

**THE LAKE ENGLISH
CLASSICS.
SESAME AND LILIES**

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The Lake English Classics. Sesame and Lilies by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

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CLASSICS.
SESAME AND LILIES**

The Lake English Classics

SESAME AND LILIES

BY
JOHN RUSKIN

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BY
J. W. LINN
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But whoever reads Ruskin without knowledge of the man himself is likely to be so affected by his dogmatic way of putting things that the value of what he says is minimized.

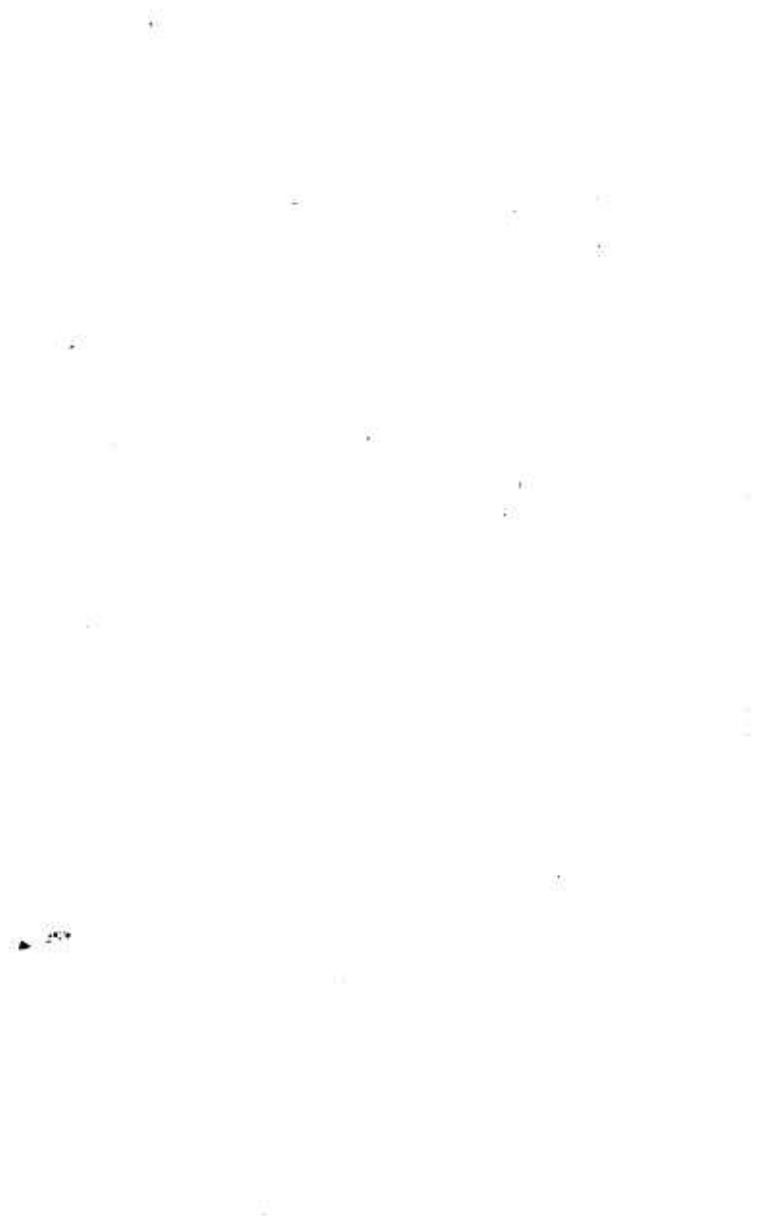
For valuable assistance in the compilation of the notes, I am indebted to Mr. James R. Hulbert, of the University of Chicago.

J. W. L.

Chicago, 1906.

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INTRODUCTION

I.

RUSKIN'S LIFE.

John Ruskin (born 1819, died 1900) had a singular youth. Until he was seventeen and went to Oxford he was absolutely sheltered from the world, knowing almost no one outside of his own family. Even at Oxford he lived under the careful eye of his mother, who left her home and husband in London to watch over her only son. Aware only of his own small circle, of which he was conscious all the while that he was the center; extremely precocious, with gifts and powers far above the ordinary;—living, in his own words, “a very small, perky, contented, conceited, Cock-Robinson-Crusoe sort of life,” he fastened upon himself at this time a kind of shell (“conceit,” he calls it, but it is not that), which he never wholly got rid of. And though he was personally the most gentle and generous of men, his writings show an almost querulous dogmatism which is repellent to those who do not know his life as whole—his consistent sweetness, sensitiveness, and modesty, and his passionate earnestness for what he believed to be the truth. It brought upon him abuse and ridicule, and plunged him into controversy which in the end wore down his body and wore out