

FRONDES AGRESTES

READINGS IN 'MODERN PAINTERS'

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By JOHN RUSKIN

CHOSEN AT HER PLEASURE

BY THE AUTHOR'S FRIEND

THE YOUNGER LADY OF THE THWAITE,
CONISTON

'Spargit agrestes tibi silva frondes'

SIXTY-FIFTH THOUSAND

LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & SONS

156 CHARING CROSS ROAD

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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 favourite, 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 labour 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