

tration that such wrongful occupation of United States territory should be condoned, and that the towns and settlements so located, should be ceded to Great Britain without compensation.

The United States have acquired their present great territorial domain partly by Revolution, and partly by the voluntary gift of Canadian territory from Great Britain,* by purchase from France, Spain and Russia, and by conquests from Mexico and Spain. Under what guileless title should be placed their unsanctioned appropriation of the Canadian Naboth's vineyard, on the British side of the boundary line? Perhaps as an American sequel to the Fashoda incident. For it is now established, beyond question, that during the time Great Britain and Canada were urgently pressing for an expeditious settlement of the boundary line, and protesting against the irritating treatment of British settlers on Canadian lands, the United States were exercising the powers of sovereignty, and were making grants of land within the disputed territory.

If the British contention as to the boundary line shall be ultimately sustained by International Law, and the judgment of an arbitral tribunal, the United States cannot invoke, in support of their present occupation of what shall be found to have been British territory since 1825, any of the rules of that law which are applicable to military occupation, by right of war; or to insurgent occupation, by right of revolution; nor can the doctrine of mistake of title avail, for the British claim was early known, and had the support of conclusive American precedents.

Questions affecting the civil status and citizenship of persons born on, or married, or taking oaths of citizenship within, such territory; questions affecting the transfer or descent of property, and of titles acquired under forfeiture laws; questions affecting the administration of civil and criminal jurisprudence, and the imprisonment or execution of criminals; and questions affecting official appointments and municipal and other corporations, and the exercise of legislative and delegated powers of sovereignty, must arise respecting the civil rights, and public relations, and land titles, of the inhabitants of the territory which shall be adjudged to belong to the British Crown, and may lead to far-reaching and

*The gift was that part of old French Canada, now the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, comprising about 300,000 square miles of the Canadian territory ceded by France to Great Britain in 1763.