

nature; yet as a body politic which stretches itself, in an unbroken line, under the separate jurisdictions of several governments; holding and occupying portions of the territory of each; and as an artificial being formed by an infusion of the spirit and power of all. According to this constitution of its existence, it has received its funds, makes all its expenditures, and must hold its estate. To ascertain whether, in point of fact, any of the disbursements of this body were for corporate purposes or not, it would seem to be proper to dismiss from the inquiry every consideration as to the different sources from which it deduced its existence; and simply to determine, whether the authority to make the expenditure was given by the Act of incorporation or not; taking it to be a law of one single government only.

The question here presented, however, is not whether the expenditure is for corporate purposes or not; but one preliminary to that, which is, whether the determination of that question belongs exclusively, or to what extent, to the judicial authority of any one of the governments by which this single corporation has been erected ?

No Court of justice can act upon any controverted matter where both the person and the thing are beyond its reach; and every tribunal, not acting under the law of nations, has some local limits to its jurisdiction; indeed those which have been charged with the administration of justice, under our common law code, have a very special and peculiar reference and adaptation to the territorial divisions of the State. *Kame's Prin. Eq. b. 3, c. 7.* But the jurisdiction of the High Court * of Chancery over the matters of

145 which it takes cognizance is co-extensive with the confines of the State itself. According to its original constitution, it could act upon the person only; but its powers have been, in many respects, so enlarged as to enable it to act also upon the subject in controversy; and it has been specially authorized to use the executive and coercive process of the common law. 1785, ch. 72, s. 23, 25. Thus braced and armed it possesses powers and means to afford redress in almost every case, not exclusively belonging to the Courts of common law, or in which they are so constituted as to be able to give adequate relief. Wherever a person is to be found within reach of the Court of Chancery, and he may, in any respect, be considered as a trustee, or the matter in dispute arises out of a transitory personal contract not, necessarily involving the title to, and following land; and which the party may, by personal coercion, be made to execute specifically, this Court may have jurisdiction and decree accordingly. Therefore, if a defendant be found here he may be decreed to pay money, or to account for the rents and profits of lands lying in another, or a foreign country, which he had held and enjoyed; or if a deed of lands in a foreign country be found to be fraudulent, it may be ordered to be de-