

## 2 — Analysis of Rights

Legal rights are of a very varied character. An elector has a right to vote; a creditor has a right to be paid; an owner of land has a right to the unmolested enjoyment of the land; etc. Whenever the law protects a man in the enjoyment of some claim or interest it confers upon him a legal right. The withdrawal of the protection of the law destroys the legal right, though there may, of course, still subsist a right justified by the precepts of the moral law.

In order to maintain one man's legal right, the law imposes on others a corresponding legal duty. Thus, if one person has a right that something should be done, this implies that there is a duty imposed upon another or others to do this thing. A breach of such a duty is a wrong. To the breach of duty the law attaches a sanction and, by so doing, protects the holder of the right in its enjoyment.

Generally speaking, it is not difficult to say upon whom the duty corresponding to a right is imposed. It is imposed upon all persons against whom the right is available. Sometimes the right is available only against one person. Sometimes, however, the nature of the right makes it necessary to impose the duty to observe it upon all members of the community. Thus, to the right of the owner to the enjoyment of the thing owned corresponds a duty im-

posed on all persons not to interfere with such enjoyment. Any person who does so interfere commits a legal wrong..

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