

## NEGRO'S FORTUNE TO FOUND COLLEGE.

### Col. McKee Bequeaths \$2,000,000 Estate to Catholic Church.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10.—By the terms of the will of Col. John McKee, who died a few days ago and is said to have been the wealthiest negro in the United States, Archbishop Ryan of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will come into the possession, as Trustee, of an estate valued at upward of \$2,000,000. Col. McKee owned nearly 400 pieces of real estate in Philadelphia, 4,500 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, now dead. The surviving daughter is cut off with an annuity of \$300, and after her death her surviving children will receive annuities of \$50 each. Harry Minton is bequeathed an annuity of \$50. After the death of all the annuitants, the annuities will revert to the residuary estate in the hands of the Archbishop.

Col. McKee specified in his will that his residue 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 institution, he directs, shall be situated in the southern part of the city and shall be known as "McKee College."

It is further directed that it shall be under the control of a Board of Directors elected by a vote of the Catholic clergy of Philadelphia; that Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Spanish and French shall be taught, and that the education of the beneficiaries of his will shall conform as nearly as possible to that of the Annapolis Naval Academy. The executors are directed to negotiate with the Secretary of the Navy for the use of a battleship or cruiser on which advanced pupils may be given their final training.

Col. McKee was buried to-day, the ritual of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member up to the time of his death, being observed. The will was opened and read after the funeral, and caused much astonishment among the relatives and friends. The instrument provided that he be given a Catholic burial, and gave directions regarding the services, the coffin, the number of carriages to be used, and other details.

Some of the relatives are considering the advisability of contesting the will. The relations between the decedent and his relatives have always been pleasant. The will does not intimate anything relative to a change in his religious belief. Two Sisters of Charity were sent to nurse Col. McKee during a siege of typhoid fever which he suffered in 1896.