No. 126.

## INTRODUCTION TO VOLS. XXXVI. AND XXXVII

THESE two volumes contain a collection of letters from Ruskin to his friends. They are arranged chronologically, the dividing line between the two volumes corresponding with a division in his life—namely, his acceptance of the Professorship of Fine Art at Oxford. Volume XXXVI. thus contains Letters written from his earliest years up to, and including, 1869; Volume XXXVII., Letters from 1870 to the end.

The mass of Letters which have been at the disposal of the editors is very great. Some explanation may be desirable of the principles which have guided the selection.

In the first place, a large number of Ruskin's Letters have previously appeared, and it was an essential condition of this Complete Edition to include them all. The letters, or extracts from letters, hitherto published are, however, of very varying interest. It has, therefore, seemed well to place in the main body of these two volumes (hereafter called the "Principal Collection") only such as are of general interest; the remainder being printed in a "Bibliographical Appendix" at the end of Volume XXXVII.

The selection, from printed and hitherto unprinted sources, of letters for the Principal Collection has been governed by three factors. The first is biographical interest, and the endeavour has been made to leave no year, or important episode, in Ruskin's life or work—and no aspect of his character or interests, nor any of his principal friendships—without its illustrative letter. These volumes contain, therefore, an Autobiography of Ruskin as told in his Letters from his earliest childhood to extreme old age. They assist towards a full appreciation of the feelings and impulses of the man that Ruskin was, with his singularly delicate nature and responsive genius; they reveal the gift that was in him for receiving clear and true impressions, for thinking these through and out, and then for clothing them in the right and adequate words—whether it is conduct, or whether it is art, with which he has to deal, or the experiences and emotions, bitter and sweet, of his own innermost heart and brain and soul. Another factor governing the selection has been, of course, the intrinsic interest of the letters themselves. The third factor is what may be called incidental interest. Many letters are included of which the interest lies, less in any revelation of character or literary skill, than in incidental topic, allusion, or

## INTRODUCTION

information. Some of the letters to Dante Gabriel Rossetti may be taken as an illustration of what is here meant. Among these are many which are entertaining and important; but they comprise also some short notes, hurriedly written and very slight—yet containing matter which is of value in connexion with that artist's drawings. Often, also, they are interesting for Ruskin's criticisms by the way. No hard and fast line can be drawn between letters included for one reason and for another. In the case of a life such as Ruskin's, the incidental interest of the letters belongs mainly to the field of art and letters; but here and there personages from other worlds pass across the page. We are given glimpses, for instance, of the Emperor Francis Joseph and Marshal Radetsky; of Austrian Archdukes and Russian Grand Duchesses and English Royal Highnesses; of Rubini and Jenny Lind and Taglioni; of James Forbes, of Buckland and of Darwin; of Manning and of Gladstone.

At the beginning of each volume is a List of the Correspondents, with references to the places where letters to them will be found. It has not seemed worth while to give in these volumes a Chronological List of the letters also. For, in the first place, the arrangement of the letters themselves is chronological. Moreover, it should be remembered that many other letters have been printed, in whole or in part,<sup>1</sup> in previous volumes. References to some of the more important of these are supplied either in footnotes or in the brief biographical summaries which precede the first letter in each year. A complete Chronological List of all Personal Letters contained in the edition is given in the Final Bibliography (Vol. XXXVIII.).

Of the Letters in the Principal Collection the large majority are either printed here for the first time or collected into these volumes from privately-printed sources not available to the public. Particulars of previous appearance are in each case supplied in a footnote.

In the following Introduction, an account is given, with many incidental reminiscences, of Ruskin's principal friendships and acquaintances, as disclosed in the letters. In the case of letters to occasional correspondents, such explanations as may be needful are given in footnotes.

Ruskin's earliest letters are naturally to his father, and the series to him extends up to 1863. There are, I think, few in the whole Collection which, for all the three reasons given above, are of greater

<sup>1</sup> Occasionally, although an extract has previously been made from it, a letter has now seemed worth giving in its entirety; whilst sometimes the rest of the letter is now given, and a reference supplied to the previously printed extract.

## INTRODUCTION

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interest. John James Ruskin was himself a somewhat remarkable man, respected and beloved by all who came in contact with him:—

“The biographers,” says Mr. Frederic Harrison, “have not said enough of John James Ruskin the father. He certainly seemed to me a man of rare force of character; shrewd, practical, generous, with pure ideals both in art and in life. With unbounded trust in the genius of his son, he felt deeply how much the son had yet to learn. I heard the father ask an Oxford tutor if he could not ‘put John in the way of some scientific study of Political Economy.’ ‘John! John!’ I have heard him cry out, ‘what nonsense you’re talking!’ when John was off on one of his magnificent paradoxes, unintelligible as Pindar to the sober Scotch merchant. John Ruskin certainly inherited from his father some of the noblest qualities and much of his delicate sense of art. But intellectually the father was the very antithesis of the son. He seemed to be strongest where his brilliant son was weakest. There were moments when the father seemed the stronger in sense, breadth, and hold on realities. And when John was turned of forty, the father still seemed something of his tutor, his guide, his support. The relations between John Ruskin and his parents were among the most beautiful things that dwell in my memory. . . . This man, well past middle life, in all the renown of his principal works, who, for a score of years, had been one of the chief forces in the literature of our century, continued to show an almost child-like docility towards his father and his mother, respecting their complaints and remonstrances, and gracefully submitting to be corrected by their worldly wisdom and larger experience. The consciousness of his own public mission and the boundless love and duty that he owed to his parents could not be expressed in a way more beautiful. One could almost imagine it was in the spirit of the youthful Christ when he said to his mother, ‘Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?’”<sup>1</sup>

This is one side, and the more constant, of the relations between father and son; but there was another, which appears in the Letters and incidentally in *Præterita*. Ruskin, always more dictatorial with the pen than in personal intercourse, could sometimes lecture his father rather severely. The grievance, to which he confesses in *Præterita*, that his father did not buy as many Turner drawings as he would like, appears in several of the letters,<sup>2</sup> but the rift went deeper, and Ruskin found in their relations the elements of “an exquisite tragedy” (p. 471).<sup>3</sup> A letter from his father, which the son preserved,

<sup>1</sup> “Memories of John Ruskin,” in *Literature*, February 3, 1900. Ruskin himself cites Christ’s words as “having to be spoken to all parents, some day or other”: see Vol. XXXVII. p. 203.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., below, pp. 443, 600–1.  
xxxvi.

<sup>3</sup> Compare pp. 414, 415, 420, 460, 555.  
b

is worth giving, for it illustrates very beautifully the elder man's character:—

“(FOLKESTONE, *4th Oct.*, 1847.)—I have already said that the tone of your later letters was so much more cheerful and confiding, and expressive of some, if not continued, at least frequent snatches of enjoyment, that they were most agreeable. Out of the cold and barren country your more healthy feelings were gleaming a little. The blues and purples and mountain shades and moist heather were making themselves seen and felt; and I guessed you were better at Macdonald's than at Leamington or Dunbar, from whence a few letters rather dulled my spirits, for they disclosed that, more than I had had an idea of, we had been, from defects perhaps on both sides, in a state of progression by antagonism,<sup>1</sup> each discerning half the truth, and supposing it the whole. I suppose we may have mutually defrauded each other's character of its right and merit. In some of these letters I read more of the suffering and unpleasantness I had unwittingly in part inflicted on you in past hours. To my memory they are burdened with no greater share of troubles than attaches, I believe, to most families since the fall. I have, however, no fear for the future, for tho' I have no prospect of becoming greatly changed, a circumstance has made me reflect that I was exceedingly wrong and short-sighted in all interruptions occasioned to your pursuits. Mama says I am very exacting, and so I was about the Book-revising, but never more after it was done. Whilst reading now this unlucky first volume for press I had by me some loose proof sheets for second, and I have been so struck with the superiority of second volume, and so positively surprised at the work, that I became angry with myself for having by my impatience and obstinacy about the one thing in any way checked the flight or embarrassed the course of thoughts like these, and arrested such a mind in its progress in the track and through the means which to itself seemed best for aiming at its end. You will find me from conviction done with asking you to do anything not thought proper by yourself to do. I call this reading with profit and to the purpose. Two points in your letters I only remember half-distressed me, and perhaps they were merely illustrative as used by you. You say we could not by a whole summer give you a tenth of the pleasure that to have left you a month in the Highlands in 1838 would have done, nor by buying Turner and Windus's gallery the pleasure that two Turners would have done in 1848, you having passed two or three years with a sick longing for Turner. I take blame to myself for not sending you to the Highlands in 1838 and not buying you a few more Turners; but the first I was not at all aware of, and the second I freely confess I have been restrained in from my very constitutional prudence. . . . I have, you know, my dearest John, two things

<sup>1</sup> A reference to the title of Lord Lindsay's Essay reviewed by Ruskin in the *Quarterly*: see Vol. XII. p. 169.

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to do, to indulge you and to leave you and Mama comfortably provided for . . . but if you have any longings like 1842 I should still be glad to know them, whilst I honour you for the delicacy of before suppressing the expression of them. . . . On the subject noticed in one of your letters on our different regard for public opinion, this is a malady or weakness with me, arising from want of self-respect. The latter causes much of my ill-temper, and when from misunderstanding or want of information I was losing some respect for you my temper got doubly bad. We are all wanting in our relations towards the Supreme Being, the only source of peace and self-respect. But I never can open my soul to human beings on holy subjects. . . .”

It is impossible, I think, to read the letter without being impressed with its mingling of good sense and deep affection, and without finding something eminently lovable in the elder man. The affection appears incidentally in many a passage of the letters. If Ruskin’s father took undue pride in the son’s more popular accomplishments, the weakness was amiable; and there is something touching in the picture of the old man finding “romance in a dull life,” in going over his son’s poetical effusions—an amusement for which we may be grateful, since it elicited from the son an entertaining essay in criticism (below, pp. 387, 388). The reserve on “holy subjects” to which the father confesses did not restrain him from occasional discussions with his son, and some of Ruskin’s most interesting letters deal with such topics (*e.g.*, pp. 126–127). There was here a closer touch of sympathy with his father than with his mother; one thinks of the statement in *Præterita* that both father and son “had alike a subdued consciousness of being profane and rebellious characters” compared to her.<sup>1</sup>

A second letter from his father is one of those which, as mentioned in the preceding volume,<sup>2</sup> Ruskin put into type for use in *Præterita*.—

“LONDON, 8th February, 1850.—MY DEAREST JOHN,—You see by the date, I write on your birthday, and you are, I hope, as happy in it as your mamma and I are. I can truly say that with all remains of illness or weakness left, I never felt my heart more rejoicing in the unmingled blessings heaped upon my undeserving head, unmingled with a single sorrow or a single want; and the completion of this happiness, owing to that son who, during thirty-one years, has scarcely given his father a single pang beyond the anxieties for his safety, and these engendered only by that parent’s own mistrusting and impatient temperament.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. XXXV. p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. XXXV. p. 465 n.

“If I am thankful, I feel I never am thankful enough, and surely you should be so, that God has given you the powers and dispositions to render happy those whom you are commanded to honour, and so to have done your duty as to give joy to a parent to whom joy has been from other causes often a stranger. My present recovery, as far as it has yet gone, has, under God, in its second causes numbered the pleasures daily flowing into my soul from the letters of my son, and the hopes of his speedy restoration to our sight, and the delights which his pursuits and his productions bring to my exulting heart. My daily feeling now is of surprise and wonder why I am so dealt with, and I ask myself what should I, what can I do, to evince the gratitude which I seem to sink under a powerlessness of expressing to my God.”

“*City*.—I had hurriedly put down above few lines betwixt prayers and breakfast, and before the latter was over arrived your two letters of 1st and 2nd February, and Effie’s \* beautifully written and graphically given account of the ball. Here was a bouquet for a birthday morning! Our gardener is not a Keel, and no flowers met our eyes till these three letters came so apropos to fill their place.

“I must go over Effie’s several times, and then I will send it to Perth.

“I shall not write again to Venice, hoping my next may find you at Verona, where I should like Effie to have the chance of being with the gallant Marshal.† The seductions of Venice are entwining themselves around you both, but pray remember mamma; her sight,‡ I am sorry to say, is worse a degree. Do get home by 15th or 20th April. Do not run off to Rome as to Paris. Be content to speak the *Lingua Toscana* only this year, and next you may speak the *Lingua Toscana* in *Bocca Romana*. *Say if money safe*.

“I sent you Mrs. Patmore’s,§ formerly Andrews, letter. They think they can be at once familiar visiting acquaintance; but no, we are forced to repel as civilly as we can; I only invite *her call*. We have had to fight off Mrs. Cockburn, Lady Colquhoun, and Mrs. Colvin,|| all trying to come. We are not able, and very happy in a state of *repose*. We went

\* The “Effie” of this letter is the Phemy for whom *The King of the Golden River* was written when she was twelve years old, as told in *Dilecta*, Part III.<sup>1</sup> [J. R.]

† Radetzky. State official ball at Verona. [J. R.]

‡ I have much to say yet of my mother’s sight, whether failing or persisting. [J. R.]

§ Mrs. Coventry Patmore. Of whose daughter Blanche I have somewhat to say also.<sup>2</sup> [J. R.]

|| Professor Colvin’s mother. [J. R.]

<sup>1</sup> Not in Part III. as ultimately issued.

<sup>2</sup> See letters to her in this Collection (Vol. XXXVII.).



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to Richmond\* Wednesday. I find Hayes a *gentle* gentleman, a very pleasing person, nothing extraordinary.

"I see Sharpe † changes Rickman's terms, and divides Tracery Windows into

	A.D.
Geometrical . . . . .	1245-1315
Curvilinear . . . . .	1315-1360
Rectilinear . . . . .	1360-1500

"Be sure to say, as sure as you can, Where ‡ Letters will find you fourteen days from date of yours. Mamma joins in most affectionate love to you and Effie; again many sincere thanks to both of you, and kind regards to Miss Ker." §

Ruskin, whenever he was away from home, wrote to his father every day. The number of letters to him is thus very great, but there are many years when, owing to his being at home, there are few or none. After his father's death (in 1864), letters to his mother were similarly sent; but these are much shorter and slighter. The reason is partly to be found perhaps in lack of intellectual sympathy, but mainly in the fact that owing to her failing eyesight she could only read with difficulty. To Ruskin's account of his mother given in *Præterita*, nothing need be added beyond such incidental illustration as various anecdotes related in these Introductions have already afforded,<sup>1</sup> and as may be found here and there in letters of the present Collection.<sup>2</sup> Ruskin set aside, however, for use "somewhere in *Præterita*," an early letter from his mother, some extracts from which are here printed in memorial of her unflinching solicitude for the welfare, spiritual as well as bodily, of her son:—

"DENMARK HILL, 12th June, 1843.—MY DEAREST JOHN,—I have been made happy by receipt of your Saturday's and Sunday's letters this morning. Thank God, you keep well. . . . Your dogs are out of patience at your unaccountable (to them) neglect, and behave with the most reckless

\* "Star and Garter." Mr. Hayes, Dr. Grant's eldest (step) daughter's husband; she was just married. [J. R.]

† Historian of Cistercian Architecture, Furness Abbey especially. He lived at Lancaster.<sup>3</sup> [J. R.]

‡ "Where" and "Letters" to catch my attention, because I never *did* say where letters would find me far enough in advance. [J. R.]

§ Not Mary Kerr, neither Alice of Huntley Burn.<sup>4</sup> [J. R.]

<sup>1</sup> See, for instance, Vol. V. p. xlviiii, Vol. XIX. p. xxxvi.

<sup>2</sup> See, for instance, p. 468 *n*.

<sup>3</sup> See a reference to him in Vol. XXXVII. p. 35.

<sup>4</sup> For Mary Kerr and Huntley Burn, see below, p. 530.



impropriety. . . . What strange whims even men of first-rate talents get into their heads. Does Mr. Gordon forget that we have an Almighty Intercessor? . . . I am sorry, very sorry, that such differences should take place anywhere, but more especially that they should have arisen in Oxford. What are the real doctrines of what is termed Puseyism? Why do they not state them fairly and in such plain terms as may enable people of ordinary understandings to know what they do think the truth? Any time I have heard Mr. Newman preach, he seemed to me like Oliver Cromwell to talk that he might not be understood. . . . Surely our Saviour's consecration must have effected a change in the elements if an ordinary minister can; but these are things too much for me. I thank God I have His word to go to; and I beseech you to take nothing for granted that you hear from these people, but think and search for yourself. As I have said, I have little fear of you, but I shall be glad when you get from among them. Your book continues to fully answer all my wishes. This is not saying a little for it. I have written a good deal, and have said nothing as I would. I slept little last night, and am even more than usually stupid. God bless you, my own love, and teach and guide you now and always, prays most earnestly your affectionate mother,

"M. RUSKIN."

Ruskin, as will have been seen, was staying at Oxford, and his mother was anxious lest the taint of Puseyism should infect him. "I shall be glad when you get from among them": this was an attitude of suspicion towards his Oxford associates, as towards Carlyle and others at a later time, which she steadily maintained, and it caused some necessary alienation of sympathy and economy of confidence between mother and son. Traces of irritation will be found occasionally in letters in this Collection,<sup>1</sup> but the reader should remember that Ruskin never allowed such to appear in his relations with his mother herself. These were always beautiful, and deeply impressed every one who witnessed them. The following letter from her, written five years after her husband's death, when Ruskin was making her his daily correspondent, was also put into type for *Præterita*.—

"DENMARK HILL, *August 23rd*, 1869.—MY DEAREST,—I should be thankful to pay you with double interest the more than comfort and pleasure I have had, and I think latterly more than at any former times, from your letters. I have had some experience of one of your large grasshoppers, and have no desire to have anything more to do with such acquaintance. I dislike the insect tribe altogether, except as they excite my deep reverence towards the Life sustaining them. I am glad you

<sup>1</sup> See, for instance, below, pp. 405, 407.

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come by Dijon. I am thankful for your joy in moss and flowers of humble growth, and am somewhat impatient to see all your pictures under your own care.\* I am more than delighted to find you resemble St. Carlo Borromeo; have you the old picture you bought formerly? I am told John Ruskin Simson<sup>1</sup> shows decided picture-estimating talent. I trust I may be able to see in some way what you have been employed about. As I have written, I have always read † *your* letters myself. I am reading your *Queen of the Air* with more and more deep sense of its merit. *Ethics of the Dust* is becoming to me more what it ought always to have been. Dr. Acland's is sweet and good, and Angy<sup>2</sup> also. Joanna will, I hope, manage very nicely. Cousin George ‡ is good and kind, and regards you entirely, and is decidedly clever; I *think* talented and upright. A sad blundered scrawl I send.§ Joan sends love, and wrote yesterday to Berne.

"I am, my dearest, with a thousand thanks for all the pains you have taken to give me pleasure and save me anxiety, always your affectionate Mother,  
MARGARET RUSKIN."

Another document which Ruskin set aside for use in *Præterita* is the following letter from Carlyle—beautiful and characteristic—written on the mother's death:—

"CHELSEA, 6 Dec., 1871.—DEAR RUSKIN,—My heart is sore for you in these dreary moments. A great change has befallen; irrevocable, inexorable,—the lot of all the world since it was first made, and yet so strangely original, as it were miraculous, to each of us, when it comes home to himself. The Wearied one has gone to her welcome Rest; and to you there is a strange, regretful, mournful desolation, in looking before and back;—to all of us the loss of our Mother is a new epoch in our Life-pilgrimage, now fallen lonelier and sterner than it ever seemed before.—I cannot come to you; nor would it be proper or permissible, for reasons evident. But I beg you very much to come to me at any hour, and let me see you for a little, after those sad and solemn duties now fallen to you are performed. Believe always that my heart's sympathies are with you, and that I love you well.—Yours,  
T. CARLYLE."

\* Instead of only her own, and Lucy Tovey's, at Denmark Hill. [J. R.]

† Her sight now beginning to grow dim. See following notice of its injury in her youth by too fine needlework. [J. R.—but this was not written—*Ed.*]

‡ William the chess-player's son, by his first wife—nearly as strong a player as his father, of whom, with his sister, more hereafter. [J. R.]

§ "Altogether" had been "altogether"—the "all" is scratched out; the second *n* blotted in Joanna. [J. R.]

<sup>1</sup> The son of Mrs. Severn's sister Kate; he died young.

<sup>2</sup> Acland's daughter.

After the death of his mother, Ruskin's daily letter in absence was sent to his dearly loved cousin, companion, and adopted daughter, Miss Joan Agnew (Mrs. Arthur Severn). Letters to her begin, indeed, some years earlier, from the time when she came, as told in *Præterita*, to live at Denmark Hill. It is needless to add anything here to what Ruskin himself has written of "Joanna's Care." The letters to herself,<sup>1</sup> and not less the frequent references to her in those to others, sufficiently show how much her affection and companionship meant to him.

Of letters to Ruskin's school friends and early tutors, it has not seemed worth while to include many in this Collection, as several have been printed in a previous volume,<sup>2</sup> while others, which the editors have seen, are often very long, and seldom very interesting. It is on the whole an extremely serious youth that these early letters disclose; but those to a College Friend, printed among his *Juvenilia*, show that the young Ruskin knew how *desipere in loco*.

Of greater interest are those to W. H. Harrison, which begin in 1838. His connection with Ruskin has already been described.<sup>3</sup> He was Ruskin's "first editor," and the correspondence often discusses the Poems by "J. R." which appeared in *Annals* edited by his friend. The poet was not so enamoured of his productions as to be unable to treat them humorously.

Letters to Ruskin's College friends, or tutors, at Christ Church follow. One of these, with whom he used to correspond at great length, is the Rev. Walter L. Brown, his tutor there. He is referred to in *Præterita*,<sup>4</sup> but the correspondence shows that he filled rather a larger space in Ruskin's thoughts than is there suggested. He died in 1862, and Ruskin in a letter of condolence to his son (January 31) writes of him as "the only one of my old masters from whom I could or would receive guidance." The guidance, if received, was accompanied with much objection and criticism on Ruskin's side, as is sufficiently shown by the letters here selected from a larger number.

In some respects it may be surmised that Ruskin owed more to Osborne Gordon, who, if less given to discussion of the immensities, was ever ready to supplement his pupil's enthusiasms by his own cool

<sup>1</sup> It should be stated that the letters to Mrs. Severn published in these volumes have been selected by the editors, and not by her.

<sup>2</sup> The *Letters to a College Friend* (Vol. I.). The series of letters to his friend Edmund Oldfield, on Painted Glass (collected in Vol. XII.), belong to the year 1844.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. II. p. xix.; Vol. XXXIV. pp. 93 *seq.*

<sup>4</sup> Vol. XXXV. pp. 200, 202, 306.

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common sense. This is an aspect of their relationship indicated in *Præterita*,<sup>1</sup> and more fully told at various places in this edition.<sup>2</sup> An interesting letter to Osborne Gordon, on *Modern Painters*, has been given in an earlier volume.<sup>3</sup>

The dearest and most enduring of Ruskin's Oxford friendships was with Henry Acland. Born in 1815, he was four years senior in age and two years in College standing. He formed, as we have heard,<sup>4</sup> a protective friendship with the younger man, and nothing need be added to Ruskin's beautiful account of Acland in *Præterita*; while Acland's corresponding tribute to his friend has already been cited.<sup>5</sup> Ruskin on his side assumed the position of mentor in matters of art, and the earliest Letters to Acland are written in this rôle (below, p. 19).<sup>6</sup> In London, as in Oxford, the friends saw much of each other. When Acland had been absent from College, owing to ill-health, he records Ruskin's name among those present at a "wine" to celebrate his return; he mentions "a most agreeable party" at his lodgings in London, with "Richmond, Ruskin, Newton"; and in November 1841 he records a "day spent," at Herne Hill, "with curious Ruskin and his more curious household."<sup>7</sup> By good fortune, they met at Chamouni when Acland was there on his wedding journey, and the friendship grew yet closer, Ruskin becoming almost "an adopted son," as he says,<sup>8</sup> in Mr. and Mrs. Acland's household. Acland was with him and Millais at Glenfinlas in 1853.<sup>9</sup> Ruskin did what he could to warn his friend against over-work (pp. 115-116), as in after years Acland was to try and save Ruskin from its dangers. He could rely on Acland's good offices as a physician in the case of Rossetti's fiancée, Miss Siddal (p. 205), and they were closely connected in plans for the Oxford Museum (Vol. XVI.). It was a source of great pleasure to both of them that they were elected Hon. Students of Christ Church at the same time (1859). Acland, as we have seen,<sup>10</sup> when first given an appointment at Oxford (in 1845), had cherished the design of getting his friend there in some official capacity also, and letters in this Collection refer to successive endeavours to get Ruskin elected Professor of Poetry (p. 524) and Curator of the University Galleries (p. 542). The opportunity ultimately came with the institution of the

<sup>1</sup> Vol. XXXV. pp. 250, 333, 436, 522 *n.*

<sup>2</sup> *e.g.*, Vol. XVII. p. lxxv.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. III. p. 665.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. XXXV. pp. lxiii., 197.

<sup>5</sup> Vol. XXX. pp. 324, 325.

<sup>6</sup> Compare Acland's statement in 1853, Vol. XII. p. xxiii.

<sup>7</sup> *Sir Henry Acland, a Memoir*, by J. B. Atlay, pp. 71, 101.

<sup>8</sup> Vol. XXXVII. p. 234.

<sup>9</sup> See Vol. XII. p. xxiii.

<sup>10</sup> Vol. XX. p. xviii.

Slade Professorship of Fine Art, and Ruskin's letter of thanks to Acland on that occasion has already been printed.<sup>1</sup> The friends now became nearer to each other than ever. Ruskin, during his Oxford days, constantly stayed in Acland's house, and letters to Miss Acland<sup>2</sup> pleasantly illustrate Ruskin's affectionate relations with the family.<sup>3</sup> Very rarely did her father miss one of Ruskin's lectures. Many of those who attended them must remember the stately presence of the Regius Professor of Medicine (as also frequently that of Liddell), and the little asides of affectionate reference which Ruskin used to introduce. Acland loyally took up the cudgels for Ruskin in connexion with the road-digging at Hincksey.<sup>4</sup> Even the dispute about vivisection, which caused Ruskin's rupture with Oxford, left his friendship with Acland unimpaired. There is, indeed, among Ruskin's men-friendships none which was so completely untouched by fret or jar. The photograph by Miss Acland, which has been given in the preceding volume, was taken in 1893; it is a beautiful record of "the two old men of whom, after more than fifty years' friendship, it might well be said that 'they were lovely and pleasant in their lives.' It was their last meeting; and the fact that Ruskin was able to enjoy his friend's society with much of the keen and affectionate eagerness of old placed it among the happiest memories of his declining years."<sup>5</sup>

Another Christ Church friend, also somewhat Ruskin's senior, was Charles Thomas Newton, mentioned above, who rapidly became distinguished as traveller,<sup>6</sup> diplomatist, excavator and archæologist. They had many tastes in common, and Ruskin acknowledges the sound, if chaffing, advice which Newton gave him about his early drawings.<sup>7</sup> A certain note of Philistinism, perhaps assumed to tease his friend, has appeared in passages already given in which Ruskin describes Newton as a travelling companion. When Ruskin was absorbed in "the picturesque," Newton voted for "the picnicturesque,"<sup>8</sup> and when he dilated upon the beauty of the snows of Chamouni, Newton fixed his eyes on the moraines and was of opinion that "more housemaids were wanted in that establishment."<sup>9</sup> There was, Ruskin tells us,

<sup>1</sup> Vol. XX. p. xix.

<sup>2</sup> Below, p. 216, and Vol. XXXVII. p. 38.

<sup>3</sup> Acland's elder brother, it will be remembered, was one of the original trustees of the St. George's Guild.

<sup>4</sup> See Vol. XX. pp. xli., xliii., xlv.

<sup>5</sup> J. B. Atlay's *Memoir*, p. 476.

<sup>6</sup> His charming *Travels and Discoveries in the Levant* (1865) describe his excavations at Halicarnassus and elsewhere: see for particulars of his career, Vol. XXXV. p. 384 n.

<sup>7</sup> See Vol. XXXV. pp. 385, 611.

<sup>8</sup> Vol. X. p. xxiv.

<sup>9</sup> *Præterita*, ii. § 156 (Vol. XXXV. p. 385).

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