

## 55 MRS. BROWNING'S GRAVE AT FLORENCE

Florence wears an added grace,  
All her earlier honors crowning;  
Dante's birthplace, Art's fair home,  
Holds the dust of Barrett Browning.

Guardian of the noble dead  
That beneath thy soil lie sleeping,  
England, with full heart, commends  
This new treasure to thy keeping.

Take her, she is half thine own;  
In her verses' rich outpouring,  
Breathes the warm Italian heart,  
Yearning for the land's restoring.

From thy skies her poet-heart  
Caught a fresher inspiration,  
And her soul obtained new strength,  
With her bodily translation.

Freely take what thou hast given,  
Less her verses' rhythmic beauty,  
Than the stirring notes that called  
Trumpet-like thy sons to duty.

Rarest of exotic flowers  
In thy native chaplet twining,  
To the temple of they great  
Add her -- she is worth enshrining.

### Sources:

Boston Transcript, October 16, 1861 (misdated 1816).

Christian Register, November 2, 1861.

Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving, 1875.

Alger Street, 1964.