

**ST. MARK'S REST. THE HISTORY
OF VENICE. WRITTEN FOR THE
HELP OF THE FEW TRAVELLERS
WHO STILL CARE FOR HER
MONUMENTS**

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St. Mark's Rest. The History of Venice. Written for the Help of the Few Travellers Who Still
Care for Her Monuments by John Ruskin

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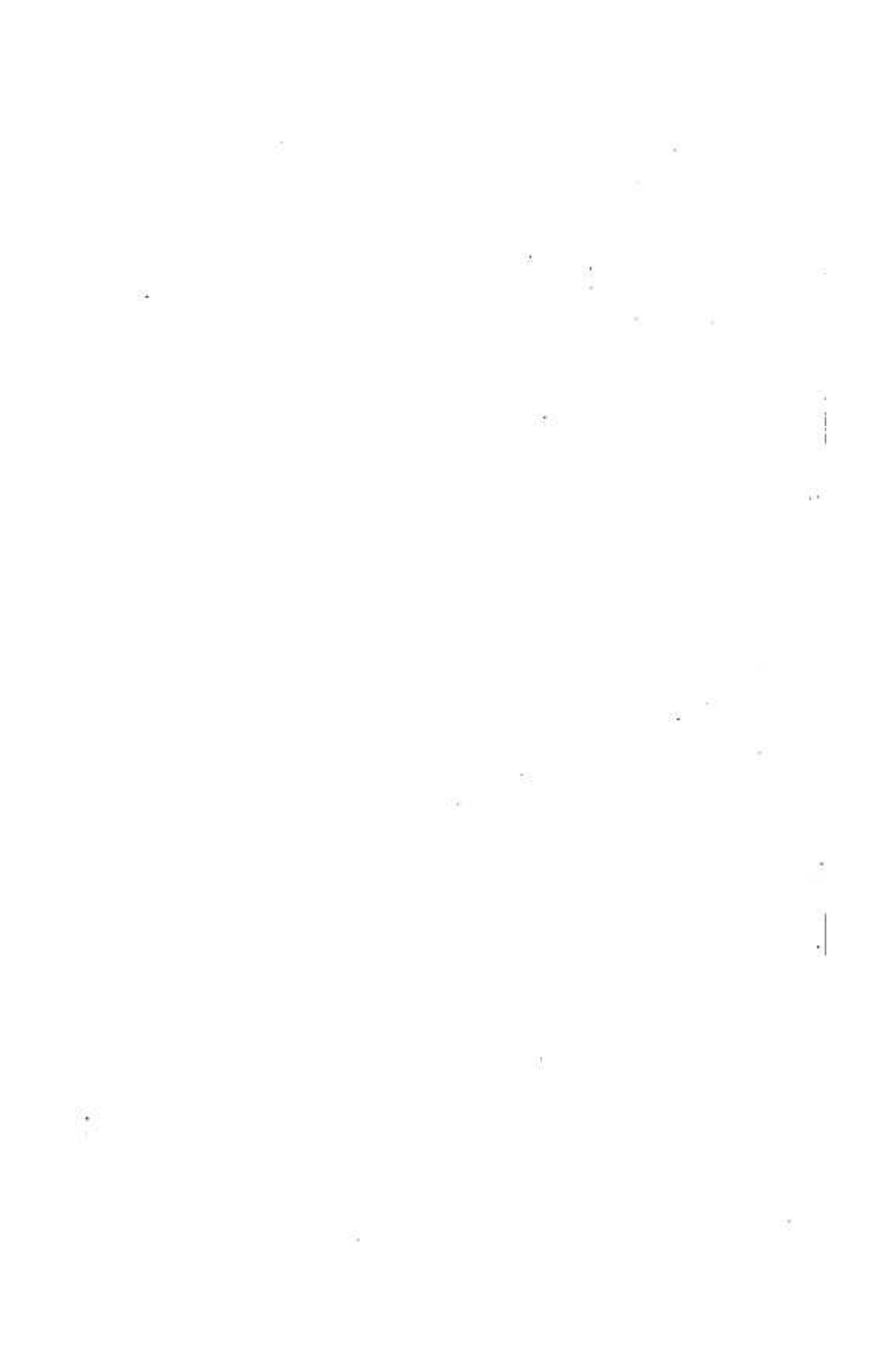
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JOHN RUSKIN

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THE HISTORY OF VENICE

WRITTEN FOR THE HELP OF THE FEW TRAVELLERS
WHO STILL CARE FOR HER MONUMENTS

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE TO SECOND EDITION

In this edition, "St. Mark's Rest," hitherto published in six parts, which are still obtainable separately, has been treated as a single and coherent volume. The pagination has been made continuous throughout the book; the text divided into numbered sections; and the different parts form the chapters, the last three of which have hitherto been issued as an "Appendix to Chapter VIII," and as the First and Second Supplements. The Author's full plan for the work, as given in the Preface (p. ix.), has never been fully carried out, and the appendix there mentioned, and referred to in the notes to §§ 3 and 4, has never been written. Except for some revision of the Index, the text of the book is unaltered.

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PREFACE

GREAT nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts;—the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art. Not one of these books can be understood unless we read the two others; but of the three, the only quite trustworthy one is the last. The acts of a nation may be triumphant by its good fortune; and its words mighty by the genius of a few of its children: but its art, only by the general gifts and common sympathies of the race.

Again, the policy of a nation may be compelled, and, therefore, not indicative of its true character. Its words may be false, while yet the race remain unconscious of their falsehood; and no historian can assuredly detect the hypocrisy. But art is always instinctive; and the