

## J. S. GITTINGS'S SON LOSES DEATH RACE

### Diplomat Hurrying From Europe as His Father, Retired Balti- more Banker, Dies.

Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, Jan. 29.—John Sterett Gittings, aged 78, retired banker, prominent clubman and former State Treasurer and member of the House of Delegates, died here today of pneumonia at his home.

John Sterett Gittings Jr., his son, is en route to America on the Leviathan, due to arrive in New York Monday. Mr. Gittings is in the diplomatic service, attached to the United States Legation at Riga. The son was informed of the serious illness of his father and boarded the Leviathan at Cherbourg in an effort to reach Baltimore before the end came.

For many years Mr. Gittings was a member of the Cincinnati society and Treasurer for the Maryland chapter of that organization for a period. He served as one of the Governors of the Maryland Club for fifteen years and was President of the Merchants Club.

For many years he was head of the old banking house of John S. Gittings & Co., founded by his father. Mr. Gittings is survived by three sons and two daughters, Henry May Gittings, John Sterett Gittings Jr. and Frederick May Gittings, Mrs. Cecil Barrett and Dorothy R. Gittings.

Those who have known and loved the old Maryland mourn with the family and the intimate friends of John S. Gittings his passing. Mr. Gittings was of our soil, a Marylander to his finger tips, and in the strength and charm of his life was shown how fine may be the fruition of that soil. How may life be used more fittingly than in division between dutiful performance of every appointed task of the dusty hours of labor and cultivation of the spirit in the serener hours of retirement? The highest and the lowest, realizing such division, may make life successful. Mr. Gittings, in his walk in the more responsible paths of our community life, seemed to have learned how to make faultless division.

He was a solid, dependable banker and business man, whose word was his bond and whose efforts were constructive. And he always kept his ear and his heart open to the call of his city and State. In various unpaid capacities he served excellently, and many years ago the State knew him as its faithful Treasurer. But the gentle things of life were always kept within his purview. He was a man of culture and his intimates understood how that culture passed from formalism and reached deeply into love of simple and beautiful things that surround us, the birds and the flowers that glorify nature. Most of us move through life unaware in any real sense of these little majesties of the fields. Mr. Gittings, with deeper wisdom, found in them perfume for all the passing days.

Dr. William H. Welch has written of him that he "left the memory of a useful citizen, an upright life, with the qualities of a true gentleman of the finest type, and that is the best legacy which a man can leave." Surely life has been worth the living if it may evoke such tribute as that from one whose years of nobility are all compact.