

dence with some central office before "saw-offs" become in order, and which, while secret and unavailable to the other side would afford in any suspected case a ready means of investigation, and indeed amount almost to confessions. Why not also incorporate in the voter's oath a statement that he has not received and has no promise or expectation of a bribe.

M. B. JACKSON.

Hamiota, Man.

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### FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

Crimes of a singularly flagitious nature, the object of which was to defraud electors of their franchise, were lately committed in the ridings of West Hastings and Frontenac in the Province of Ontario. Prosecutions therefor were soon after set on foot by the Dominion Government. Now it might be judged both desirable and convenient that the central body should have the power to stretch forth the arm of the law and bring violators of its own enactments to justice. But is it endowed with such power?

Any appeal to the B. N. A. Act—our patent of nobility issued by the Imperial Parliament—would, if value pertains to judicial authority, result in putting the advancer of such a claim out of court. Confederation was not many years old before the point came up for judgment in proceedings brought against The Niagara Falls International Bridge Company, alleging a failure to live up to its charter. The citation is *Attorney-General v. Niagara Falls International Bridge Company*, 20 Grant, 34. A determining question was as to whether the Attorney-General of the Dominion or that of the Province had the requisite locus standi in the matter. Argument was had on a demurrer by the defendants, the Great Western Railway Company, to the information of the Attorney-General for Ontario, at the relation of the Erie & Niagara Railway Company, for want of equity. The objection formally raised by the defendants was that the information had been improperly filed by the Attorney-General for the Province, it being contended that the proper officer to complain of the injury to the public involved in the suit was the Attorney-General for the Dominion. The learned judge before whom the matter came (Vice-Chancellor Strong)