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Editorial Notes

Our **Birthday.** SINCE our last issue UPS AND DOWNS has had a birthday, and we take the liberty of wishing ourselves many happy returns of the day. We are now four years old, and begin to feel ourselves quite a lusty infant. Four years of age is a time of life when we hardly expect to find youngsters seeing themselves as others see them, and our juvenile ideas of ourselves may be altogether too high flown; but, from the present limits of our experience, we flatter ourselves that we have fairly succeeded in fulfilling the object that we had in view at the outset of our career. We think we have been successful in supplying what was needed in the shape of some little link or bond of union between our boys, as they grow up and become scattered in all parts of the country, and those who act as their guardians and wish to promote their interests. In the ups and downs of life that fall to the lot of every one of us, and not least to that of lads who are earning their daily bread and fighting their way in the world by their own exertions, we hope our little magazine may at times have helped with a word of counsel or encouragement, while it has certainly served as a record to be known and read of all men of the great number of our boys who are honourably and steadily pursuing their occupations, year by

year making progress onward and upward, and earning a name for themselves as honest, upright citizens. We have saved our light from being altogether hidden under a bushel, and where, as formerly, we only appeared in print through our occasional misdeeds and shortcomings, we can now be read of as young people who are filling as useful a place as any in the community, and are entitling themselves to respect and consideration. It has unquestionably stimulated the literary capabilities of many of our friends, and we hope has given them something to occupy their leisure hours that has been of both interest and profit. To get boys to think and to give intelligent expression to their thoughts is never an easy matter, but we flatter ourselves that some of our columns containing the contributions of our numerous correspondents are a credit to their industry and ability. Few of our friends have had the advantage of "higher education," but many of the letters and essays that have appeared in UPS AND DOWNS show that the writers possess intelligence, powers of observation, and, better still, common sense that would be a credit to boys of any class or rank of life. Unfortunately, like many other good things in the world, we are rather costly, especially when subscriptions are not paid up, and in this respect we wish we could