

times and the general stagnation of business, especially in reference to real estate and building operations. The lay mind is not able to grasp the fact that lawyers flourish most in good times; litigation is not the most profitable branch, and only forms a comparatively small part of a lawyer's business. Again, it is not true that commercial courts are in great favour with business men. The contrary is the fact. These courts are theoretically very good, but where they exist they are but little used, and are in practice considered unsatisfactory by those who expected great benefit from them. The writer of the article referred to i., however, quite right in saying that business has decreased, and the numbers of the profession increased, and the sooner this is recognized and young men turn their attention to some other pursuits, the better for all.

THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE STATUTE OF FRAUDS.

" . . . the lawless science of our law
 That codeless myriad of precedent
 That wilderness of single instances
 Thro' which a few by wit or fortune led
 May beat a pathway out to wealth and fame."

In reading over the many cases dealing with the Statute of Frauds the writer has been struck by the number of special instances which have from time to time been excepted from the operation of the sections of this great enactment requiring written evidence of certain transactions.

The sections particularly referred to are the first and second (as modified by R.S.O. 1897, c. 119, s. 7), by which some writing is necessary to the validity of certain leases; the fourth, which requires written evidence of all promises by executors to be personally responsible, all promises to answer for another's debt, etc., all agreements in consideration of marriage, all contracts for the sale of land, and all agreements not to be performed within a year; the seventh, by which parol declarations of trust of land are void; and the seventeenth, which requires written evidence of certain contracts for the sale of goods.