

THE PHILADELPHIA EVENING TELEGRAPH
(Tuesday, April 15, 1902)

McKEE HEIRS ARE READY

Heirs
Held Meeting and Engage Counsel
to Contest Will of the Negro

Millionaire.

Should the Register of Wills admit to probate the will of Colonel John McKee, it will only be after a determined resistance and hot legal battle. Heirs of the negro millionaire have secured counsel and have formulated plans to support the caveat filed on their behalf.

No less active have been the executors, and they, too, have enlisted the services of leading lawyers.

According to the regulations of the Register of Wills' office, a bond, varying from \$500 to \$5,000, must be filed. So far this has not yet been done by the caveators, and unless such security is entered before Friday next the 1899 testament will be admitted to probate.

A meeting of the relatives of Colonel McKee was held last evening at the law offices of former Judge Gorgon. Theophilus J. Minton, son-in-law of Colonel McKee and counsel for the contestants; Harry McKee Minton, a grandson, and the children of Mrs. Siphax were present. Messrs. Gordon, Alexander, and Magill have been retained as attorneys for the contestants, it is said, while John G. Johnson and A. S. L. Shields are mentioned as counsel for the executors.

According to persons interested in the estate, the first estimates of its value will not be borne out when a public appraisement is made. There is considerably less than \$4,000,000, it is claimed, and Attorney Minton declares its real total is between \$1,500,000 and \$1,750,000. He declined to discuss the will written in 1884, establishing a military school and disinheriting Colonel McKee's relatives in a manner similar to the later document.