THE SEVEN LAMPS OF ARCHITECTURE

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The Seven Lamps of Architecture by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

THE SEVEN LAMPS OF ARCHITECTURE

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ARCHITECTURE.

JOHN RUSKIN,

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AUTHOR OF "MORNER PAIRTLES."

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, DRAWN AND BICKED BY THE AUTHOR.

NEW YORK: WILEY & HALSTED, No. 861 BROADWAY. 1857.

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PREFACE.

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The memoranda which form the basis of the following Essay have been thrown together during the preparation of one of the sections of the third volume of "Modern Painters."* I once thought of giving them a more expanded form; but their utility, such as it may be, would probably be diminished by farther delay in their publication, more than it would be increased by greater care in their arrangement. Obtained in every case by personal observation, there may be among them some details valuable even to the experienced architect; but with respect to the opinions founded upon them I must be prepared to bear the charge of impertinence which can hardly but attach to the writer who assumes a dogmatical tone in speaking of an art he has never practised. There

The inordinate delay in the appearance of that supplementary volume has, indeed, been chiefly owing to the necessity under which the writer felt himself, of obtaining as many memoranda as possible of mediaval buildings in Italy and Normandy, now in process of destructions, before that destruction should be consummated by the Restorer or Revolutionist. His whole time has been lately occupied in taking drawings from one side of buildings, of which masons were knocking down the other; nor can be yet pledge himself to any time for the publication of the conclusion of "Modera Painters;" he can only promise that its delay shall not be owing to any indolence on his part.