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I kept where the moon, serenely bright,
 Shone full in my face through a summer night;
 I dreamt I was in a Land of Light,
 With Fielding and Moore and Shelley and White,
 And Shakespeare and Milton—a goodly
 With Addison, Dryden, and others, quite
 Too numerous to mention;
 And there the worthies, one and all,
 Homage to the "classical authors" call,
 Beneath the shade of Parnassus tall,
 On Pegasus Place, in Helicon Hall,
 Were holding a big convention.

Virgil was sitting beside Voltaire,
 Boccaccio chatting with Dumas, pere,
 And Pope curled up in the corner there,
 While old Sam Johnson was in the chair,
 Wall-eyed and grim, with carryty hair,
 And he said, "Of course you're all aware
 Of the latest earthly advice:
 The publishers seem to be going to
 "grasp" the great "economy" last;
 For John B. Alden is cutting a dash
 Exceedingly reckless and awfully rash,
 In selling for almost nothing for cash,
 And ruining regular prices!

"I hold in my hand a letter from four
 American publishers who feel sore,
 And they speak for a score, or possibly
 more,
 Who live by traffic in printed lore.
 I read: "We pray from this earthly
 shore—
 Ye authors of old attend us!
 O, give us a lift in this hour of need,
 For the publishing business is going to
 "seed."
 That man Alden is making with speed
 As many books as the folks can read,
 And selling disgracefully low, indeed,
 It cheapens your fame—for you we
 "bleat."
 Ye talented ghosts, defend us!"

"What word shall we send to this
 earthly band?"
 Then Scott, with an "Elsevir" in hand,
 Arose (amid cries of "Take the Stand!")
 And said, "This scheme will possess the
 land,
 No god is the Harper or Scribner brand
 While Alden shows that he can com-
 mand a band."
 The bright of age and scholar
 A shilling for Pope—had hanging on:
 The same for the poems of Tennyson;
 Ten cents for "Your Pilgrim's Progress,"
 John B. Alden's
 For the finest thirty cents; and Don
 Quixote for half a dollar!

Then Chaucer said, "I am rather old,
 But I am mighty glad this day to be sold
 How cheap my Canterbury Tales are
 And the price of my Anne of Cleve.
 And the noble and wise of the Queen,
 Steale the bright and De Foë the bold,
 Berkeley the sober and Swift the scold.
 From the time of Sir Walter Raleigh
 Shakespeare's works, and Smollett's
 and Stern's,
 Bacon, Bolingbroke, Byron and Burns,
 And Babington Lord Macaulay."

Charles Dickens said, "I would be fool
 To let to let:
 Good luck to let:
 For the price
 Milman's Gibe
 Dante and Virg
 For a dollar Ad
 And Mill on it
 And I see by this
 Sent up by J. B. A.
 Three cents you get
 For a dime King's
 And for three the
 Will Shakespeare
 cause regret:
 ye-fight they get
 perfect
 fillings net
 on Debt
 of Nations
 a circular
 (War
 in Years
 warre,
 wood cigar
 tions."

Then Goldsmith rose
 and said:
 "It is simply a case of a susubus,
 But I see no reason for all this fuss.
 For publishers never did much for us,
 While needy, summer and winter;
 Therefore, confreres, I hold this view:
 The high-price houses are doubtless
 blue,
 But unto the man our thanks are due
 Who sends our thoughts each palace
 through
 And into the humblest cottage too,
 For the many are always more than the
 few.
 And the people are more than the
 Printer!"

A slight shade rose—'twas Edgar Poe—
 Who said, "I've been talking here with
 De Foë,
 Whence, at the ancients have told us so,
 That who makes two printed leaves to
 show
 Where only one did formerly grow
 Is as good a man as we want to know;
 And this letter, here, from the realms
 below
 Reveals its earthly animus;
 I move it he not received." About
 A thousand voices removed all doubt,
 Ben Johnson and Halleck and Hood
 spoke out
 Kie Noëti and Irving and Rafter Proud,
 Mid a storm of cheers & a mighty shout,
 And the motion pass'd—unanimous!

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