

Illustrated Cabinet Edition

“Praeterita” * Outlines of Scenes
and Thoughts, Perhaps Worthy of Memory,
in My Past Life * by **John Ruskin**



Boston * * * * *
Dana Estes & Company
* * * * * Publishers

“PRÆTERITA”

OUTLINES OF SCENES AND THOUGHTS,
PERHAPS WORTHY OF MEMORY,
IN MY PAST LIFE

PREFACE.

I HAVE written these sketches of effort and incident in former years for my friends ; and for those of the public who have been pleased by my books.

I have written them therefore, frankly, garrulously, and at ease ; speaking of what it gives me joy to remember at any length I like—sometimes very carefully of what I think it may be useful for others to know ; and passing in total silence things which I have no pleasure in reviewing, and which the reader would find no help in the account of. My described life has thus become more amusing than I expected to myself, as I summoned its long past scenes for present scrutiny : its methods of study, and general principles of work, I feel justified in recommending to other students : and very certainly any habitual readers of my books will understand them better, for having knowledge as complete as I can give them of the personal character which, without endeavor to conceal, I yet have never taken pains to display, and even, now and then, felt some freakish pleasure in exposing to the chance of misinterpretation.

I write these few prefatory words on my father's birthday, in what was once my nursery in his old house,—to

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