

not encroach upon the French posts in the interior. The line was one which neither was permitted to cross for the purpose of trade, but which was not intended to interfere with the freedom of trade by the Indians, remaining in the possession of either party. The charter of the Hudson's Bay Company was put an end to by the Treaty of Ryswick. The restoration of their possessions would not restore to them the franchises or the rights of property which that charter gave them. The mere possession acquired by the success of arms during a war does not amount to absolute sovereignty, but when it is followed by treaty there is a complete change of sovereignty and the political rights, the special privileges and the right of property, which reposes upon dominion, all go together. The Hudson's Bay Company claimed of late years, the whole Basin of Hudson's Bay; but they have not ventured to contest the possession of the valley of the Red River in Minnesota and Dakota. The Treaty of Ryswick terminated their chartered rights. The restoration of the Bay, and the land upon its border, to the Crown, could not revive the charter of the Company. The case of the Duke of York is a case in point. A patent had been given to James, of New York. He governed the country under it for nine years. The Dutch obtained possession of it, and established there a Civil Government. At the Treaty of Westminster it was restored to the King of England. The Duke again claimed the country, but it was held that his proprietorship had been extinguished by the Dutch conquest and Government; and that the title, after restoration, was in the King alone; and a second patent was necessary to give him any title to the country. Great political corporations are, by the Law of Nations, put upon a wholly different footing from private non-political holders. Their right of property and their powers of Government are inseparable, and they pass away together. Whatever dominion the Hudson's Bay Company subsequently acquired was a dominion for the Crown. I will rest content with simply stating this proposition, which, if time permitted, could, I think, be easily established. In 1809, when the country on the east of the River St. John, as far as the Labrador shore, was, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, again severed from Lower Canada, and re-annexed to Newfoundland, it embraced the whole country northward to the Hudson's Straits. It included the whole coast to the 61° of north latitude. So far as I know, the Hudson's Bay Company never made any protest against this Act, and yet it included a large section of country which they have always claimed was granted them by their charter. After the Treaty of Utrecht the Hudson's Bay Company had