

Syllabus.

of contributory negligence presented by the defendant's answer.

The testimony as to the circumstances of the continuance of the plaintiff in the employ of the iron works, after being injured, was offered only "to show the character of the work performed by the plaintiff, both before and after the accident;" and was competent evidence upon the question how far his capacity of earning a livelihood had been impaired by his injuries. *Vicksburg &c. Railroad v. Putnam*, 118 U. S. 545, 554; *Richmond & Danville Railroad v. Elliott*, 149 U. S. 266, 268.

The writ of error appears to this court to have had no plausible ground to support it, and to have been sued out merely for delay. The motion of the defendant in error is therefore granted, and the

Judgment affirmed, with interest, and ten per cent damages.

AZTEC MINING COMPANY v. RIPLEY.

ERROR TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT.

No. 870. Submitted December 18, 1893. — Decided January 3, 1894.

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has no jurisdiction in error over a judgment of the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico in a case not in admiralty, nor arising under the criminal, revenue, or patent laws of the United States, nor between aliens and citizens of the United States or between citizens of different States.

This court has jurisdiction to review decrees or judgments of the Supreme Courts of the Territories except in cases which may be taken to the Circuit Courts of Appeals, or where the matter in dispute, exclusive of costs, does not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars.

Congress intended to confer upon this court jurisdiction to pass upon the jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts of Appeals in cases involving the question of the finality of its judgment under section six of the act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 826, c. 517.

MOTION to dismiss or affirm.

Opinion of the Court.

Mr. Rufus H. Thayer for the motion.

Mr. Nathan Frank opposing.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER delivered the opinion of the court.

Judgment was recovered in the District Court for the Third Judicial District, within and for the county of Grant, in the Territory of New Mexico, on May 26, 1891, by John W. Ripley against the Aztec Mining Company for the sum of \$1657.51 damages and costs, and affirmed on error by the Supreme Court of that Territory, August 19, 1891. The mining company thereupon sued out a writ of error from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, which was dismissed for want of jurisdiction. *Aztec Mining Co. v. Ripley*, 10 U. S. App. 383. A writ of error was thereupon allowed from this court and comes before us upon a motion to dismiss or affirm.

By the fifteenth section of the Judiciary Act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 826, c. 517, the Circuit Courts of Appeals, in cases in which their judgments were made final by the act, were empowered to exercise appellate jurisdiction over the judgments, orders, or decrees of the Supreme Courts of the several Territories; but as this case was not a case in admiralty, nor a case arising under the criminal, revenue, or patent laws of the United States, nor a case between aliens and citizens of the United States, or between citizens of different States, it did not belong to either of the classes defined by section six of that act, as cases in which the judgments or decrees of the Circuit Courts of Appeals should be final, and therefore the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit properly declined to take jurisdiction.

The last paragraph of the section provides that "in all cases not hereinbefore in this section made final, there shall be of right an appeal or writ of error or review of the case by the Supreme Court of the United States, when the matter in controversy shall exceed one thousand dollars besides costs;" and as this case was not made final by that section, a writ of error

Syllabus.

would lie were it not that under section fifteen that court had no jurisdiction to review the judgment.

As, however, in any case made final, the section made it competent for this court to require, by *certiorari* or otherwise, such case to be certified for its review and determination with the same power and authority in the case as if it had been brought up by appeal or writ of error; and as the paragraph quoted gave the appeal or writ of error as of right in cases not made final, we are of opinion that it may be properly held that it was the intention of Congress that jurisdiction might be entertained by this court to pass upon the jurisdiction of that court when involving the question of the finality of its judgment under section six. We have already held that an appeal or writ of error lies to this court from or to the decrees or judgments of the Supreme Court of the Territories, except in cases susceptible of being taken to the Circuit Courts of Appeals, and cases where the matter in dispute exclusive of costs does not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars. *Shute v. Keyser*, 149 U. S. 649.

Tested by that rule this case could not have been brought to this court, and as we are clear that the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit rightly decided that it had no jurisdiction, it could not be brought to that.

Judgment affirmed.

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY v. JOHNSON.

ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS.

No. 138. Argued December 15, 1893. — Decided January 3, 1894.

A Circuit Court of the United States having appointed a receiver of a railroad in 1885, and the receiver having, during his possession of the property, used a very large amount of the net earnings in improving it, whereby it had been made much more valuable, the court, on the expiration of the receivership, ordered, on the 26th October, 1888, the receiver to transfer