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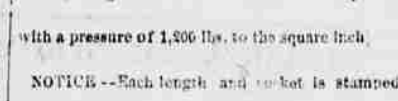
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As I write with difficulty I can only state the conclusions to which my mind has come after a careful examination of this case.

The complainant has exhibited a patent dated 25th of April, 1868. This is prima facie evidence of a good title, and puts on the respondents the burden of proof that the patent is void or worthless.

I need not repeat my remarks in the case of God year vs. Day (2 Wall, C. C. Rep. 229), but I adopt them as affording a rule of decision which applies clearly to the present case.

As the infringement of the patent is admitted, the only question will be as to the validity of complainant's patent of April 25, 1868.

I was after speculation had been reduced to practice, and after repeated experiments that the complainant succeeded in overhauling the process and ignorance of the people on the subject, and persuading the public that his invention was valid.

It is usually the case, when any valuable discovery is made, or any new machine is invented, that the inventor has been diligent in securing to that subject, previously, and that many persons have been making researches and experiments.

Philosophers and mechanicians may have in some measure anticipated in their speculations the possibility or probability of such discovery or invention; many experiments have been successfully tried, coming very near, yet falling short of the desired result.

The inventor who perfected what may be said to be the culminating point of many experiments, not only by the inventor, but by many others, may have profited indirectly by the successful experiments and failures of others, but gives them no right to claim a share of the benefit of the profit of the successful inventor.

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