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PROVINCE OF LOWER-CANADA.

April Session, 1814.

JAMES McCALLUM,
APPELLA

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THOMAS DELANO

AND
AND
AND
ANDREWS BURNAM,

RESPONDES

RESPONDENTS' CASE.

PROVINCE OF LOWER-CANADA.

COURT OF APPEALS.

v8.

THOMAS DELANO AND ANDREWS BURNAM RESPONDENTS.

IN APPEAL from a Judgment of Dismissal in the Court of King's Bench for the District of Quebec, in a Cause there, in which the abovenamed Appellant, James Mc Callum, was the Plaintiss, and the abovenamed Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, were the Defendant,

RESPONDENTS' CASE.

THIS was an Action brought in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, by the abovenamed Appellant, as Affignee of a Lumber Contract which had been entered into by the abovenamed Respondents with one Jackson, and which Contract had afterwards been affigned by Jackson to the faid Appellant.

The Declaration in the Court below, dated 17th July, 1811, flates, That on the 2d day of November, 1810, at the City of Quebec, it was covenanted and agreed, by and between the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, of the one part, and William Jackfon, of the City of Quebec aforefaid, Merchant, of the other part, and the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, did acknowledge and confess to have fold, affigned, and turned over unto the faid William Jackfon, certain quantities of Norway Pine Timber, Norway Pine Spars, and White Oak Timber—viz:—25,000 feet of good Norway Pine Timber, of certain dimensions, and at a certain price per foot, therein mentioned, and 10,000 feet of good White Oak Timber, of certain dimensions, and at a certain price per foot, therein also mentioned, to be in every respect sound and merchantable, and to be delivered at Sillery Cove on or before the 15th of June, to the said William Jackfon, or his Assigns, subject to the laws and customs made and provided for the culling of Timber at the Port of Quebec, and the said Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, did surther acknowledge and confess to have fold, assigned and turned over, unto the said William Jackfon, certain large quantities of Norway Pine Spars, and White Oak Timber, to be delivered as therein follows—viz:—100 Norway Pine Spars, of various dimensions, and at certain price, according to such dimensions, therein specified, and also 10,000 feet of good Norway Pine Timber, of certain other dimensions, and at a certain other price, therein specified, and 8000 feet of good merchantable White Oak Timber, also of certain other dimensions, and at a certain other price, therein specified, to be delivered on or before the month of June, the said Such Spars, to the said William Jackfon, or his Agent, at Three-Rivers, subject to the Laws, Usgas, Rules and Regulations, made and provided for the Culling of Timber at the faid Port of Three-Rivers—Which faid Contract is thereby declared to have been made for and in consideration of the aforesaid pr

then patt) and the Balance remaining upon the abovementioned 1 imper, after the delivery thereor. That by a certain Notarial Act, bearing date at Montreal, the 12th day of June, then laft paft, (1811) executed before Gray and Baron, Notaries Public of the fame place, the faid William Jackfon, for the caufes therein ftated, did affign, cede, and turn over, unto the faid James McCallum, the aforefaid Contract and Agreement entered into by the faid William Jackfon, of the one part, and the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, on the other part, and all and every the Timber to be delivered in purfuance thereof, and all and every the Sum or Sums of Money by him the faid William Jackfon advanced and paid to the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, and generally all and every the right, title, intereft, claim and demand, which he the faid Wil-

liam Jackfun, by reason of the abovementioned Agreement, might have or be entitled to-of all which premises the said Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, afterwards, to wit, on the 13th

That although the faid William Jackfon did, on his part, pay or caufe to be paid to the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, the Sum of £780 Currency, and upwards, on account Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, the Sum of £780 Currency, and upwards, on account and in advance of the faid Contract, and was at all times ready to pay them the remainder of the price therein mentioned, yet the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam had not delivered, or caused to be delivered, the whole or any part of the Timber and Spars as abovementioned, although the time of delivery of the fance was then past, but that, on the cootrary, they, the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, had wholly failed to deliver the same, although required

In the faid Declaration there then follow three other Counts, in indebitatus assumpsit, for Morey, paid, laid out and expended for, and lent and advanced to the Defendants by the Plaintiff, and Money had and received by the Defendants to the ule of the Plaintiff, and concluding for damages for the non-performance of the promifes and undertakings of the Defendants in that behalf, to the amount of £780 Currency.

To this Declaration the Respondents, being the Desendants below, pleaded, Firstly; a distinse an sound see fail, No. 5 in the Record;—and Secondly; a perpetual exception percomptore on droil, No. 4 in the Record;—setting forth,—that they, the fail Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, ever fince the making of the Contract or Agreement of the second day of November, 1810, in the Declaration of the fail James McCallum, in this Cause sylventy and well in fish fail the perform. Sufficiently and wealthing the perform. Sufficiently and wealthing the perform. forth, had been ready and willing to perform, fulfil and execute, and thould and would in fact have punctually and duly performed, fulfilled and executed, all and every the matters and things whatfoever therein or thereby covenanted, flipulated and agreed to be performed, fulfilled and executed, on the part or behalf of them or either of them, if the faid William Jackfon, or any catched on the part of benait of them of either of them, if the laid winnam Jackfon, or any other perfon or perfons on his behalf, antecedent to the aflignment of the faid Contract in the faid Declaration mentioned, or the faid James McCallum, or any other perfon or perfons acting in his behalf, subsequent to the faid Aflignment, had on their respective parts and behalves, performed failfilled or executed the favoral matter, and things on their respective parts and behalves. formed, fulfilled or executed, the feveral matters and things on their respective parts and behalves to be performed, fulfilled or executed, but that neither the faid William Jackson, nor the faid to be performed, fulfilled or executed, but that neither the faid William Jackfon, nor the faid James McCallum, or any perfon or perfons on the part of them, or either of them, had performed, fulfilled or executed, the feveral matters and things thereby covenanted, ftipulated and agreed to be performed, fulfilled and executed, on the part and behalf of the faid William Jackfon;—And Delano and Andrews Burnam, the Sum of £750 Current Money of Quebec, on or before the month of January next enfuing the date of the faid Contract or Agreement of the fecond day of November, 1810, but therein failed and made default, and on the contrary thereof, that a large Sim of Money, to wit, the Sum of £450 Current Money aforefaid, part and parcel of the faid laft mentioned Sum of £750, remained long after the faid laft mentioned month of January, and fill did remain due and unpaid unto them the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam—And fill did remain due and unpaid unto them the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam—And the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, by their faid perpetual exception percuptoire in droit, further allege, That the faid Sum of £450, part and parcel of the faid last mentioned Sum of £750, so remaining due to them as aforefaid, P. Lukin and William Delifie, Notaries Public duly admitted and fworn for the faid Province of Lower-Canada, at the request of the faid Andrews Burnaun, acting as well for himself as for the faid Thomas Delano, on the loth day of April, in the Year of our Lord 1811, and before the faid Affignment of the faid Contract or Agreement by the faid William Jackson, at the said City of Montreal aforesaid, speaking to the said William Jackson, did declare unto the said William Jackson the said several last mentioned premifes, and did then and there require him the faid William Jackson, to pay unto the faid Andrews Burnam and the faid Thomas Delano, the faid Sum of £450 Current Money aforesaid, so remaining due of the faid last mentioned Sum of £750, at the same time offering to grant a Receipt therefor in his own name and in the name of the faid Thomas Delano, whereupon the faid ceipt therefor in his own name and in the name of the laid Thomas Delano, whereupon the laid William Jackfon gave the faid Notaries for answer, that he could not pay it at the then present, and which said answer not being latisfactory, they the said Notaries, at the request aforesaid, did cern, First, for the Sum of \$\frac{2}{2}000\$ Penalty incurred by the said William Jackfon, as expressed Danages and Interest, suffered and to be suffered for and by reason of the Breach of Covenant on the said Contract or Agreement of the 2d day of November, 1810, and surther, for all Costs, on the part of the said William Jackfon, and of the present of the Breach of Covenant on the part of the said William Jackson, and of the premises. A Copy of which Protest in that Danages and interests, interest and to be innered for and by reason of the Biesch of Covenant on the part of the faid William Jackson, and of the premises, a Copy of which Protest in that behalf had been delivered to the faid William Jackson, that he might not pretend ignorance of the premises, As by the faid Notarial Act or Instrument of Protest in that behalf, relation being therennto had, migi : and would more fully and at large appear -And the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, by the faid perpetual exception peremptoire en droit, alleged, that the faid Sum of £450 ftill remained and was wholly due and unpaid to them the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, or either of them; by reason of which faid last mentioned premises, and of which faid beach people's and non-performance of the Covenants. Conditions. Simple them which faid breach, neglect and non-performance of the Covenants, Conditions, Stipulations and Agreements, in the said Contract of the 2d day of November, 1810, mentioned, contained and expressed on the part and behalf of the said William Jackson, previous to the said Assignment, and of the faid James McCallum, fubfequent thereto, to be performed, fulfilled and executed, it became and was impracticable for them the faid Thomas Delano and Andrews Burnam, to perform, fulfil

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irftly ; a défeuse peremptoire en so and Andrews y of November, itioned and fet id would in fact tters and things d, fulfilled and Jackson, or any Contract in the perfons acting behalves, perts and behalves n, nor the faid , had perform-ited and agreed ackfon;—And e faid Thomas er before the fecond day of f, that a large cel of the faid January, and Burnam — And eremptoire en entioned Sum otaries Public the fald Ane loth day of d Contract or eaking to the ft mentioned the faid Anaforefaid, fo grant a Repon the faid then present, forefaid, did might conas expreffed or all Cofts, of Covenant teft in that gnorance of lation being mas Delano that the faid Delano and ifes, and of lations and ntained and

nment, and

, it became form, fulfil and execute the feveral matters and things which would otherwife have been to be by them performed, fulfilled and executed, and which they would otherwife have been ready and willing to have performed, fulfilled and executed, and would in fact have well and fufficiently performed, fulfilled and executed, and they did accordingly in conflequence of fuch breach, neglect and non-performance, on the part and behalf of the faid William Jackfon and James McCallum, as is herein hefore fated and let forth, and for no other reafon whatever, from and after fuch breach, neglect and non-performance, decline and refule further to perform, fulfil and execute the faid Contract or Agreement on their parts and behalves, as it was lawful for them to do.

The Defendants also put in, Thirdly, a Declaration of Incidental Cross Demande, for the Penalty stipulated in the Contract, and Damages, but which, as the demand in chief only is appealed, it is unnecessary here further to particularize.

To the abovementioned perpetual exception peremptoire en droit, the Plaintiff fyled a General Answer, and thereupon issue was joined.

After having taken the Evidence between the Parties, which will be found on the Record, the Action was upon the hearing en droit, difinified with Cofts, and against this difinifial the Plaintiff in the Court below has brought the present Appeal.

The Reasons of Appeal, are quite general—flating merely,—Iftly. That Judgment is rendered against the Appellant, whereas it ought to have been rendered for him—2dly. That his Declaration was true and well founded, and that the Conclusions thereof ought to have been granted—3rdly. That the perpetual exception peremptoire on droit, of the Defendants in the Court below, was infufficient,—and, 4thly. That the Judgment of the Ceurt below is contrary to Law and Evidence.

To which Reasons the Respondents have fyled a General Answer.

The Meurs of the Case, as appearing from the Evidence, are as follows:

The Respondents are Lumber Dealers, dealing in the usual manner, by undertaking to bring thom Timber to Quebec or Three-Rivers, at certain prices, in consideration of advances to be previously made to them for that purpose, without which they are of course unable to do it, as they are under the necessity of paying for the Timber in the Upper Country, as well as the very contiderable Expences attending the Transportation of it down.

They had been induced, accordingly, to enter into the Contract of the 2d of November, 1810, on this confideration, and having received the £500 which is therein mentioned, as having been paid down at the time of its execution, they, on their parts, immediately entered into fuch Contracts with Mr. Biglow, of Ticonderoga, a landed Proprietor and Magistrate there, Mr. Roley, Mr. Landers, William Cook, Esqr. Mr. Taylor, Mr. Denefinore, Messirs. Jenathan and Lennel Barlow, and other persons, as were notesilary, and would have been fully sufficient to have enabled them to have completed their Contract with Jackson. All these Contracts, however, were made, as is usual, with the sipulation that they were to become void, if the pecuniary advances which they had thereby stipulated to make, were not, in fact, so made; and which could only be done with the money which Jackson was to Jurnish pursuant to the Contract of the 2d November, 1810.

It appears, that both the Refpondents, went leveral times to Montreal, between the first of January and the middle of April, for the purpose of obtaining payment of the £750 which was stipulated by the Contract, 2d Nov. 1810, to be paid in the said month of January, but without effect, and that they, in consequence, protested against Jackson, on the 15th of April, for the £2000 penalty mentioned in the Contract, to which Protest he gave for Answer, that he could not pay the money. (See N°. 8, in the Record.) It appears, also, that Jackson had, in fact, become utterly infolvent, and had been imprisoned at Montreal, and that, in consequence of the non-payment of this Money, the Respondents became unable to perform their Engagements with the several person with whom they had Contracted for the purpose of fulfilling this Contract.

That fuch of the persons with whom they had contracted, as had not already delivered the Timber, refused so to do;—that the portions which had been delivered, could not be got over the Rapids, for want of money to pay the Hands and Pilots;—that Ten or Twelve Thousand Feet of Square Norway Pine were left up the River Senze, of which a part was destroyed by fire;—and that the Respondents were not only prevented from performing this Contract by the Insulvency of Jackson, but subjected to incalculable loss and inconvenience in every respect.—(See the Evidence of Messrs, Beglow and Turrill, Hill and Casey.)

It appears that James McCallum, the Appellant in this Cause, being a Creditor of Jackson's, took an Affigument of the Contract between him and the Respondents, on the 12th June, 1811, in compensation of the Debt due to him from Jackson, [See No. 2, in the Record] and it appears that the Affigument must have been taken by McCallum with a full knowledge that the original Contract had been broken by Jackson, it being stated on the face of the Assignment itself.

Under these Circumstances, it was contended by the Desendants in the Court below, that no Action could be maintained by McCallum, the Assignee of the Contract, under any System of

Juriforudence known in this Country;—that an Assignee of such a Covenant, could not, by the Law of England, have maintained any Action at all; and that a Cessionaire of a Contract, and still less a Cessionaire de droits stiligenx, (as was the Case here at the Time of the Assignment from Jackson to McCallam) could not send in a better Situation than the original Party with whom the Contract lad been made;—and still more especially where it could not but appear to the Assignment of Cessionaire, that the Contract had, in fact, been previously broken by the very person from whom he was about to take the Assignment.

The simple facts, as appears upon the face of the whole of the Pleadings and Evidence, will be found to be as follows:-

That the Respondents, Delano and Burnam, had entered into a Contract with one Jackson, for the sale of some Lumber, part to be delivered at Quebee, and part at Three-Rivers, on condition of his paying them certain Sums of Money, at certain stated Periods: this being essentially necessary to enable them to procure it, and bring it down to those Places;—which payments Jackson had, accordingly, covenanted to make, under a penalty of £2800.

That Jackson himself failed in these Payments, and was, accord gly, Protested against and condemeure with regard to the non-payment of these Advances.

That having fo failed in the Payment of these Advances, and having been so put en demeure, and the performance of the Contract on the part of Delano and Burnam, having been thus rendered impossible by the Insolvency of Jackson, he could, of course, make nothing at all of any thing like an Action on the Contract.

That notwithftanding all these circumstances, it was conceived, afterwards, by Mr. McCallum, that he might make something of the thing in the way of speculation, by taking an Affignment of this broken Contract, (notwithstanding its being thus protested against,) and bringing an Action on it against Delano and Burnam.

Mr. McCallum, the present Appellant, is no Lawyer, and the Court below has already told him so, by stating to him, that he could not, at any rate, place himself in a better situation than that in which Mr. Jackson, from whom he had taken the Assignment, stood at the Time when the Assignment was made, and the Transport signified pursuant to the 108th Art. of the Continue de Paris,—and that as Jackson could clearly have maintained no Action at this time, neither could Mr. McCallum as Assignee of the Contract.

Mr. McCallum infifts, however, that notwithstanding all that the Rules of Law, and all that the Court of King's Bench, and all that the Counsel on both sides, may or can say, upon the Subject, the Thing is worth the Trial 1-and upon this Ground, therefore, it is submitted, in purfuance of the original Speculation, to the Honourable Court of Appeals:—this Gentleman never considering it as a prudent measure to stop in any Speculation, which may, by any possibility, become a prositable one, unless he shall find himself obliged so to do.

Quebec, 26th April, 1814.



