

tered upon the question of title and condemned Appellant, but said Judgment was abandoned inasmuch as the Justices were convinced of their error, and refused to enforce it. The second trial before John McCord, J. P., in July 1857, resulted in the dismissal of Respondent's complaint of trespass, and the reasons verbalized and had been travelled more or less for fifteen years." The defence to both these complaints before the Magistrates, by Appellant, was, that "*id feci jure feci*." There could have been no doubt with Respondent when he instituted the action now in appeal, as to Appellant's pretensions. He claimed in the most emphatic manner a right of passage across Respondent's land. The fact of possession is sufficient to maintain an ordinary action *en complainte*, because the law refuses to enter upon the discussion of titles with a trespasser, but the possession must be unequivocal and undisputed, and it must be the *possession annale*. It is proper to observe that there is no proof of a *trouble* in the general sense contemplated by the action. It clearly appears by the evidence that Appellant never claimed or asserted possession of any part of Respondent's land. He claimed a right of servitude and the possession and enjoyment of a servitude under title for some 17 years. The action in such case is clearly pointed out by the law. It is of little consequence what name is given to the action. The object of it would be to have the land declared clear of servitude, and must be founded upon titles. (Vide Pothier, Coutumes d'Orléans, Introduction au Titre XIII., No. 11.)

Serpillon, Commentaire sur l'Ordonnance du 1667. Titre 18, Art. 5, Note:

"Il y a cependant une exception à la règle qui défend de cumuler le possessoire avec le petitoire: c'est l'article n° 1 entendu parler que du possesseur du fait. Le possesseur du droit est de sa nature, nécessairement joint au petitoire, *quia mixtam habet proprietatis causam*. . . . C'est cet exercice qui en fait la possession, de même que d'une servitude, qui est un droit d'une autre nature, et qui est possédée par l'usage que l'on en fait, quoique l'on ne possède pas le fonds sur lequel elle est due ainsi celui qui a un droit de passage sur le fonds de son voisin, possède cette servitude en passant sur un héritage qu'il ne possède pas."

Farther on we find this: "Il y a une grande différence entre une demande en complainte au sujet d'un héritage et celle qui est intentée pour un droit réel. Dans le premier cas, c'est à n'en pas accuser de fait; dans le second cas, c'est un possessoire de droit, qui se décide par les titres."

Pothier Procédure Civile, Mot, Possession, pp. 104-5: "Parcèlement si je suis en possession de quelque droit de servitude sur un héritage voisin et qu'on m'empêche d'en jouir il y a lieu à la complainte; mais pour qu'il paroisse que je suis en possession de ce droit de servitude, par exemple, d'un droit de passage, il ne suffit pas que j'aie passé, car on présume que c'est par tolérance que j'ai passé; or une possession présumée n'est tolérance ne donne pas lieu à la complainte, mais il faut qu'il paroisse que j'ai passé comme *usant du droit de passer*." Vide also Merlin, Questions de droit, Mot, "Servitude," Section V., Question 31.

No feature of our civil law is more marked than its directness. It exacts good faith in all actions, and does not admit of parties obtaining a decision of conflicting interests in any other manner than by their being brought distinctly in issue. It is not consonant with its provisions, or with reason, that by an action alleging a *trouble* of the nature of a usurpation of possession, judgment can be obtained to extinguish a claim of servitude. Pothier in his Procédure Civile, page 107, says that if the defendant in an action *en complainte* does not deny the plaintiff's possession, but simply denies the trouble, the action degenerates into a simple action of damages, and is a personal action *ex delicto*, evidently indicating that the *combat de possession* is the distinctive characteristic of this action. This action is reciprocal, each party is both plaintiff and defendant. This clearly proves that the thing contended for by each must be of the same nature. The inference Appellant draws from these principles is, that to defeat the Respondent's action, it was only necessary for him to show that no *trouble* of the nature complained of had been committed; that there never had been any pretension on his part to usurp possession of any part of Respondent's land. It was only necessary for him to suggest his title, or show color of title as a means of showing the quality of his acts upon Respondent's land. This course was rendered Appellant's proper mode of defence, inasmuch as Respondent did not bring his action in a manner to admit of a *combat de titres*. The very fact which appears by evidence, that the right of servitude had been notoriously in dispute between Appellant and Respondent, was sufficient to dismiss Respondent's action, brought in the manner it was.

Appellant, however, mentions that his title to the servitude was legally proved. Henry Sweeney, one of the attesting witnesses, deposes to the execution of it by both the parties, and the absence of Luther Wilcox, the other subscribing witness, from the Province, is established. It is urged that he could not be a legal witness inasmuch as he was brother to James Sweeney and Francis Sweeney. This, Appellant maintains, does not render him incompetent in a cause where he is not related to either of the parties. The signature of James Sweeney is proved by two other witnesses, Japhet and E. H. Le Barron, and it was also proved that Respondent admitted the signature of James Sweeney, and by the evidence of both parties James and Francis Sweeney were shown to be proprietors of the 75 acres, and sold to Woodward, who sold to Respondent. Respondent maintains that Appellant's title of servitude is faulty for want of registration. The answer to this is, that as servitudes being *droits réels* existing by themselves, and the exercise of them being open and visible, do not require enregistration, like mortgages and other encumbrances, which are merely accessory rights, and can only be known by the fact of enregistration. Vide Toullier, Tome III., No. 720.

There is, however, another ground upon which Appellant maintains that the Respondent's action should have been dismissed. The Appellant's land in rear of Respondent's 75 acres was inaccessible to Appellant except by a passage across the said 75 acres. This is clearly proved. This land, then, was *enclavé*. The law gave Appellant the right of servitude in this case without any contract whatever. All he required was the *possession annale* to enable him to maintain his possession of this servitude in case of *trouble*. It being a natural servitude sanctioned by law, he could not be deprived of the enjoyment of it. The only right of Respondent was to recover indemnity by personal action. Curranon Traité des actions Possessoires, p. 323, No. 77, says: "Les articles 682 et suivant du Code ayant placé le passage dont il s'agit au nombre des servitudes légales, le propriétaire a un titre dans la loi, commandée par la nécessité, sa possession n'a rien de précaire, le voisin, il est vrai, a le droit de réclamer une indemnité, droit qui ne se prescrit que par trente ans; mais c'est là une action personnelle à intenter devant les tribunaux ordinaires; le juge de paix n'a point à s'en occuper, la question de savoir, si le passage a été pratiqué dans l'année est la seule qu'il doit examiner."

Denizard Col. de Décisions, Vol. III., Mot "Servitude": "Indépendamment des servitudes contractuelles et légales, il y en a de naturelles aux quelles la situation des héritages les assujettit les uns envers les autres."

Among these servitudes reckoned natural is a right of passage to and from a "héritage enclavé." Toullier, Tome III., No. 652: "Il faut donc bien distinguer le passage que la loi accorde à nécessité pour l'exercice des fonds enclavés, du passage de simple commodité pour le service des fonds non enclavés qui ont une issue sur