

Although the power of our government constitutionally to create a corporation beyond its jurisdiction, or to confer the rights and privileges of a body politic upon any but its own immediate citizens, so as thus to give an extra territorial operation to its legislative enactments, may well be doubted; yet the establishment of a body politic, clothed with authority to conduct expensive and profitable operations beyond the limits of the state by which it was created; and under governments by which its corporate existence has not been recognized, it is believed, is a matter of no very extraordinary or rare occurrence. *The East India Company*, and *The South Sea Company of England*, (t) and *The Temascaltepec Mining Company of Baltimore*, *The Tlalcootal Mining Company of Baltimore*; and some others here, are corporations having such powers. (u) If an individual has a well founded claim, arising from, or is likely to suffer by the foreign operations of such a corporation, and the case be of an equitable character, this court may take cognizance of it, and grant relief, if the body politic or its property are to be found within reach of its process. (v) And so too a corporation which has been created by a foreign government, is a legal entity of which the courts of this republic will take notice, and allow to sue, and maintain its rights here; and have funds here applied to its use out of the limits of the state. (w)

But a corporation cannot, on the ground of its foreign origin, or on the ground of its being an artificial creature of a different state from that of which the opposite party is a citizen, be allowed to sue or be sued in the federal courts; because the jurisdiction given to those courts, founded on the character of the litigants, is put upon the foot of their being *natural* persons, integral members of society, who are *citizens* of different states. Corporations, therefore, cannot be qualified to sue in those courts upon that ground, otherwise than by looking, according to a most latitudinous construction of the federal constitution, to the natural character and citizenship of all the individuals of which the artificial body is composed. (x)

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(t) *The Company of Merchant Adventurers v. Rebow*, 3 Mod. 126; *Jacob's Law* Dict. V. *Turkey Company*.—(u) 1826, ch. 81; 1827, ch. 174; 1828, ch. 57 & 132; 1829, ch. 42.—(v) *Nabob of the Carnatic v. East India Company*, 1 Ves. Jun. 371; S. C. 2 Ves. Jun. 56.—(w) *Henriques v. Dutch West India Company*, 2 L'Raym. 1532; *Attorney-General v. The Mayor of London*, 3 Bro. C. C. 171; S. C. 1 Ves. Jun. 244; *Barclay v. Russell*, 3 Ves. 424; *The National Bank of St. Charles v. De Bernalis*, 11 Com. Law Rep. 475; *The Society, &c. v. New Haven*, 8 Wheat. 482; *Agnew v. The Bank of Gettysburg*, 2 H. & G. 479.—(x) *Hepburn*