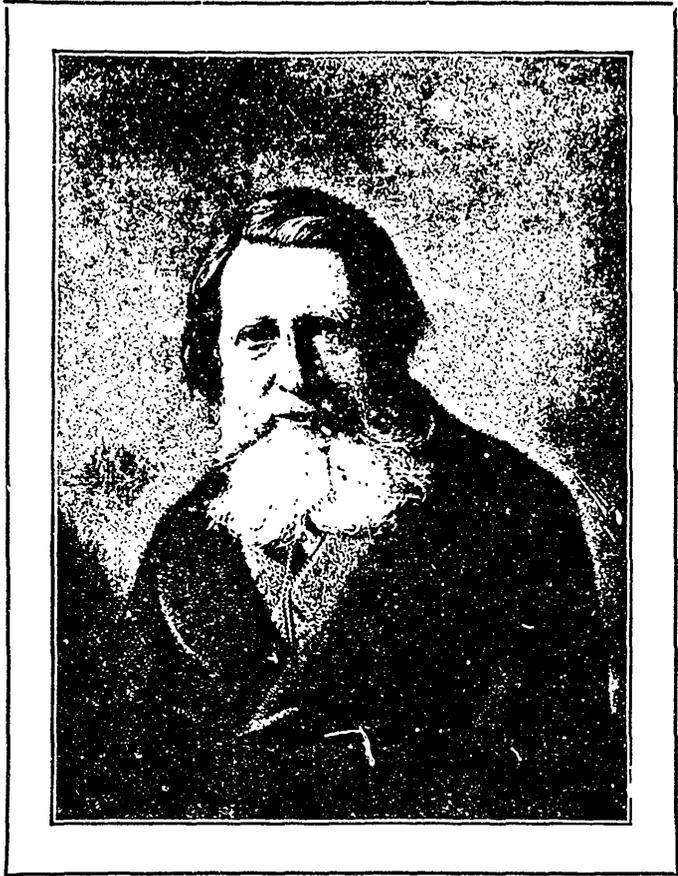


RUSKIN AS MASTER OF PROSE.*

BY FREDERIC HARRISON.



THE LATE JOHN RUSKIN.

The world has long been of one mind as to the great charm in the writings of John Ruskin. But it has hardly yet understood that he stands forth now, alone and inimitable, as a supreme master of our English tongue; that as preacher, prophet (nay, some amongst us do not hesitate to say as saint), he has done more than as master of Art; that his moral and social influence on our time, more than his

aesthetic impulse, will be the chief memory for which our descendants will hold him in honour.

Such genius, such zeal, such self-devotion should have imposed itself upon the age without a dissentient voice; but the reputation of John Ruskin has been exposed to some singular difficulties. He is a man of the Thirteenth Century pouring out sermons, denunciations, rhapsodies to the Nineteenth Century; and if Saint Bernard

* Abridged from the *Nineteenth Century*.