

**MORNINGS IN FLORENCE: BEING
SIMPLE STUDIES OF CHRISTIAN ART
FOR ENGLISH TRAVELLERS;
COLLECTION OF BRITISH AUTHORS,
TAUCHNITZ EDITION, VOL. 3986**

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Mornings in Florence: being simple studies of Christian art for English travellers; Collection of British Authors, Tauchnitz edition, Vol. 3986 by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

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OF
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VOL. 3986.

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TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

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MORNINGS IN FLORENCE

BEING

SIMPLE STUDIES OF CHRISTIAN ART
FOR ENGLISH TRAVELLERS

BY

JOHN RUSKIN

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1907.

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PREFACE
TO THE FIRST EDITION.

It seems to me that the real duty involved in my Oxford professorship cannot be completely done by giving lectures in Oxford only, but that I ought also to give what guidance I may to travellers in Italy.

The following letters are written as I would write to any of my friends who asked me what they ought preferably to study in limited time; and I hope they may be found of use if read in the places which they describe, or before the pictures to which they refer. But in the outset let me give my readers one piece of practical advice. If you can afford it, pay your custode or sacristan well. You may think it an injustice to the next comer; but your paying him ill is an injustice to *all* comers, for the necessary result of your doing so is that he will lock up or cover whatever he can, that he may get his penny fee for showing it;

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and that, thus exacting a small tax from everybody, he is thankful to none, and gets into a sullen passion if you stay more than a quarter of a minute to look at the object after it is uncovered. And you will not find it possible to examine anything properly under these circumstances. Pay your sacristan well, and make friends with him: in nine cases out of ten an Italian is really grateful for the money, and more than grateful for human courtesy; and will give you some true zeal and kindly feeling in return for a franc and a pleasant look. How very horrid of him to be grateful for money, you think! Well, I can only tell you that I know fifty people who will write me letters full of tender sentiment, for one who will give me tenpence; and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will give me tenpence for each of these letters of mine, though I have done more work than you [will ever] know of, to make them good ten-penny-worths to you.

CONTENTS.

THE FIRST MORNING—	PAGE
SANTA CROCE	9
THE SECOND MORNING—	
THE GOLDEN GATE	39
THE THIRD MORNING—	
BEFORE THE SOLDAN	75
THE FOURTH MORNING—	
THE VAULTED BOOK	125
THE FIFTH MORNING—	
THE STRAIT GATE	157
THE SIXTH MORNING—	
THE SHEPHERD'S TOWER	201
INDEX	245

THE FIRST MORNING.

SANTA CROCE.