

# RICH NEGRO PRESBYTERIAN LEAVES ESTATE TO CATHOLICS

*North American*  
*Cuts Relatives Off With Small Annuities and Devises Large  
Fortune to Build Church and Endow Free College for Orphans*

APR. 10, 1902

By the terms of the will of Colonel John McKee, the wealthiest negro in the country, which was read yesterday, Archbishop Patrick J. Ryan will come into possession, as trustee, of an estate valued at much more than a million.

Colonel McKee owned nearly 400 pieces of valuable real estate in Philadelphia; 4500 acres of farm land in New Jersey, and 200,000 acres of coal, mineral oil and farm land in Kentucky, West Virginia and Illinois.

He is survived by one daughter, Abbie A. Syphax, who has five children living, and by Harry McKee Minton, who is the son of a second daughter, Martha Virginia Minton. Mrs. Minton has been dead for several years.

The surviving daughter is cut off with an annuity of \$300. It is provided that after her death her children shall receive annuities of \$50 each. Harry McKee Minton is bequeathed an annuity of \$50. Upon the death of the daughter and the six grandchildren the comparatively small fund reserved to provide an income for the annuitants shall revert to the residuary estate in the hands of Archbishop Ryan.

Colonel McKee has specified that this estate shall be used for two purposes. First, to build a Catholic church, rectory and convent in McKee City, N. J., and, second, to build and maintain a charitable institution in Philadelphia for the education of both white and colored male orphans.

The executors are directed to remove the testator's body, immediately after his death, to the Catholic Cathedral, and to provide for the celebration of solemn requiem mass over his remains. He directed that a black walnut coffin should be chosen for him; that his remains should be interred in Lebanon Cemetery; that twenty-five carriages should be hired for the accommodation of mourners, and that, as soon as convenient, a vault should be built and his body placed therein under a granite monument twelve feet high.

### Burial Clause Disregarded.

Since the year 1844 Colonel McKee had been a member in good standing of the Central Presbyterian Church. Consequently the clause of his will which provided for a Catholic burial was not observed. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon in the Central Presbyterian