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"E PLURIBUS UNUM."

Although much of the disposition to regard with disfavor the increase in the numbers of shorthand writers has been removed from the minds of professionals by current events, there are still two or three who are regarding it with dismay. Shorthand, they argue, is like every other commodity, "it becomes cheap in the exact ratio in which it becomes abundant," and therefore they consider it incumbent upon them in duty to themselves and loyalty to their fellows "to do all they can to restrict the supply."

Theoretically, and according to the laws of political economy, the argument is a sound one; but we would ask whether, in their alarmed contemplation of the increased supply and the propagation of this supply, these objectors have turned their gaze to the increased demand? Canada is no small strip of country whose commercial or literary market can be easily flooded. Generations will have to come and go before the sea of civilization shall wash the outermost edges of her domain. In the past she has been engaged in an arduous struggle for existence, in which her labor has been chiefly manual. Now, when her prosperity is assured, she can seek her arms chair, so to speak, and indulge those tastes and enjoy those luxuries to which she is entitled by her past career of honest toil. Canada, and particularly Ontario, is destined to be, in the by no means shadowy future, the centre of art, literature, and science. All the appliances that genius can invent, all the aids to physical labor and intellectual development that the future can bring forth, will find a market in Canada. The village of to-day will be the town of to-morrow, and the howling wilderness of this year will next year be the abode of human energies, human interests, and human talents. Muscle unaided will call to its assistance the dexter fingers of Intellect.

The growing intensity and rush of business, which must be rapid to approximate to that on the other side of the lines,—the

saving of time and money which the employment of stenographic "duplicates" affords,—the development of literature, and the introduction of shorthand into newspaper offices and County Courts, Police Courts and coroner's inquests—will utterly preclude the possibility of a glut for many years to come. Until Canada, like Great Britain and the continent, begins to discharge her superfluous millions into the lap of some yet to be discovered country, until that faint and lonely voice which lately reached us from British Columbia saying,

"I'm a Shorthand blooming alone,"
Like the last of the roses of summer,"

has swelled into a chorus of wailing and positionless stenos singing

"Too proud to beg, too honest to steal,"

the professional need have no fear of being jostled, or of receiving a dig in the ribs from his fellow passengers in the paths of prosperity.

In our own experience within the past year this has been fully proven. Men who two years ago, one year ago, would not have dreamed of employing shorthand labor, regarding it as too great and unnecessary an innovation in a country business, with the influx of population and the added press of business have been compelled to try the experiment, and having once tasted of its sweets are only too anxious to repeat it.

To the latter part of this protest we would say,—and the argument is, we think, incontrovertible,—who is to shut the public highway of the profession and declare it a footpath open only to a privileged few? The young men and young women of Canada know that the demand for shorthand help is growing, and no organization, no protest from professionals, can prevent their taking advantage of it. And we could name many cases in which, notwithstanding the chilling influences of a professional "sensitive plant" the plodding, persevering amateur has budded into a shrub beauti-