

**FRONDES AGRESTES. READINGS IN  
"MODERN PAINTERS," CHOSEN AT  
HER PLEASURE BY THE AUTHOR'S  
FRIEND, THE YOUNGER LADY OF  
THE THWAITE, CONISTON**

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Frondes agrestes. Readings in "Modern painters," chosen at her pleasure by the author's friend, the younger lady of the Thwaite, Coniston by John Ruskin

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**JOHN RUSKIN**

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RUSKIN'S STUDY, BRANTWOOD.

# FRONDES AGRESTES

READINGS IN "MODERN PAINTERS"

CHOSEN AT HER PLEASURE, BY  
THE AUTHOR'S FRIEND

THE YOUNGER LADY OF THE THWAITE  
CONISTON

by  
John Ruskin

*"Spargit agrestes tibi silva frondes"*

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## PREFACE.

I HAVE been often asked to republish the first book of mine which the public noticed, and which, hitherto, remains their favorite, in a more easily attainable form than that of its existing editions. I am, however, resolved never to republish the book as a whole; some parts of it being, by the established fame of Turner, rendered unnecessary; and others having been always useless, in their praise of excellence which the public will never give the labor necessary to discern. But, finding lately that one of my dearest friends, who, in advanced age, retains the cheerfulness and easily delighted temper of bright youth, had written out, for her own pleasure, a large number of passages from "Modern Painters," it seemed to me certain that what such a person felt to be useful to herself, could not but be useful also to a class of readers whom I much desired to please, and who would sometimes enjoy, in my early writings, what I never should myself have offered them. I asked my friend, therefore, to add to her own already chosen series, any other passages she thought likely to be of permanent interest to general readers; and I have printed her selections in absolute submission to her judgment, merely arranging the pieces she sent me in the order which seemed most convenient for the

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reciprocal bearing of their fragmentary meanings, and adding here and there an explanatory note; or, it may be, a deprecatory one, in cases where my mind had changed. That she did me the grace to write every word with her own hands, adds, in my eyes, and will, I trust, in the readers' also, to the possible claims of the little book on their sympathy; and although I hope to publish some of the scientific and technical portions of the original volumes in my own large editions, the selections here made by my friend under her quiet woods at Coniston — the Unter-Walden of England — will, I doubt not, bring within better reach of many readers, for whom I am not now able myself to judge or choose, such service as the book was ever capable of rendering, in the illustration of the powers of nature, and intercession for her now too often despised and broken peace.

HERNE HILL,  
5th December, 1874.

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