

is prescribed by municipal regulations or by established and recognized usage, or, in default of such regulations or usage, at a distance of three feet. The thickness of the counter-wall to be made when it is intended to build a chimney, a hearth, a stable, or a store for salt or other corrosive substance, against a common wall, or to raise the ground or heap earth against it, is left to be determined by municipal regulations, or established and recognized usage, and in default of these by the courts in each case.

In the title *Of Successions*, most important changes are made.

The many distinctions of property under our old customary law, which were each governed by special rules in matters of succession, and were a source of so much difficulty and confusion, have been abolished. It matters not under the Code whether property belonging to a succession is moveable or immoveable, *propre* or *acquêt*, or to which of eight different kinds of *propres* it belongs; article 599 considers neither its origin nor its nature, but treats the whole as one inheritance, subject to uniform rules.

As regards the order of succession in the collateral line and the direct line ascending, new rules are established. Thus, under articles 626, 627, 628 and 629, which treat of successions devolving to ascendants, if a person dies without issue, leaving a father or mother, or both father and mother, and also brothers or sisters or their children, one half of his succession falls to the father and mother, or to either of them if the other is dead, and the other half to the collaterals just named. No other collaterals succeed to him, although his father and mother be dead, if he leaves any ascendants whatever; but one half goes to the ascendants of the paternal line, and the other to those of the maternal line. Under articles 631, 632, 633 and 634, which regulate collateral successions, the brothers, or sisters, or nephews and nieces, of a person dying without issue inherit one half of his property, if he leaves a father or mother, and the whole of it, if he does not. If they are the issue of different marriages, the property is divided into two equal portions, those of the whole blood sharing in both portions, and those of the half blood sharing in one portion only. In the event of the deceased person leaving none of the relations above named, but only more distant collaterals and ascendants in one line only, the ascendants and collaterals each take one half. If, in the