

There can be no doubt, therefore, that a female, at the age of eighteen years, is entitled to receive her property of her guardian, and may release and acquit him in respect thereof. But, still, it is said, her legal minority does not cease until she is twenty-one years of age, and it is very clear, I think, that for many purposes, it does not.

We are here, however, construing a will, and the question is, what did the testator intend by the term "lawful age?" Did he not mean that age at which his female grandchildren would be entitled by law to receive their estates from their guardian? My opinion is, he did so mean, and if he did, of course his intention must prevail, although for many purposes the legal minority of the legatee does not terminate until she attains the full age of twenty-one years.

The language of the will is, that the trustees shall, out of the funds provided for the purpose, pay to each of the grandchildren, born and to be born, the sum of one thousand dollars, if they live "to attain lawful age." Lawful age for what? Why lawful age to receive. That age at which, according to our legislative enactments, they are entitled to demand and receive from their guardians all their property and to give valid releases therefor. The testator must be presumed to have known the law, and that at the age of eighteen a female ward became entitled to her property from her guardian, though she remained subject to all the disabilities incident to a condition of legal minority, but those which the acts of Assembly removed. It is to be presumed the testator intended the trustees should "pay" when the legatee became entitled by law to receive, and that by express legislation is in the case of a female when she attains the age of eighteen.

The cases referred to, if any confirmation could be required, of language so explicit as the legislature has employed, conclusively show, that the legal minority of a female, so far as the capacity to receive from her guardian is concerned, ends at the age of eighteen, and that she is at that age entitled to receive her property. *Davis vs. Jacquin & Pomerait*, 5 H. & J., 100; *Bower's adm'x vs. State, use of Dryden*, 7 H. & J., 32; *Fridge vs. State, use of Kirk*, 3 G. & J., 104.