John Ruskin’s Christian faith forming Ruskin’s work as a young man — but breaking down with maturity
John Ruskin’s principal insight was that art is an expression of the values of a society. Though he sometimes applied this insight in a narrow— even a bigoted— way, it nevertheless gave him an almost messianic sense of the significance of art to the spiritual wellbeing of a nation. Ruskin awakened an age of rapid change, uncertain taste, and frequently shoddy workmanship to the meaning of art. John Ruskin was born on February 8, 1819, in London, England. He was born to a noble family where his father was a wealthy Scots wine merchant. John James Ruskin was the founding partner of Pedro Domecq sheries— the well-known Sherry wine traders. He was an art collector himself which is why he encouraged his son to appreciate art and culture.