

**The Philadelphia Tribune**  
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## **MINSTER ARRAIGNS COL. MC'KEE**

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### **Negro Millionaire Who Willed His Property to a Church and Cut Off His Relatives with Small Amounts Denounced.**

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“No self-respecting persons can become his executors, no religious body can consistently accept his gifts, when he denies a decent shelter to a child and cuts off dearest kin with a few paltry dollars. The infidel stands higher with God than such.”

This was the declaration of Rev. G. Alexander McGuire last Sunday morning in sermon at St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church, Twelfth street below Walnut. The sermon was suggested by the will of Colonel John McKee, the millionaire Negro who died in this city a few weeks ago leaving nearly all his estate to found a military academy under Roman Catholic control for Negro and white orphans, and bequeathing to his only daughter and eight grandchildren an annuity of \$300 each.

There was a large attendance at the service, and great interest because several relatives of Colonel McKee are members of St. Thomas' Church. Rev. Mr. McGuire announced his text from Timothy v. 8: “If any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.”

“From the context,” said Rev. Mr. McGuire, “it is clear that St. Paul was instructing Timothy toward the duty of children toward a widowed mother. In passing, however, he gives general direction that all Christians should provide for those dependent upon them. By this passage, St. Paul asserts the obligations that spring out of family relationship, especially the duty of supporting dependent relatives. Our religion does not make this a matter of choice, but a duty.

“You may have the greatest funeral pomp and ceremony over the dead body of such a man, to which our attention is directed: monuments of brass may be erected in his memory, blocks of buildings erected for orphans, yet if he has not provided for his own the text may well be an inscription on his tomb, ‘he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.’

“Were we governed under the Jewish or Mosaic law he could have not have given his property to outside parties. When we see such a disposition of an estate as provided for in a recently published will we might well wish that these laws were enforced.

“Not that I believe that charities, churches, and educational institutions should not be remembered. People of color are criminally negligent in this matter. Here, for instance, in St. Thomas' Church, from 1793 to 1902, nearly 109 years, how many members bequeathed it even a few dollars? Whatever you do, should you remember the parish in your will, let it be after you have performed the duty to your kin. Let charity begin at home.”