SUN-DIALS AND ROSES OF YESTERDAY

ALICE MORSE EARLE

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GARDEN DELIGHTS WHICH
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MORSE
EARLE

NEW YORK
THE MACMILLAN CO
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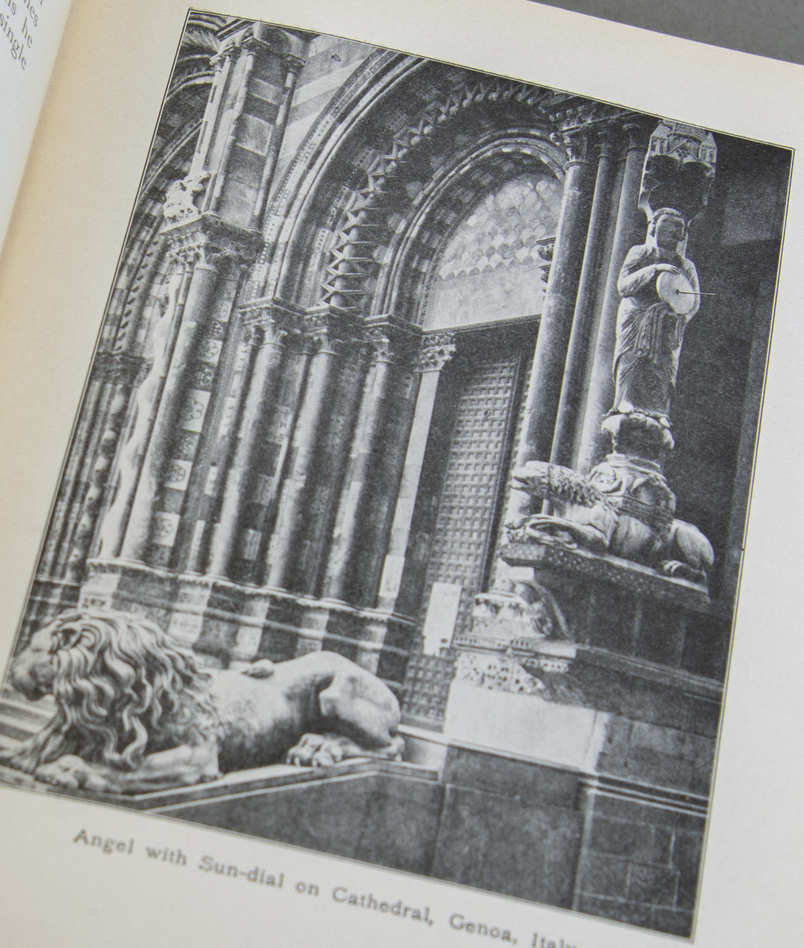
orilege of scores
day
ng to the sun-dial.
most tender and touch-
most of them I can
opening verses of like
to show the notions he
ller to show they convey not a single
though they convey not a single
ught of a sun-dial: —

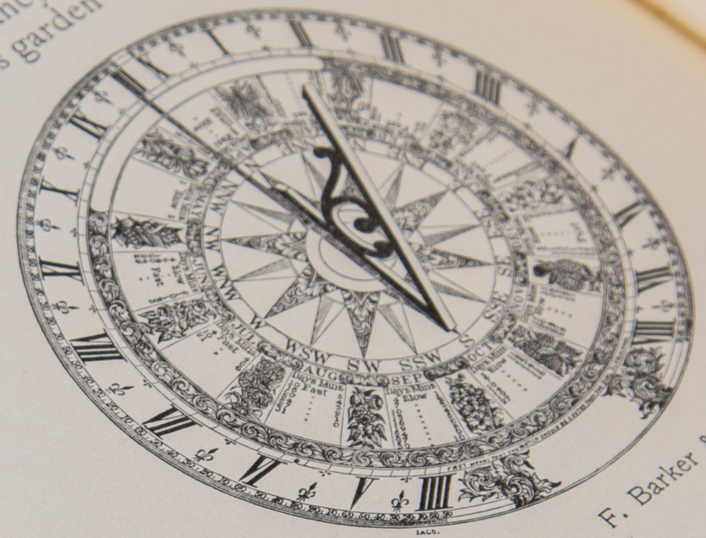
Gray, dial-stone, I fain would know
What motive placed thee here
Where darkly opes the frequent grave
And rests the frequent bier;
Ah, bootless creeps the dusky shade.
Slow o'er thy figured plain:
When mortal life has passed away
Time counts his hours in vain.
"I think of those that raised thee here,
Of those beneath thee laid,
And ponder if thou wert not raised
In mockery o'er the dead.
Ah, never sure could mortal man,
Whate're his age or clime,
Thus raise in mocking o'er the dead
The stone that measures time."

There still stands at the old home of Hugh Miller
an ornate dial-stone (it will be noted that he never
says sun-dial) which he cut for amusement in a
period of recovery from illness; it is near another
dial, an ancient one which he dug out of the earth
when he was a boy, and which had originally been
set up in the old Castle garden of Cromarty. By
the side of this ancient dial Miller first saw the
young girl who afterward became his wife.



Angel with Sun-dial on Cathedral, Genoa, Italy.

ner of growth, its age, its fixed position, and its formal signification,—all would have bearing. Its anesque lines of great simplicity could be used for the pedestal. I can fancy the distinction of such a sun-dial set in an Iris garden or in front of a Wisteria arbor.



Floral Dial-face. F. Barker & Son, London.

In the choice of a plant for supplying decorative motives for a sun-dial in our own country, I have a fancy for native American plants. Many of our common flowers offer fine forms for conventionalized ornament. Let me glance from my window and choose at random from the borders of old-fashioned flowers. Many which we fancy are native came, we discover, from the Orient; but here is one whose name tells a tale of American nativity, while the