

good title to the possession of our land. In saying that, you must remember that when I say our land, it is of course a question what the precise limits of that land are. Those limits have never been actually defined, and although I feel perfectly confident that the extraordinary pretensions put forth by Canada would be utterly futile, we must never conceal from ourselves the fact that the precise limits of our territory have not been defined. Then, in regard to the other question, the right of government, you must remember that the case stands somewhat in this way: that we have, under our charter, a right to exercise such authority in our territories as is necessary for the maintenance of order and for the due carrying on of such business as is required. But, as far as opinions have been given, that right does not give us any exclusive sovereignty over this territory, to the exclusion of Her Majesty's right of sovereignty; and the opinions that have been given expressly say that we have no exclusive right of government, taxation, or other matters of that kind. Therefore, it stands to reason, if that be so, and it has never been decided otherwise, that Her Majesty might, by the exercise of her sovereign power, at any time choose and claim to exercise sovereignty over these territories which have been hitherto left to our administration; and, if she did so, all these rights of sovereignty, rights of taxation, rights of government, and judicial authority would be in the hands of Her Majesty, without derogation to our title to our land; but, at the same time, without our having any right to say that we had an exclusive claim to exercise that authority. Now, I believe that is an accurate description, as far as I can give, of the position in which the Company legally stands. That being so, let me now call your attention for a few moments to the progress of events in the last six years, as they are disclosed in this correspondence. It appears that, six years ago, this Company was reorganized upon a new