

**THE KING OF THE GOLDEN
RIVER OR,
THE BLACK BROTHERS:
A LEGEND OF STIRIA**

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The King of the Golden River Or, The Black Brothers: A Legend of Stiria by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

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A LEGEND OF STIRIA**

KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER.





THE KING OF THE
GOLDEN RIVER
OR THE
BLACK BROTHERS

A Legend of Stiria.

BY JOHN RUSKIN, M.A.

ILLUSTRATED BY RICHARD DOYLE.

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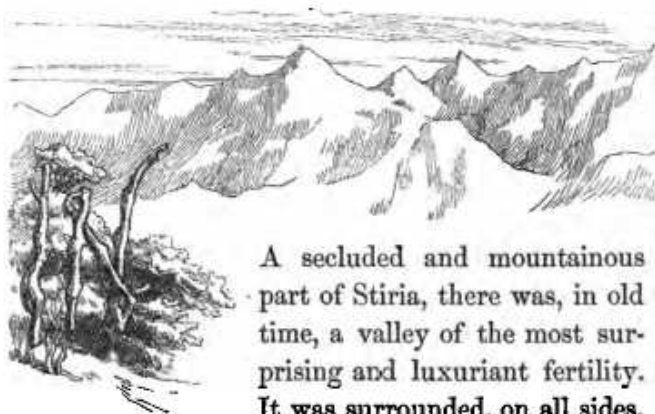
THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER,

OR

THE BLACK BROTHERS.

CHAPTER I.

HOW THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF THE BLACK BROTHERS WAS
INTERFERED WITH BY SOUTH-WEST WIND, ESQUIRE.



A secluded and mountainous part of Stiria, there was, in old time, a valley of the most surprising and luxuriant fertility. It was surrounded, on all sides, by steep and rocky mountains, rising into peaks, which were always covered with snow, and from

which a number of torrents descended in constant cataracts. One of these fell westward, over the face of a crag so high, that, when the sun had set to everything else, and all below was darkness, his beams still shone full upon this waterfall, so that it looked like a shower of gold. It was, therefore, called by the people of the neighbourhood, the Golden River. It was strange that none of these streams fell into the valley itself. They all descended on the other side of the mountains, and wound away through broad plains and by populous cities. But the clouds were drawn so constantly to the snowy hills, and rested so softly in the circular hollow, that in time of drought and heat, when all the country round was burnt up, there was still rain in the little valley; and its crops were so heavy, and its hay so high, and its apples so red, and its grapes so blue, and its wine so rich, and its honey so sweet, that it was a marvel to every one who beheld it, and was commonly called the Treasure Valley.

The whole of this little valley belonged to three brothers, called Schwartz, Hans, and Gluck. Schwartz and Hans, the two elder brothers, were