The Garden Lover's Series, II.

A BOOK OF SUNDIAL MOTTOES.
A Book of Sundial Mottoes.

Compiled by
Alfred H. Hyatt.

LONDON: PHILIP WELLBY,
Covent Garden, W.C.

NEW YORK: SCOTT-THAW COMPANY,
542, Fifth Avenue.

MDCCCCIII.
SUNDIALS

By

A. M.
SUNDIALS.

THE garden clock of sunny climates is necessarily the companion of hours so beautiful that the mere name "Sundial" is dear to those who care for gardens, for phrases, for the sun, and for the South. The best gardens are those which other ages made and "kept up," and which our own age—an unthrifty heir—has allowed to grow somewhat wild with random grass, and somewhat dry with sun. We "enter into the labours"
SUNDIALS.

of our fathers; not into the perfection which they prepared, but into its gentle and more beautiful ruin and undoing. And we inherit something peculiarly theirs in the ancient garden—their usually austere sundial mottoes. A modern man enjoys the bee-visited, grass-grown, and fragrant paths that no gardener trims, though the man who made the paths would hardly approve them so; a modern man reads the warnings of a seventeenth-century sculptor, letting its lesson go by.

The sundial of my own childhood faced a blue sea, across olive and oleander, and it bore an inscription which, translated, threatened the generations: "Thou seest the hour, but knowest not the hour"—"of thy death," we supposed. In the twentieth century no man
SUNDIALS.

would engrave that thought above the terraces of such a heavenly garden. Other Italian palaces had, likewise, severe things written on their sunward faces, or on their garden dials. But, sombre or genial, the sundial motto, devised according to the appropriate art, has the beauty of brevity and fulness. No wonder if to the precision of Latin grammar has been generally assigned the safeguarding of the message of three or four words, long, slow, and complete with their burden of meaning.

There are tunes composed for bells, and as this brief music, so is this brief literature, restricted to the means and the opportunity, and full of vigour within those bonds. The phrase and the melody both have their home on the happy Ligurian coast. For though sundials
SUNDAI ARS.

number the few serene hours of Northern gardens, they are most useful in the South and the sun, and because of their use they take their place in the noble symbolic company standing by palace walls: the sundial for time, the cypress for death, wheat for life, and the vine for joy.

A. M.
TO EDWIN GREENE.
A B U C K O F  S U N D I A L  M O T T E E S.
In compiling this Book of Mottoes, the translations in the majority of cases appear as given in the books consulted. These volumes, which represent a delightful branch of garden literature, range from John Wells' "Sciographia, or the Art of Shadowes" (1635), to Mrs. Alice Morse Earle's recently published "Sundials and Roses of Yesterday."

It will be seen that in many instances the English renderings of the inscriptions are free and often fanciful.

A.H.H.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

The following Sixty "Mottoes for Dials, with their meaning in English," are from a curious and rare old work, entitled "Mechanick Dialling: or, the New Art of Shadows: freed from the many Obscurities, Superfluities and Errors of Former Writers upon this Subject... To which are added a choice Collection of Mottos in Latin and English... By Charles Leadbetter. London, at the Black Swan, 1737."

Aliis . inserviendo . consumor.

(My . loss . is . your . gain).

1          B
A BOOK OF

ARS . LONGA , VITA . BREVIS.
(I . DIE . TO-DAY . AND . LIVE . TO-MORROW).

avaritia . hodie . dominatur.
(you . covet . to-morrow).

aut . caesar . aut . nihil.
(i . shine . or . shroud).

see , and . be . gone . about . your . business.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Bulla. est. vita. humana.

(life's. a. bubble).

Consume. not. thy. time. in. idleness.

Deus. adest. laborantibus.

(heaven. favours. the. diligent).

Disce. dies. numerare. tuos.

(learn. to. value. your. time):
A BOOK OF

Disce. bene. vivere. &. mori.

(Shine. and. set).

DIES. DIEM. TRUDIT.

(A. day. kicks. me. down).

DUM. SPECTAS. FUGIO.

(UNSIGHT, . UNSEEN).

EN. SUPRA. VITA. FUGAX.
EN. INFRA. CERTA. MORS.

(A. life. on. flight's. soon. out. of: sight).

4
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Ex. hoc. momento. pendent. æternitas.

(now. or. never).

Festina. lente.

(mind. my. movements).

Fortuna. urbes. amplissimas. evertit.

(no. exemption. from. my. influence).

Fugio. fugio.

(be. gone. about. your. business.
I. stay. for. no. man).

5
A BOOK OF

Illice. Disce. Mori.

(rising. portends. setting).


(man. is. a. shade. of. a. shadow).

Hora. Fugit. Rapide. Lethumq;
Invadit. Inermes.

(the. hours. glide. swiftly,. and. the. unguarded.
are. easily. surprized).

Hora. Pars. Vitæ.

(every. hour. shortens. life).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

I TA . VITA.

(SUCH . IS . LIFE'S . HALF . CIRCLE).

L ABOR . IPSE . VOLUPTAS .

(MY . PAIN . IS . YOUR . PLEASURE).

L EX . DEI, . LUX . DIEI.

(THE . LAW . OF . GOD . IS . THE . BROAD . DAY-LIGHT).

L ET . YOUR . LIGHT . SO . SHINE . BEFORE . MEN . THAT . THEY . MAY . SEE . YOUR . GOOD . WORKS.
A BOOK OF

(set out at leisure, proceed with haste).


(the. brightest. day. has. its. shades).

(out. of. nothing. comes. nothing).
**SUNDIAL MOTTOES.**


Non. Sine. Lumine.

(We. Shine).

Nosce. Teipsum.


9
A BOOK OF

NULLA . DIES . SINE . LINEA:

(EVERY . DAY . HAS . ITS . BOUNDS).


(BELIEVE . EVERY . DAY . TO . BE . THY . LAST).


Pereunt . & . Imputantur.

(THE . HOURS . VANISH, . YET . ARE . ON . RECORD).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

PAX. OPTIMA. RERUM.

(LIGHT. IS. THE. PARENT. OF. PEACE).

POST. VOLUPTATEM. MISERICORDIA.

(PLEASURE. IS. THE. PARENT. OF. PAIN; NIGHT. TREADS.
UPON. THE. HEELS. OF. DAY).

QUALIS. VITA, FINIS. ITA.

(PRAISE. A. FAIR. DAY. AT. NIGHT).

QUOD. TIBI. FIERI. NON. VIS, ALTERI. NE. FECERIS.

(DO. NOT. RENDER. EVIL. FOR. GOOD).
A BOOK OF

QUA . REDIT . NESCITIS . HORAM.
(YE . KNOW . NOT . THE . HOUR).

QUID . CEBERIUS . TEMPORE?
(WHAT . IS . SWIFTER . THAN . TIME ?)

SIC . VITA.
(LIFE'S . LOT).

SIC . TRANSIT . GLORIA . MUNDI.
(SO . MARCHES . THE . GOD . OF . DAY).

12
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

SINE . LUMINE . INANE.
(DARKNESS . PRECEDES . DAY).

SIC . PRÆTERIT . ÆTAS.
(LIFE . IS . WINGED).

TEMPUS . AD . LUCEM . DUCIT . VERITATEM.
(TIME . BRINGS . TRUTH . TO . LIGHT).

TEMPUS . OBIT, . MORS . VENIT.
(TIME . DIES, . DEATH . REIGNS).

13
A BOOK OF

TEMPUS . FUGIT.

(TIME . HASTES).

TEMPUS . VITÆ . MONITOR.

(TIME . IS . LIFE'S . REMEMBRANCER).

TENERE . NON . POTES . NEC . PERDRE.

(YOU . CANNOT . KEEP . IT, . NOR . LOSE . IT).

UMBRA . DEI.

(THE . WORKMANSHIP . OF . THE . GREAT . ARCHITECT).

14
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Ut. umbra. sic. vita.

(Shade. is. life's. pattern).

Venio. ut. su.r.

(I. steal. upon. you).

Vigilate. &. orate, . tempus . fugit.

(Watch. and. pray. . time. hastes. away).

Via. vitae.

(Life's. road).

15
A BOOK OF

Vita nostra est instar comœdīæ.

(life often changes scenes).

Veritas temporis filia.

(time the father of truth).

*Welcome Chapman.

*On a dial in a market place.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Let others tell of storms and showers,
I'll only count your sunny hours.

(The motto chosen by Queen Alexandra for the sundial at Sandringham).
A BOOK OF

UNITED. IN TIME, PARTED. IN TIME, TO BE REUNITED, WHEN TIME SHALL BE NO MORE.

(IN THE KING'S GARDEN, HOLYROOD, ON THE DIAL PRESENTED BY CHARLES I. TO QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA).

AS TIME AND HOURS PASS AWAYE.
SO DOETH THE LIFE OF MAN DECAY.
AS TIME CAN BE REDEEMED WITH NO COST,
BESTOW IT WELL AND LET NO HOUR BE LOST.

(ON A RING DIAL).

TRANSEUNT. DIES. TUI.
(THY DAYS ARE PASSING).

18
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

To no one is given right of delay,
Noted in heaven passes each day;
Be thou not fruitless, work while ye may,
Trifling were bootless, watch thou and pray.

***

These shades so fleet from day to day.
And so this life passeth away.

***

Vt. hora praeterita. Sic fugit vita.
(As the hour that is past, so life flies).
A BOOK OF

As shadowe. so. man. speedeth.

Time. tide
doth. waist
therefore
make. haste
we. shall.——

Ut. hora. fugit. vita.

(as. an. hour. life. flies).

You. may. waste. but. cannot. stop
me.

(on an old church at tunbridge wells).

20
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

As the sune runs so doth death comes.

As time and hours passeth away so doth the life of man decay.

Transeunt et imputantur.

(They pass and are reckoned).

Bright sol and luna time and tide doth hold.
A BOOK OF

Bon. Jour—Bon. Soir.

As these hours doth pass away, so doth the life of men decay. Memento Mori.

A day may ruin thee. Improve this hour.

A.D. MDCXXXII.

The hour now shown perhaps may be thy last, repent and pray before that hour be past.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

THIS FOURFOLD INDEX OF SWIFT TIME
ON WHICH YE SHADOW VEERETH ROUND,
SHOULD MAN EXCITE TO THEMES SUBLIME.
SINCE NOT BUT SHADOWS HERE ARE FOUND.

BEHOLD NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME.—(2 Cor. vi. 2).
SEEK YE THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND.—(Isa. lv. 6).

VIRTUE JOIN PRECIOUS TIME.

THUS ETERNITY APPROACHETH.
A BOOK OF

CERTA . RATIO.

(A . SURE . RECKONING).

ASPICE . IN . HORAM, . ET . MEMENTO . MORI.

(LOOK . ON . THE . HOUR . AND . REMEMBER . DEATH).

RIFLE . NOT, . YOUR . TIME'S . SHORT.

TIME . CAN . DO . MUCH.

24
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

AETAS. RAPIET. DIEM.

(TIME. WILL. HURRY. THE. DAY. AWAY).

VER. NON. SEMPER. Virit.

(SPRING. IS. NOT. ALWAYS. GREEN).

TIME. IS. MORE. SACRED. THAN. GOLD.

AETAS. CITO. PEDE. PRAETERIT.

(AGE. Passes. WITH. SWIFT. FOOT).
A BOOK OF

Thus the glory of the world passes away.

Timē as the dial to the sun. Although it be not shone upon.

Dum, loquimur fugerit invidia ætas, carpe diem quam minimē credula postero.

(While, speaking so envious time has flown, seize to-day, little trust the morrow).

Sub sole vanitas.

Under the sun vanity).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

POST . TENEBRAS . SPERO . LUCEM.

(AFTER . DARKNESS . HOPE . FOR . LIGHT).

L'HEURE . PASSE, . L'AMITIÉ . RESTE.

(THE . HOUR . PASSES, . FRIENDSHIP . STAYS).

C'EST . L'HEURE . DE . BIEN . FAIRE.

(THIS . IS . THY . FORTUNATE . HOUR).

MIA . VITA . E . IL . SOLE: . DELL'UM . LA VITA . E . DIO.
SENZA . ESSO . E . L'UM, . QUAL . SENZA . SOL SON’ . IO.

(MONASTERY NEAR FLORENCE).
A BOOK OF

SILENS . LOQUOR.

(THOUGH . SILENT, . I . SPEAK).

MICAT . IN . TENEBRIS : LUX . JUSTORUM.

(UNTO . THE . UPRIGHT . THERB . ARISETH . LIGHT . IN . THE DARKNESS).

SINE . SOLE . SILEO.

(WITHOUT . SUN . I . KEEP . SILENCE).

THE . HOUR . THOU . READEST . NOW . ON ME.

WILL . NEVER . MORE . BE . OFFERED . THEE;

IF . THOU . TAK'ST . HEED . WISE . THOU WILT . BE.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

TOMORROW'S HOURS MAY BE LESS FORTUNATE.

Ut: filii. lucis. incedite.
(Walk as children of light).

Sine. umbra. nihil.
(Without shadow nothing).

I. seek. my. light. from. God.
Oh, early passenger, look up, be wise,
and think how night and day time ever flies.

Time's a hand's breadth; 'tis a tale;
'tis a vessel under sail;
'tis an eagle, in its way,
darting down upon its prey;
'tis an arrow in its flight,
mocking the pursuing sight.

Sol. Deus. Visibilis

(The sun is thy visible God,
God the invisible sun).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

IN . LUCE . TUA . FRUAMUR . LUCE.

(IN . THY . LIGHT . SHALL . WE . SEE . LIGHT).

I'LL . LIVE . TO-MORROW, . YOU . DELAYING CRY,
IN . WHAT . FAR . COUNTRY . DOES . TO-MORROW LIE?

THE . LEARNED . LINE . SHOWETH . THE CITY'S . HOUR.

(ON A SUNDIAL IN MILAN).

LUX . HUJUS . SOLIS . VOBIS . INDICABIT HORUM.

(THIS . SUN'S . LIGHT . WILL . SHOW . THE . HOUR).
A BOOK OF

OLD. FATHER. TIME. STANDS. STILL. FOR NONE;
THIS. MOMENT. HERE, . THE. NEXT. HE’S GONE;
AND. THOUGH. YOU: SPEAK. HIM. NE’ER SO. KIND,
HE. NEVER. LAGS. ONE. STEP. BEHIND;
IF, . THEN, . WITH. TIME. YOU’D. FORWARD BE,
YOU. E’EN. MUST. RUN. AS. FAST. AS. HE.

THE. DAY. IS. THINE.

UNAM. TIME.

(fear. one. hour).

32
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


A BOOK OF

As a shadow, such is life.

ULTIMA. DECIDET.

(the last decides).

(at Ventimiglia).

A span is all that we can boast,
an inch or so of time:
man is but vanity and dust
in all his flower and prime.

34
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Be thankful, watch, pray, work.

Aspice me.

(look upon me).

As the shade is, so is life.

A lumine motus.

(moved by light).

35
A BOOK OF

SHADOW . AND . SUN—SO . TOO . OUR . LIVES
ARE . MADE—
YET . THINK . HOW . GREAT . THE . SUN,
HOW . SMALL . THE . SHADE.

-Men . do . blame . time, . while . it
they . spend
unto . no . purpose, . or . to . a . bad . end.

There . is . a . season . for . everything.

Sol . tempora . divedit . ævi.
(The . sun . divides . the . seasons . of . time).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

ASPIE ET ABI.

(GAZE AND PASS ON).

TIME'S GLASS AND SCYTHE
THY LIFE AND DEATH DECLARE.
SPEND WELL THY TIME
AND FOR THY DEATH PREPARE.

THE GAY WHO WOULD BE COUNTED WISE,
THINK ALL DELIGHT IN PASTIME LIES—
NOR HEED THEY WHAT THE WISE CONDEMN,
WHILST THEY PASS TIME, TIME PASSES THEM.

37
A BOOK OF

SENZA. PALAR. DA. TUTTI. SON. INTESO.
SENZA. PALESO. FAR. RUMOR. L'ORA.

(WITHOUT. SPEAKING, I. AM. UNDERSTOOD. BY. ALL.
WITHOUT. A. NOISE. I. REVEAL. THE. HOUR).

***

IT. IS: LATER. THAN. YOU. THINK.

***

READ. ON. THIS. DIAL. HOW. THE
SHADOWS. DEVOUR
MY. SHORT-LIVED. WINTER'S. DAY. . HOUR
EATS. UP. HOUR
ALAS!. THE. TOTAL'S. BUT. FROM. EIGHT
TO. FOUR.

38
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

VOS . ESTIS . LUX . MUNDI.
(ye . are . the . light . of . the . world).

MAKE . THE . PASSING . SHADOW . SERVE THY . WILL.

THOU . BY . THE . DIAL'S . SHADY . STEALTH MAYST . KNOW TIME'S . THIEVISH . PROGRESS . TO . ETERNITY.

(SHAKESPEARE'S SONNET LXXVII.)

39
A BOOK OF

SENZA. L’UMBRA. NON. DILETTO,
E. PUR. L’UMBRA. E. MIO. DIFETTO.

(WITHOUT. A. SHADOW. I. PLEASE. NOT,
AND. YET. A. SHADOW. IS. MY. DEFECT).

IN. HIS. OWN. IMAGE. THE. CREATOR
MADE,
HIS. OWN. PURE. SUNBEAM. QUICKENED
THEE—O. MAN!
THOU. BREATHING. DIAL!. SINCE. THY
NAME. BEGAN
THE. PRESENT. HOUR. WAS. EVER. MARKED
BY. SHADE.

I. NOTE. THE. TIME. THAT. YOU. WASTE.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

When thou dost look upon my face,
To learn the time of day,
Think how my shadow keeps its pace,
As thy life flies away.

Mortal, this advice from me
And so resolve to spend my life on earth,
That heaven shall be my home, when time shall end.

(In county Kerry, Ireland).

Now is yesterday's to-morrow.

While Phœbus on me shines,
Then view my shade and lines.
A BOOK OF

LIFE'S. BUT. A. SHADOW
MAN'S. BUT. DUST;
THIS. DIALL. SAYS
DY. ALL. WE. MUST.

I. VADE. E. VENGO. OGNI. GIORNO
MA. TU. ANDRAI. SENZA. RITORNO.

(I. GO. AND. COME. EVERY. DAY,
BUT. THOU. SHALT. GO. WITHOUT. RETURNING).

(IN A RIVIERA GARDEN).

IN. CÆLO. QUIES.

(IN. HEAVEN. IS. REST).

42
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Qui. Laborat. Orat.


(In Layland Churchyard, Lancashire).


A moment—mark how small a space
The dial shows upon the face;
Yet waste but one—and you see of how great moment it can be.

(At Oxford on a dial bearing the arms of the earl of Wharton, 1691—1702).

43
A BOOK OF

WHAT. THOU. SEEkest. IS. A. SHADOW.

PEREUNT. ET. IMPUTANTUR.

(THEY. PASS. AND. ARE. RECKONED).

I. STAND. ON. EARTH.

TEMPORA. LABUNTUR. QUÆ. NOBIS
PEREUNT. ET. IMPUTANTUR.

(TIME. GLIDES. BY, WHICH. PERISHES. FOR. US. AND. IS
RECKONED).

(AT ADLINGTON).

44
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

MARK THE MOMENTS TROD FOR GOOD OR ILL.

(ON WARWICK PRIORY).

SE IL SOLE SI Vede NESSUN MI CREDE.

(IF THE SUN SHINES NOT NONE WILL BELIEVE IN ME).

SE NON RILUCE IL SOLE, NESSUM MIA GUARDA.

(IF NO SUN SHINES, NO ONE LOOKS AT ME).

REDEEM YE TIME.

45
A BOOK OF

AFTER . DARKNESS, . THE . LIGHT.

SICUT . UMBRA.

(AS . A . SHADOW).

I'M . GOING . WHERE . TIME . follows not—WHERE . IS . ETERNITY.

VIVERE . DISCE.
COGITA . MORI.

(LEARN . HOW . TO . LIVE
THINK . HOW . TO . DIE).

46
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Sic . vita . transit.

(so . passes . life).

Sic . fortuna . volutat.

(so . fortune . turneth).

We . may . not . stay.

The . silent . shadow . speaks.

Dost . thou . heed?
A BOOK OF

SOLAREM . SIGNAT . LINEA . PICTA . VIAM.

THE . PAINTED . LINE . MARKS . THE . SUN'S . PATH,

VIVITE, . AIT, . FUGIO.

"LIVE . YE" . IT . SAYS: . "I . FLY".

SINCE . EVERY . ONE . HATH, . EVERY . ONE,
ONE . SHADE,
AND . YOU, . BUT . ONE, . CAN . EVERY
SHADOW . LEND.

(SHAMESPEARE'S SONNET LIII.)

TIME . IS . THE . MONITOR . OF . LIFE.

48
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


(So. The. Fleeting. Years. Go. By).

Vivens. Mortalis.


Allez. Vous.

(Pass. On).

49
A BOOK OF

INTER. ENIM. JUSTORUM. SIMILE. EST. LUCI
SPLENDIDÆ. PERGENTI. LUCERE:
ADEO. UT. CORUM. QUISQUE. SIT
STABILIS. DIE.

(THE. PATH. OF. THE. JUST. IS. AS. THE. SHINING
LIGHT. THAT. SHINETH. MORE. AND. MORE. UNTO. THE
PERFECT. DAY).

SHADOW. AND. SHINE. IS. LIFE.

(TENNYSON'S "GRANDMOTHER").

LIFE. IS. A. VAIN. SHADOW.

SHORT. THE. DAY. AND. GREAT. THE
WORK.

50
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Seize. The. Moments. While. They
Stay:
Seize. And. Use. Them
Lest. You. Lose. Them

A
Mende. To-day. And. Slack. Not,
Dethe. Cometh. And. Warneth. Not,

U


(on the tower of Chelsea Old Church).

51
A BOOK OF


Time was, is, past; thou canst not. It. Recall:
Time is, thou hast; employ. The portion. Small:
Time, future. Is, not; and. May. Never be:

Watch. And. Pray.


SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


I. Waken. With. The. Rising. Sun,

A. Clock. The. Time. May. Wrongly tell;

Shadows. Are. We. And. Like shadows. Depart.
A BOOK OF

OMNIA . FERT . ÆTAS.

(TIME . BRINGS . ALL . THINGS).

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Damnosa . quid . non . imminuit . dies?

(what . is . there . wasting . time . does . not . impair ?)

—From Horace.

(on a sundial in a venetian garden).

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The . utmost . for . the . highest.

(the motto on the sundial belonging to G. F. Watts, R.A.,
   at his residence, Limnerslease, Compton).

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Live . to-day.

54
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

THY . DIAL . . . WILL . . SHOW . . HOW . . THY PRECIOUS . . MINUTES . . WASTE.

(Shakespeare's sonnet lxxvii.)

VADAM . ET . REVERTAR.

(I . SHALL . GO . AND . RETURN).

INDUCE . ANIMUM . SAPIENTEM.

(TAKE . TO . THYSELF . A . WISE . WORD).

SOL . REGIT . OMNIA.

(THE . SUN . RULES . ALL).
A BOOK OF

LEARN TO VALUE YOUR TIME.

NONE CAN CALL AGAIN THE PASSED TIME:

SHINING SPOT FOR EVER SHINING BRIGHTEST HOURS HAVE NO ABIDING USE THY GOLDEN MOMENTS WELL LIFE IS WASTING DEATH IS HASTING DEATH CONSIGNS TO HEAVEN OR HELL

VIVE MEMOR LETHI, FUGIT HORA

(LIVE REMEMBERING DEATH, THE HOUR FLIES)
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

SOL . GLORIA . MUNDI.

(THE . SUN . IS . THE . WORLD'S . GLORY).

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INIMICUM . TIBI ? . QUARE . FACIEM . TUAM ABSCONDAS, . ET . REPUTES . ME.

(WHEREFORE . HIDEST . THOU . THY . FACE . AND . HOLDEST ME . THINE . ENEMY ?)

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VENI, . VIDE, . VALE.

(COME, . SEE, . FAREWELL).

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EVERY . DAY . BRINGS . LIFE . NEARER.
WHAT IS YOUR SUBSTANCE, WHEREOF ARE YOU MADE, THAT MILLIONS OF STRANGE SHADOWS ON YOU TEND?

(SHAKESPEARE'S SONNET LIII).

SIC LABITUR AETAS.

(THUS SLIPS LIFE AWAY).

SUB UMBRA QUIESCUNT.

(UNDER SHADOW THEY REST).

SUB LUCE GAUDENT.

(UNDER LIGHT THEY REJOICE).

58
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Ut filii lucis incedite.

(walk as children of light).

Volat tempus.

(time turns).

Omnes vos filii lucis estis, ac filii diei: non sumus filii noctis, neque: tenebrarum.

(ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor the darkness).

Justum et æquum.

(just and fair).
A BOOK OF

RETAIN . YOUR . LOYALTY, . PRESERVE YOUR . RIGHTS.

***

DIES . AD . DIEM . EURETAT . SERMONEM.

(DAY . UNTO . DAY . UTTERETH . SPEECH).

***

SAPIENTIS . EST . NUMERARE.

(IT . IS . THE . WISE . WHO . NUMBER).

***

WELL . ARRANGED . TIME . IS . THE SUREST . SIGN . OF . A . WELL ARRANGED . MIND.

60
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


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(This. Is. The. Hour. For. Drinking).


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Ah. What. Is. Human. Life!
How. Like. The. Dial's. Tardy. Moving Shade:
Day. After. Day. Glides. By. Us Unperceived,
A BOOK OF

DEUS . ADEST . LABORANTIBUS.

(GOD . STANDS . BY . THE . WORKER).

LOOSE . NO . TIME.

DIALL (loq.) STAIE . PASSINGER
TELL . ME . MY . NAME,
THY . NATVRE.

PASS. (resp.) THY . NAME . IS . DIE
ALL. I . AM . A . MORTALL
CREATVRE.

DIALL (loq.) SINCE . MY . NAME
AND . THY . NATVRE
SO . AGREE,
THINK . ON . THY . SELFE
WHEN . THOU . LOOKST
VPON . ME.

62
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

IN VIIS TUIS: RESPLENDEBIT LUX.

(THE LIGHT SHALL SHINE UPON THY WAYS).

OLD TIME IS STILL A-FLYING.

—Herrick.

ANNON PAULISPER DIEBUS MEIS CESSABIT?

(ARE NOT MY DAYS FEW?)

TEMPUS ACCEPTUM.

(NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME).

63
A BOOK OF

UTE RE. NON. NUMERA.

(EMPLOY. THEM. COUNT. THEM. NOT).

VIVI. BREV'ORE. INDI. A. SERRAR. VAI GLI. OCCHI.

(LIVE. YOUR. BRIEF. HOUR. THEN. FOR. EVER. CLOSE YOUR. EYES).

ET. IPSE. MUTAT. TEMPORA. ET TEMPESTATES.

(HE. CHANGETH. THE. TIMES. AND. THE. SEASONS).

WAIT. NOT. FOR. TO-MORROW.

64
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Omnibus . Lucet.

(The light shines for all).

Only . as . I . abide . in . the . light of . heaven
Do . I . fulfil . the . will . of . my . maker.

The . shadow . of . the . eternal.

In . hora . nulla . mora.

(In . the . hour . is . no . delay).
A BOOK OF

IN GOD'S GOOD TIME.

OPPOSTO DI ME—
PENSI DI TE.

(THINK NOT OF ME—
THINK OF THYSELF).

DISCE DIES NUMERARE TUOS.

(LEARN TO NUMBER THY DAYS).

WITH MY SHADOW MOVES THE WORLD.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

YESTERDAY'S. GONE,. TO-DAY . IS . HERE,
TO-MORROW . NEVER . MAY . APPEAR.


OUR . LIFE'S. A . FLYING . SHADOW,. GOD'S
THE . POLE,
DEATH . THE . HORIZON,. WHERE . OUR
SUN . IS . SET;
THE . INDEX,. POINTING . AT . HIM,. IS . OUR
SOUL,
AND . WILL : THROUGH . CHRIST . A
RESURRECTION . GET.

(MILTON CHURCH, BERKS.)


THEY . (THE . HOURS) . PERISH . AND . ARE
NOT . THOUGHT . OF.

67
A BOOK OF

PER I FELICI ED I TRISTI SEGNO UGUALMENTE LE ORE.

(FOR THE HAPPY AND THE SAD I MARK THE HOURS ALIKE).

NIL SINE NOBIS.

(NOTHING EXISTS WITHOUT US).

AS SILENT I STAND MID YE FLOWERS I RECKON ALL YE PASSING HOURS, Gazer, WHO LOOKEST ON ME NOW, THE HOURS OF LIFE DOST RECKON THOU?

THE HOURS FLY FAST ON WINGS OF LIGHT.

68
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Noiseless. falls. the. foot. of. time
which. only. treads. on. flowers.

Non. Redibo.
(I. shall. not. return).

Be. watchful. thou. time. posts
away. amain,
Nor. can. the. hour. that's. past
return. again.

Non. Tardum. Opperior.
(not. for. the. slow. do. I. tarry).

69
A BOOK OF


Now. Or. When?

(beverley minster).


SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

MANEO. NEMINI.

(I. WAIT. FOR. NONE).

WHEN. THOU. DOST. GAZE. UPON. MY FACE
THINK. THEN. OF. TIME. HOW. SWIFT
HIS. PACE,
AND. THAT. WITH. EVERY. MOMENT. FLOWN
THY. OPPORTUNITY. IS. GONE.

MEMOR. ESTO. BREVIS. AEVI.

(REMEMBER. HOW. BRIEF. IS. LIFE).

MISSPEND. NO. TIME.

71
A BOOK OF

THE SHADOW FLIES AND IT IS SEEN NO MORE.

MY HOURS ARE MADE OF SUN AND SHADE TAKE HEDE OF WHAT YOUR HOURS BE MADE.

LIFE AS THIS SHADE DOETH FLY AND FADE.

LIFE IS SHORT, TIME IS SWIFT, MUCH IS TO BE DONE.
**SUNDIAL MOTTOES.**

**Lucem. Demonstrat. Umbra.**

(Light. Shows. Shadow).

**Lux. Diei, Lex. Dei.**


**The. Wise. Take. Note. As. Me. They. Read:**

**Tempus. Fugit.**


A BOOK OF

So, glides the hours, so wears the day,
These moments measure life away.
With all its trains of hope and fear;
Till shifting scenes of shade and light
Rise to the eternal day, or sink in endless night.

—Dr. Watts.

As tyme doth haste so life doth waste.

Our days decline like a shadow.

Our time's at hand.
I. SHINE. NOT. FOR. ONE. BUT. FOR. ALL.

MUNDI. OCULUS.

(THE. EYE. OF. THE. WORLD).

OMNIA. SUNT. HOMINUM. PENDENTIA FILO.

(ALL. THE. THINGS. OF. MAN. HANG. UPON. A. THREAD).

THE. SHADOWES. FLOWN. RETURN. NO MORE.
A BOOK OF

Est. Hora.

(it. is. the. hour).


(pray. lest. the. last. hour. come. unawares).

Orbis. Et. Umbra.

(a. circle. and. a. shadow).


(the. rising. sun. is. adorned).

76
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

NOW. MAYEST. THOU. LEARN. FROM. THE PAST.

***

OBSERVE. HOW. FAST. TIME. HURRIES PAST,
THEN. USE. EACH. HOUR. WHILE. IN YOUR. POWER
FOR. COMES. THE. SUN. BUT. TIME. FLIES ON,
PROCEEDING. EVER. RETURNING. NEVER.

***

OF. SHADE. AND. SUNSHINE. FOR. EACH HOUR
SEE. HERE. A. MEASURE. MADE:
THEN. WONDER. NOT. IF. LIFE. CONSIST
OF. SUNSHINE. AND. OF. SHADE.
A BOOK OF

AUT . DISCE, . AUT . DISCED.

(EITHER . LEARN . OR . GO).

THE . SUN . ON . ME . DOTH . SHADOW THROW,
WHAT . SHALL . THIS . DAY . THY . MORROW SHOW?

AFFLICTIS . LENTAE.

(TIME . IS . SLOW . TO . THE . SORROWFUL).

LE . TEMPS . PASSE, . L’AMITIE . RESTE.

(TIME . PASSES, . FRIENDSHIP . STAYS).

78
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

GOD. GIVETH. ALL.

GIVE. GOD. THY. HEART, THY. HOPES, THY. SERVICE, AND THY. GOLD.
THE. DAY WEARS ON, AND TIME. IS WAXING OLD.

OPPORTUNITY. HAS. LOCKS. IN. FRONT AND. IS. BALD. BEHIND.

DIES. SERENUS.
SERENUS. SIT. ANIMUS.

(THY. DAYS. BE. BRIGHT.
BRIGHT. BE. THY. SPIRIT).

79
A BOOK OF

DEUS . EST . LUMEN . LUMINIS.
(God . is . the . light . of . light).

I . WISH . THE . SUN . WOULD . SHINE . ON
ALL . MEN'S . FRUITS . AND . FLOWERS
AS . WELL . AS : MINE.

(IN THE GARDEN OF BELCARRES, FIFE).

I . GIVE . MEN . WARNING . HOW . THE
HOURS . FLY,
FOR . MEN . ARE . SHADOWS . AND . A
SHADOW . I.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

My hours are summed in shine and shade;
of joy and sadness man's are made.

**How long is time? ask thou of me;**
How fleet is time? I ask of thee.

**Hora, dies, et vita fuguint;**
Manet unica virtus.

(The hour, day, and life all fly, only virtue remains).
A BOOK OF

SOMNO . SUGERE.

(AWAKE . FROM . SLEEP).

THIS . IS . YOUR . HOUR, . ACCEPT . IT.

HE . THAT . WOULD . THRIVE . MUST . RISE AT . FIVE.
HE . THAT . HATH . THRIVEN . MUST . STAY TILL . SEVEN,
HE . THAT . WILL . NEVER . THRIVE, . MAY . LIE TILL . ELEVEN.

I . HAVE . NO . VOICE . AND . YET . I . SPEAK,
TAKE . HEED . WHEN . YOU . THE . TIME . DO SEEK.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

J'AVANCE.

(I. PASS. ALONG).


IRREVOCABILE.

(NEVER. TO. BE. RECALLED).


IMPROVE. THE. PRESENT. HOUR, FOR ALL. BESIDE IS A. MERE. FEATHER. ON. A. TORRENT'S TIDE.


ICH. DIEN.

(I. SERVE).

83
A BOOK OF

COUNT. THE. HOURS. AS. ONE. BY. ONE
THEY. FLY.

Nor. Do. I. beg. this. slender niche,
to. while
my. time. away,. or. safely. to. beguile
my. thoughts. with. joy,—there's
nothing. worth. a. smile.

Abiit. dies,. quia. inclinarunt. umbrae
vespertinae.

(The. day. goeth. away,. and. the. shadows. of. the
evening. are. stretched. out).

Sol. solus. solvit.

(The. sun. is: the. only. solver).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


Noneo, . Dum . Moveo.

(i. Warn . As . I . Move).

The . Moment . Past

Ne . Quid . Pereat.


85
A BOOK OF

NIHIL . VOLENTIBUS . ARDUUM.

(TO . THE . WILLING . NOTHING . IS . DIFFICULT).

SPLENDETIS . UT . FACES . IN : MUNDO.

(YE . SHINE . AS . LIGHTS . IN . THE . WORLD).

VEDI . L'ORA . MIA, . E . L'ORA . TUA . NON SAI?

(THOU . SEEST . MY . HOUR, . BEHOLDEST . THOU . THINE ?)

TEMPUS . NON . FORE . AMPLIUS.

(THAT . THERE . SHOULD . BE . TIME . NO . LONGER).

86
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

**Lux. Fata. Est. Justo.**

(Light is sown for the righteous).

---


(Thou seekest the hour, while thou seekest, the hour flies).

---


(He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him).
A BOOK OF

I

MARK. NOT. THE. HOURS. UNLESS THEY. BE. BRIGHT,
I. MARK. NOT. THE. HOURS. OF. DARKNESS AND. NIGHT.
MY. PROMISE. IS. SOLELY. TO. FOLLOW THE. SUN
AND. POINT. OUT. THE. COURSE. HIS CHARIOT. DOOTH. RUN.

"Sic transit," sayest thou? Well, then, let it pass!
Would'st be a glutton at the feast of life,
And eat, and eat, and ever fill thy glass?
Well-fed, content. lays down. his fork. and. knife.

88
**SUNDIAL MOTTOES.**

**Do.** To-day's. Work. To-day.

---

**For.** In. And. Out, Above. Us. And Below,
Played. In. A. Box. Whose. Candle. Is The. Sun,

—Omar Khayyam.

---

**Life's.** But. A. Short. Day,

---

**Time.** Fleeteth. Away
Without. Delay.

89
A BOOK OF

TIME'S A TORRENT'S RAPID STREAM;
TIME'S A SHADOW, TIME'S A DREAM;
TIME'S THE CLOSING WATCH OF NIGHT,
DYING AT THE RISING LIGHT.
TIME'S A BUBBLE ON TIME'S SEA,
USE TIME WELL WHILE TIME'S WITH THEE.

THINK AND THANK.

ONCE AT A POTENT LEADER'S VOICE
I STAYED;
ONCE I WENT BACK WHEN A GOOD MONARCH PRAYED;
MORTALS, HOWE'ER WE GRIEVE,
HOWE'ER DEPLORE,
THE FLYING SHADOW WILL RETURN NO MORE.

90
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

The time to come is no more ours than the past.

Life is a passing shadow... the shadow of a bird in his flight.

—From the Talmud.

The time thou killest will in time kill thee.

Let pleasure be granted to youth; but since human life is soon run, and has but—to speak sober truth—two moments,—let wisdom have one.
A BOOK OF

HOURS. FLY,
FLOWERS. DIE,
NEW. DAYS,
NEW. WAYS,
PASS. BY;
LOVE. STAYS.

TRAĐITUR. DIES. DIE
NOVAEQUE. PERGUNT. INTERIRE. LUNAE.

(DAY. DISPLACES. DAY. AND. NEW. MOONS. HASTEN. ON-
WARD. BUT. TO. FADE).

—From Horace.

(ON A SUNDIAL IN A GRECIAN GARDEN).

DUM. VIVIMUS. VIVAMUS.

(LIVE. WHILE. YOU. LIVE).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

DICIMUS. INTEGRUM
SICCI. MANE. DIE. DICIMUS. UVIDI,
QUUM. SOL. OCEANO. SUBEST.

(SO. PRAY. WE. SOBER. IN. THE. MORNING. WHEN. THE
DAY. IS. BEFORE. US; SO. PRAY. WE... WHEN. THE. SUN
SINKS. BENEATH. THE. OCEAN).

—From Horace.

(ON A SUNDIAL IN A GRECIAN GARDEN).

VOLAT. IRREVOCABILIS. HORA.

(FLIES. THE. HOUR. NEVER. TO. BE. RECALLED).

VOUS. QUI. PASSE. SOUVENÉ. VOUS. AU
PASSANT. QUE. TOUT. PASSE. COMME
JE. PASSE.

(REMEMBER. ALL. WHO. PASS. ALL. THINGS: PASS. AS. I
PASS).

93
A BOOK OF

Such, such a man extends his life's short space, and from the goal again renews the race: for he lives twice who can at once employ the present well, and e'en the past enjoy.

—from Martial.

***

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice; but for those who love time is eternity.
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

TO-DAY. IS. YESTERDAY'S. PUPIL.

A DAY. TO. COME. SHOWS. LONGER THAN. A. YEAR. THAT'S. GONE.

IN. SPACE COMES. GRACE.

SOME. COME,— SOME. GO,— THIS. LIFE IS. SO.
A BOOK OF

OUR TEACHERS ARE THE HOURS WHICH OPEN OR CLOSE THE GATE OF HEAVEN.

UT MIGRATURUS HABITA.

(DWELL AS IF ABOUT TO DEPART).

SI SANS SOLEIL VOUS VIENDREZ, SANS REPONSE VOUS EN RETOURNEREZ.

(IF WITHOUT SUN YOU COME, WITHOUT A REPLY WILL YOU GO).

VIGILANTIBUS

(TO THE WATCHFUL).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

AGE. QUOD. AGIS.

(Do. what. you. are. doing).

DISPONENDO. ME. NON. MUTANDO. ME.

(By. disposing. of. me. not. by. changing. me).

FUGIT. IRREPARABILE. TEMPUS.

(Irrecoverable. time. is. flying. away).

DEO. FAVENTE.

-With. god's. favour.)
A BOOK OF

A. LA. BONNE. HEURE.

(WELL-TIMED).

FAS. EST. EB. AB. HOSTE. DOCERI.

(IT. IS. RIGHT. TO. DERIVE. INSTRUCTION. EVEN. FROM. AN ENEMY).

SO. TEACH. US. TO. NUMBER. OUR. DAYS. THAT. WE. MAY. APPLY. OUR HEARTS. UNTO. WISDOM.

LEAD. KINDLY. LIGHT.

98
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise.

---

The whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

—Shakespeare.

---

To them that mourn the hours are slow, but with the joyful swiftly go.

---

As we use the hours so will the hours use us.
A BOOK OF

THE MOVING FINGER WRITES:
AND HAVING WRIT MOVES ON:
NOR ALL THY PIETY NOR WIT
SHALL LURE IT BACK TO CANCEL
HALF A LINE,
NOR ALL THY TEARS WASH OUT A WORD OF IT.

—Omar Khayyam

avra

DIES MEI SIMILES SUNT UMBRA INCLINATAE.

(MY DAYS ARE LIKE A SHADOW THAT DECLINETH).

avra

UTERE NON REDIT HORA.

(EMPLOY THE HOUR, IT RETURNETH NOT).

100
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Which. Thy. Father. Hath. Set
Up.

Voluntati.

(There. Is. A. Time. For. Every. Purpose. And. For
Every. Work).

By,
"To-morrow's. A. New. Day,". She'll
Cry;
And. All. Her. Morrows. Prove. It
True
They're. Never. Used,. And. Therefore
New.
A BOOK OF

SET. ME. RIGHT. AND. USE. ME. WELL
AND. I. THE. TIME. TO. YOU. WILL. TELL.

(ON A POCKET DIAL).

SOON. SHALL. THE. SHINING. CIRCLE
CEASE. TO. RUN;
SOON. SHALL. TO-MORROW. TURN. TO
YESTERDAY.
THAT. KNIFE. OF. SHADOW. CUTTING. IN
THE. SUN
CUTS. PATIENTLY. THY. LIGHT. OF. LIFE
AWAY.

UNA. DABIT. QUOD. ALTERA. NEGAT.

(ONE. HOUR. WILL. GIVE. WHAT. THE. NEXT. DENIES).

102
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


(The Lord shall be thine everlasting light).

Use. the. present. time
re redeem. the. past
for. thus. uncertainty
though. imperceptibly
the. night. of. life
approaches.

(in Aldingham Churchyard, Lancashire).

Stay. and. think.

(Shakespeare's Sonnet LVII.)
A BOOK OF

VOLANO. L'ORE. I. GIORNI. GL'ANNI. E I. MESI.

—Petrarch.

(HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS, ALL. FLY)

COME IN TIME.

(ON A CHURCH AT BRADFORD ST. GEORGE, SUFFOLK).

USE WELL THE PRESENT MOMENTS AS THEY FLEET, YOUR LIFE, HOWEVER SHORT, WILL BE COMPLETE.

IF AT ITS FATAL ENDING YOU CAN SAY:

I'VE LIVED AND MADE THE MOST OF EVERY DAY.

(IN WATERFALL CHURCHYARD, STAFFORDSHIRE).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

SURGE, LUCE, QUANDOQUIDEM ADVENIT LUX TUA.

(ARISE, SHINE; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME).

TIME IS THE CHRYSALIS OF ETERNITY.

SWIFT FLY THE HOURS AND BRIEF THE TIME
FOR ACTION AND REPOSE:—
FAST FLITS THIS SCENE OF WOE AND CRIME,
AND SOON THE WHOLE SHALL CLOSE.
THE EVENING SHADOWS DEEPER FALL,
THE DAYLIGHT DIES AWAY,
WAKE, SLUMBERER, AT THE MASTER'S CALL,
AND WORK WHILE IT IS DAY.
A BOOK OF

UNA. UMBRA. ET. VAPOR. HOMINUM. VITA.

(A. SHADOW. AND. SMOKE. IS. MAN'S. LIFE).

(IN HELSTON CHURCHYARD, CORNWALL).

UMBRA! . QUID . ASPICIS? . UMBRAM.

(SHADOW! . WHAT. SEEST. THOU? . SHADOW).

UT . QUI . EXEMPLARI . ET . UMBRÆ, DESERVIANTE . REUM . CÆLESTIUM.

(THE. EXAMPLE. AND. SHADOW. OF. HEAVENLY. THINGS).

VOICI . VOTRE . HEURE.

(HERE. IS. YOUR. HOUR).

106
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

ULTIMA. LATET. ET. OBSERVANTUR OMNES.

(THE. LAST. [HOUR]. IS. HIDDEN. AND. ALL. WATCHED).

LEX. ENIM. UMBRAM. OBTINENS FUTURORUM. BONORUM.

(A. SHADOW. OF. GOOD. THINGS. TO. COME).

TAMEN. HIS. AEVUM. COMPONITUR UMBRIS.

(TIME. IS. MADE. UP. OF. SHADOWS).

APUD. QUEM. NON. INEST. TRANSMUTATIO AUT. CONVERSIONIS. OBUMBRATIO.

(WITH. WHOM. IS. NO. VARIABILITY. NEITHER. SHADOW OF. TURNING).

107
Being your slave, what should I do but tend upon the hours and times of your desire?

—Shakespeare.

Vestigia nulla retrorsum.

(There are no steps backward).

Curriculum meum perficiam donec adveneriunt dominus.

(I will run my course until the lord shall come).

Via crucis via lucis.

(The way of the cross is the way of light).
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

With warning hand I mark time's rapid flight
From life's glad morning to its solemn night;
Yet, through the dear God's love,
I also show there's a light above me by the shade below.

(Written by John Greenleaf Whittier, for a sundial).

Dum exspectamus lucem, ecce tenebrae.
(We wait for light, but behold obscurity).

Ambulemus in luce Jehovae.
(Let us walk in the light of the Lord).


A BOOK OF

LABUNTUR . ANNI . NEC . PIETAS . MORAM
RUGIS . ET...
AFFERET.

(THE . FLEETING . YEARS . GLIDE . AWAY, . AND . PIETY . WILL
NEVER . BRING . A . CHECK . TO . WRINKLES):

—From Horace.


TU . NUMERI . L'ORE . MA . NON . SAI
L'ORA . DELLA . MORTE.

(THOU . NUMBEREST . THE . HOURS . BUT . KNOWEST . NOT . THE
HOUR . OF . DEATH).


VELUT . UMBRA . SUNT . DIES . NOSTRI
SUPER . TERRAM.

(OUR . DAYS . ON . EARTH . ARE . A . SHADOW).

110
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.

Watch . Faster—watch . slower.

Tutte . le . cose . periscona, . io . sono immortale.

(all . things . perish, . i . am . immortal).

Come, . light! . visit . me!

(in the garden of harriet martineau).

Homo . vanitati . similis . est,

Dies . ejus . sunt . ut . umbra prætereuntis.

(man . is . like . to . vanity: . his . days . are . as . a . shadow that . passeth . away).
A Book Of


(The Greater Light To Rule The Day).

* * *

Ut Umbra. Quum. Declinat.

(I Am Gone Like A Shadow).

* * *

Little: Sun. Upon. The. Ceiling
Ever. Moving, Ever. Stealing
Moments, Minutes, Hours. Away.

(On A Ceiling Dial At Theobalds).

112
SUNDIAL MOTTOES.


(Scarcelly. Arisen. And. We. Have. Set).

IN PRAISE OF SUNDIALS.
IN PRAISE OF SUNDIALS.

WHAT an antique air had the now almost effaced sun-dials, with their moral inscriptions, seeming coequals with that Time which they measured, and to take their revelations of its flight immediately from Heaven, holding correspondence with the fountain of light! How would the dark line steal imperceptibly on, watched by the eye of childhood, eager to detect its movement, never caught, nice as an evanescent cloud, or the first arrests of sleep! . . .

Ah! yet doth beauty like a dial hand
Steal from his figure, and no pace perceived!

What a dead thing is a clock, with its ponderous embowelments of lead and brass, its pert or solemn dulness of communication, compared with the simple altar-like structure and silent heart-language of the old dial! It stood as the garden god of Christian gardens. Why is it almost everywhere vanished? If its business-use be superseded by more elaborate inventions, its moral uses, its beauty, might have pleaded for its continuance. It spoke of moderate labours, of pleasures not protracted after sunset.

CHARLES LAMB.—Essays of Elia.

117
IN PRAISE OF SUNDIALS.

HOW well the skilful gardener drew,
Of flowers and herbs, this dial new!
Where, from above, the milder sun
Does through a fragrant zodiac run:
And, as it works, the industrious bee
Computes its time as well as we.
How could such sweet and wholesome hours
Be reckon'd, but with herbs and flowers?

Andrew Marvell.—The Garden.

A DIAL is the Visible Map of Time, till Whose Invention
'twas follie in the Sun to play with a Shadow. It is
the Anatomie of the Day and a Scale of Miles for the
Jornie of the Sun. It is the silent Voice of Time and without
it the Day were dumbe... It is ye Book of ye Sun on which
he writes the Storie of the Day. Lastly, Heaven itself is but
a generall Dial, and a Dial it, in a lesser volume.

Robert Hegge.—Heliotropum Sciothericum (1630).
METHINKS it were a happy life . . .
To carve out dials quaintly point by point,
Thereby to see the minutes how they run;—
How many make the hour full complete;
How many hours bring about the day;
How many days will finish up the year.
How many years a mortal man may live.
When this is known then to divide the times;— . . .
So minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years,
Pass'd over to the end they were created.

SHAKESPEARE.—*Henry VI. (3 part), Act ii., Scene 5.*

THE sundial is a thing of deep sentiment. All feel the
beauty and wonder of the thought that Time, that
most intangible, most fleeting, most wonderful of
conditions, is marked so fittingly in its passing by a
shadow almost equally intangible; and the noblest evidences
of creations—the stars in the heavens—would be to us
invisible and unknown save for their revelation through the
shadow of the earth.

*Mrs. Alice Morse Earle.—Sun-dials and Roses of Yesterday.*
IN PRAISE OF SUNDIALS.

The hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty are the only hours when we really live, so that the longer we can stay among these things so much more is snatched from inevitable Time. Let the shadow advance upon the dial—I can watch it with equanimity while it is there to be watched. It is only when the shadow is not there, when the clouds of winter cover it, that the dial is terrible. The invisible shadow goes on and steals from us... These are the only hours that are not wasted—these hours that absorb the soul and fill it with beauty.

Richard Jefferies.—*The Pageant of Summer.*

---

There is always, to my thinking, a charm about a sundial... The sacred grey of the aged stone, mellowed by the many years of sun and rain, forms a fair ground for the patterns which our loved lichens have traced upon it, in dark and orange, gold and oxydised silver... The Dial seems a witness with a silent voice, amid the changes of this life, to the lastingness of things.

The Author of *The Harvest of a Quiet Eye.*—*On Sundials.*

123
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