

This claim by the British Government grew out of an implied but unequivocal admission by her own authorities, that the territory in dispute belonged to Maine. In the negotiation of the Treaty of Ghent, the Commissioners on the part of Great Britain requested "such a variation of the line of Frontier as might secure a direct communication between Quebec and Halifax. This request was an obvious concession, that without such variation the requested territory would not belong to that Government. To this request the Commissioners on the part of the United States replied that the Federal Government had no power to cede away any portion of the domain of one of the States of the Union. Resort was then had to ingenuity, and this resulted, not in asserting a claim to the desired territory, but in declaring, that there was "much doubt whether it does not already belong to Great Britain." Upon this expression of a doubt, the whole superstructure of the controversy has been raised.

A claim to territory then began to be made, this claim was at first indeterminate for it indicated no line of boundary, and referred to no documents or reasonings by which it was to be sustained. Is it not then safe to conclude, that this claim originated from a mere effort of invention? It contravenes the Treaty of Boundaries, and in sustaining it, its supporters have substituted argument and ingenuity for truth and justice.

It must be conceded that our people and their State Government have exercised a most liberal forbearance upon the subject, considering