

**MUNERA PULVERIS. SIX
ESSAYS ON
THE ELEMENTS OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY**

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Munera pulveris. Six essays on the elements of political economy by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

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SIX ESSAYS

ON THE ELEMENTS OF

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

BY

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P R E F A C E

I. THE following pages contain, I believe, the first accurate analysis of the laws of Political Economy which has been published in England. Many treatises, within their scope, correct, have appeared in contradiction of the views popularly received; but no exhaustive examination of the subject was possible to any person unacquainted with the value of the products of the highest industries, commonly called the "Fine Arts;" and no one acquainted with the nature of those industries has, so far as I know, attempted, or even approached, the task.

So that, to the date (1863) when these Essays were published, not only the chief conditions of the production of wealth had remained unstated, but the nature of wealth itself had never been defined. "Every one