

with a company promoter not long ago and I asked him whether he found lawyers, as a class, more speculative than other people. His reply was given in the vernacular with evident sincerity:—"The man does not live who could do one of them for a five-dollar bill, but they are the easiest mark in the country for a couple of thousand each." We must enquire into this, and instead of preaching to the junior bar to be sure to make less money, let us tell them to take better care of what they do make. Having said this much, let us enquire whether there is anything in the suggestion that we are becoming too mercenary. I heard Governor Hughes, of New York, tell a story which may or may not have reached you. A young man left home for one of the law schools of Hungary, filled with high hopes of returning ere long bearing the coveted dog skin—the diplomas being all written on dogskins. He diligently kept all the terms and followed the course until he graduated with distinction. But he returned home without the coveted diploma. His family and friends gathered around him and said: "It is all very well for you to say that you passed with honours. If you did, where is the diploma?" The only excuse the young man had to offer was that there were more lawyers than there were dogs in Hungary.

Our ranks are not thinning out anywhere as far as I can discover. Every year brings its new influx of aspiring barristers, each requiring a new constituency. Is there not, at least, some temptation to sink into the arts of competition; and do we not hear discussions of the question how far a lawyer may advertise? I repeat what I said a moment ago that I believe it right that a lawyer should make money, and I think the lawyer receives less monetary reward for his labor than any class save the clergy, but when young men come to the profession of the law with the primary and dominating purpose of making money, the knell will be sounded of those honorable traditions which to this day give us a right to the respect and confidence of our fellow men. If money be your object in life, do not commit the supreme folly of coming to the Bar. You'll find far more of it in rail-