

THE HARVEST OF RUSKIN

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The harvest of Ruskin by John W. Graham

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JOHN W. GRAHAM

**THE HARVEST OF
RUSKIN**

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BY

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PREFACE

THIS book is concerned with Ruskin's teaching in the departments of Religion and Economics only, including his social reforms and educational schemes. It leaves out all his work on Art and in Natural History and Mineralogy. His thoughts on Beauty in Landscape are treated only so far as that Beauty is damaged by Industrialism or by War. Nor has any attempt been made to produce an analysis of his literary style or styles. The long extracts which the plan of the book requires, however, afford sufficient examples of his artistry in words.

My aim is to give a critical estimate in a reverent spirit of Ruskin's teaching in these two departments, and to apply it to the needs of our own time.

The development of Ruskin's religious faith

825956
1957

Preface

and its final outcome have not, I believe, been fully worked out before, and the reconciliation which I have attempted in the region of Economics is long overdue. These parts of the book have been delivered as lectures in past years under the Manchester and Liverpool University Extension Committees, at Summer Schools, and elsewhere.

I am indebted to Ruskin's literary executors for permission to quote freely from his works.

J. W. G.

DALTON HALL,
MANCHESTER.

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The Harvest of Ruskin

CHAPTER I

THE SIGNS OF A PROPHET

NOW that one hundred years have gone by since their one precious boy was born in London to a Scottish wine merchant and his wife, it may be well to ask how much of Ruskin's teaching has proved to be chaff which the wind driveth away, and how much has been precious seed. Ruskin is just now suffering from the time of comparative neglect which intervenes between an author's contemporaries and posterity, the years when the immediate appropriateness of his message may have lapsed, when it is no longer fresh and startling, but its permanent value has not yet been settled by the verdict of several generations. All or nearly all the great Victorians are in like case.

Ruskin's art criticism is, as a matter of fact, not only ignored but resolutely rejected nowadays