part with his money, or whether it was enough that it should be one among many inducements. The court decided, without division of opinion, that the statement of the objects for which a loan was solicited, or, in other words, of the intention of the borrower, is a statement of an existing fact, Lord Justice Bowen adding: "The state of a man's mind is as much a fact, as the state of his digestion." The court also decided that it is enough that the misrepresentation complained of should be a contributory part of the inducement; it need not be the sole or main fact. The *Law Journal* (London), commenting on this case, after remarking that the weakness of the decision "consists in the fact that it is a question of pure common law decided after argument by equity counsel only, and by the judgment in the main of equity judges," concludes: "On the whole, common lawyers may fairly accept this latest extension of the action of deceit."

The Congregation of the Inquisition at Rome, says the New York *Nation*, has just issued a decree that has created a great sensation in Belgium, forbidding Catholic judges to grant divorces to Catholic suitors. There has been a divorce law in force in Belgium since 1803, and it has been administered under six different Popes without interference. Moreover, Leo XIII. passed three years at Brussels as Papal Nuncio, and witnessed its operation. His allowing the issue of this decree by the Inquisition, observes the *Nation*, "is, therefore, looked on now as signifying in some degree the triumph of the Jesuit reactionists at the Vatican, and it promises a renewal of the bitter war between the Liberals and the clergy in Belgium. It probably means that the declining health of the Pope creates increased difficulty in resisting what our presidents know so much about—"pressure." The pressure of the reactionists is constant, while the power of resistance varies greatly in different men and at different periods of life. The persons whom the decree will most perplex, however, are the Catholic judges. They have sworn already to administer the law, and have been administering it without scruple or hindrance from ecclesiastical authorities. They must administer it still or resign. It will be interesting to see how many will do so; that is, how many will risk eternal damnation in order to keep their places. It seems rather hard on them, too, to be singled out for restrictions which are not imposed on their French, or English, or American brethren. The English or American judges could escape by leaving divorce cases to the Protestant brethren, but in Belgium the judges are all Catholic, and generally pious."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE CANADIAN FRANCHISE ACT.

Amendments of 1886. *By Thos. Hodgins, Q.C., —Toronto, Rowsell & Hutchison, Law publishers.*

Mr. Hodgins, with commendable promptitude, has issued a supplement to his work formerly noticed (*ante*, p. 129) on the Canadian Franchise Act. The supplement embraces the amending Act of 1886, 49 Vict., ch. 3, with copious notes, including all the latest decisions. A table of the electoral franchise, which will be found most convenient for reference, is printed at the beginning of the work. This appendix shows a careful study of the whole subject, and will be found indispensable to the practitioner. The publisher has performed his part with extreme neatness and accuracy.

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*SUPERIOR COURT—MONTREAL.**

Notary—Responsibility—Nullity in deed.

HELD, (Affirming the judgment of JETTÉ, J., M. L. R., 1 S. C. 356), that a notary is responsible in damages for a nullity committed in a deed received by him, even when such nullity involves the substance of the law. *Dupuis* v. *Rieutord*, In Review, Torrance, Bourgeois, Mathieu, JJ., March 31, 1886.

Quebec Contested Elections Act, 1875, 38 *Vict. ch.* 8, *s.* 104—*Substitution of New Petitioner —Jurisdiction.*

HELD:—1. (Buchanan, J., differing partly as to this point): Where a petitioner abandons the personal charges, but inscribes the

* To appear in Montreal Law Reports, 2 S.C.