

And the ups and downs of authors are as interesting to us as many of the books they write. Their peculiarities and idiosyncrasies are generally entertaining, and assist us largely in the estimates which we often form of their character and relative place in literature. We need not go back to the days of Johnson, or of Pope, to learn about authors and their trials and vicissitudes. History repeats itself in matters relating to literature with the same unerring frequency as it does in political and social and military life. Hawthorne, you know, was so discouraged once because he could not find a publisher, that he burned the manuscript of his "Seven Tales" in his despair. Carlyle carried one of his most precious volumes—"Sartor Resartus"—from one publisher to another for months before he could find anyone courageous enough to undertake it. Walt Whitman's poetry fell dead from the press, and for years, "The Leaves of Grass" remained a housekeeper on the bookseller's shelves. Our own Heavysege worked for a decade and more on his really great poem—the masterly and Miltonic drama of "Saul," and though three editions of it were printed, the third involving in its revision, tremendous labour and anxiety, none of them paid the actual expenses of publication. The poet received nothing, and he toiled on to the day of his death, a man of all work, gathering news for an evening paper at one time, and setting type at another. It broke him down at last, and he died while in his prime. But I have said enough, I think. It is not my intention to-night to illustrate the struggles of authorship, or to ask you to penetrate the veil which hides so much privation and suffering from public gaze. I feel, however, it is only right that we should know something about the anxieties of mind, and the difficulties which our entertainers encounter now and then. We little know at what cost some of the most delicious morsels come to us. We seldom know of the sleepless nights which are spent in the elaboration of a story, or in the execution of a son-