

commission is a description to the Mississippi River. Now, it is a clear principle of the law, as laid down by Vattel in his law of nations, that where the description of territories extends to a stream, the boundary of that territory is limited by that stream, and only limited by that stream, and I think that Vattel, on a subject of that kind, is entitled to as much weight as the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson), or the hon. member for Niagara (Mr. Plumb), the latter of whom made such a powerful and eloquent speech on the subject. Vattel says :

"In case of doubt every country terminating on a river is presumed to have no other limits than the river itself, because nothing is more natural than to take a river for a boundary; and wherever there is a doubt, that is always to be presumed which is most natural and most probable."

This question came up for adjudication before the United States Courts in the case of *Hadley vs. Anthony*, 5 Wheaton 696, and an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court said on the point:—

"In great questions which concern the boundaries of States, where great natural boundaries are established in general terms with a view to public convenience and the avoidance of controversy, we think the great object, when it can be distinctly perceived, ought not to be defeated by technical perplexities."

In other words, we are to deal with questions in which States are concerned, and this present question is in reality one between two States on a different principle from that in which we would deal with a question where the rights of private individuals alone are concerned. I now come down a little further in the history of this important question, and I find that, after the separation of the Province of Quebec into two Provinces, namely, Upper and Lower Canada, there is a description given of the boundary of the Province of Upper Canada, and that description is as follows :

"To commence at a stone boundary on the north bank of the Lake St. Francis, at the cove west of Pointe au Beaudet in the limit between the Township of Lancaster and the Seigneurie of New Longueuil, running along the said limit in the direction of north 34° west to the westernmost angle of the said Seigneurie of New Longueuil, thence along the north-western boundary of the Seigneurie of Vaudreuil running north 25° east until it strikes the Ottawas river, to ascend the said river into the Lake Temiscaming, and from the head of the said lake by a line drawn due north until it strikes the boundary line of Hudson's Bay, including all the territory to the westward and southward of the said line to the utmost extent of the country commonly called or known by the name of Canada."

Why, the hon. gentleman tells us that to adopt a description or that kind would be to declare war against the United States, because in 1783, when the treaty between England and the United States took place, a large portion of this territory which was then necessarily claimed by Great