

**THE ELEMENTS OF  
DRAWING: IN THREE  
LETTERS TO BEGINNERS**

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The Elements of Drawing: In Three Letters to Beginners by John Ruskin

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**JOHN RUSKIN**

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LETTERS TO BEGINNERS**



**THE ELEMENTS OF DRAWING.**



THE  
ELEMENTS OF DRAWING ;

IN

THREE LETTERS TO BEGINNERS.

BY JOHN RUSKIN, M. A.,

AUTHOR OF "MODERN PAINTERS," "SEVEN LAMPS OF ARCHITECTURE," "STONES OF  
VENICE," "LECTURES ON ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTING," ETC. ETC.

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## CONTENTS.



### LETTER I.

	PAGE
ON FIRST PRACTICE, . . . . .	19

### LETTER II.

SKETCHING FROM NATURE, . . . . .	91
----------------------------------	----

### LETTER III.

ON COLOUR AND COMPOSITION, . . . . .	137
--------------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX: THINGS TO BE STUDIED . . . . .	221
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## P R E F A C E .

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It may perhaps be thought, that in prefacing a Manual of Drawing, I ought to expatiate on the reasons why drawing should be learned ; but those reasons appear to me so many and so weighty, that I cannot quickly state or enforce them. With the reader's permission, as this volume is too large already, I will waive all discussion respecting the importance of the subject, and touch only on those points which may appear questionable in the method of its treatment.

In the first place, the book is not calculated for the use of children under the age of twelve or fourteen. I do not think it advisable to engage a child in any but the most voluntary practice of art. If it has talent for drawing, it will be continually scrawling on what paper it can get ; and should be allowed to scrawl at its own free will, due praise being given for every appearance of care, or truth, in its efforts. It should be allowed to amuse itself with cheap colours almost as soon as it has sense enough to wish for them. If it merely daubs the paper with shapeless stains, the colour-box may be taken away till it knows better : but as soon as it begins painting red