148. “I here begin an invocation,” December 1831 to January 1832, MS VIII. Previously unpublished.

Nos. 148-56 and 158 are listed by their seriatim positions in MS VIII; their two-month parameters for dating are established by nos. 147 and 159; see also no. 152.

No. 148 concerns Ruskin’s getting “hapenny a line” for his Greek, probably referring to his translation of the Iliad. In a letter of February 20, 1832, he counts lines of his Homer, presumably for payment, since he is “translating forty lines . . . per day most regularly, an employment which I suppose you would very gladly allow me to break off from” (RFL, 262)--his irony and his 40-per-day quota matching earlier remarks about payment for “Iteriad” (see no. 91). Since no. 148 heads a page on which Ruskin resumes his draft of “Athens” (no. 135), he may also have expected halfpennies for lines of this epic, just as he had gotten a farthing per line of “Iteriad.” Payment for the Iliad translation is better documented, however.

I here begin an invocation

For silvery remuneration

I have invoked before the mine

But now a hapenny a line

<W> Its a pity I forget

The elegant and polished greek

Of silver If I could Im sure

I should not long remain so poor

The greek the greek it is so fine

Im sure a hapenny a line

Is not to much dont say you shant

Im sure its not exorbitant