

The true colors of architecture are those of natural stone, and I would fain see these taken advantage of to the full.—*Ruskin.*

PREAMBLE

We present this brochure dealing with the nature and utility of building and ornamental stones to those who may be concerned in the building industry; either by way of contracting, or constructing residences and the erection of monuments.

With one object in view, i.e., to inform and advise to the best of our ability upon the above stated subject (viz.), the nature and utility of building and ornamental stones.

Considering that we live in an age when the factor of cost is of fundamental importance, it may be wise to consider "cost" with the object you have in view, i.e., "Durable Construction."

To us who have spent our lives in the building industry it is a truth no longer patent "That the stone which nature has provided in such prolific quantities, is from a monetary point of view the cheapest after a lapse of time." And because of the geological process through which it passes it is possible to more accurately inscribe *Organic Nature*, than could possibly be claimed for any kind of "Imitation Stone," because of the coarseness of the material and lack of pressure, as well as the none existence of the chemical proportion which is necessary in a good sound stone.

With this object of enlightenment in view we present this pamphlet, trusting that its perusal will be beneficial to the recipient, as well as advancing the public well being.

The violations of truth, which dishonour poetry and painting, are thus for the most part confined to the treatment of their subjects. But in architecture another and a less subtle, more contemptible, violation of truth is possible; a direct falsity of assertion respecting the nature of material, or the quantity of labor. And this is, in the full sense of the word, wrong, it is as truly deserving of reprobation as any other moral delinquency; it is unworthy alike of architects and of nations; and it has been a sign, wherever it has widely and with toleration existed, of a singular debasement of the arts.—*Ruskin.*