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Mother Accuses her Sons

Daughter of Colored Millionaire Sues to Recover her Property

Abbie A. P. Syphax, daughter of Colonel John McKee, a colored multi-millionaire, who died about a year ago, leaving the bulk of his estate to Catholic charities, has begun equity proceedings against her five sons in the Common Pleas Court, to procure the revocation of a deed of trust whereby she alleges they procured the transfer to them of about \$100,000 worth of property without competent consideration. The defendants are John McKee Syphax, Douglas P. Syphax, Marcellus M. Syphax, Theopolis M. Syphax and Ernest T. Syphax, all of who are residents of Washington D. C.

Negotiations between the heirs of Colonel McKee and his executors resulted in a settlement by which it is said that Mrs. Syphax received \$100,000 and Harry Minton, a grandson, \$100,000.

After reciting that she is possessed of 24 properties in different parts of this city valued at \$50,000 and real estate in Washington estimated to be worth \$25,000, Mrs. Syphax in her bill of complaint says that she visited her children in Washington in December, 1902, and at the solicitation of her five sons, executed a paper which she now seeks to have rescinded. She explains that her sons represented that it was for her own benefit that they desired her to deed the property to them, pointing out "that she was a women unused to business affairs; that they were men of experience who could protect her property; that there was a possibility and probability of complications arising as to her property so acquired from her father's estate; that they, without disturbing her fee, rights and authority in and concerning her estate, desired her for her own protection to execute to them a paper which would give them authority and right in law to protect her against any such possible or probable events; and that they represented to her that the paper in no wise interfered with her absolute ownership or control over her estate."

Mrs. Syphax then proceeds to say that she did as she was bid believing that her sons were acting out of love and affection for her and in an endeavor to protect her fortune. Since the transaction, the complainant says she has learned by executing the paper she parted with her estate, saving only a reservation that she should enjoy the income thereof during the term of her natural life.