

Grandfather

yo
John S. Gi
(1848-1922)

GITTINGS, JOHN STERRETT, Banker, was born in the house where his father and grandfather were born, in the beautiful valley known as Long Green, in Baltimore County, about fifteen miles north of the city of Baltimore, May 27, 1798. The first owner of this estate, now known as Long Green Farm, was Thomas Gittings, the great-grandfather of John S. Gittings, its present possessor, who inherits it by regular lineal transmission. Thomas Gittings came to Maryland about the year 1684, and in 1720 obtained patents for a large tract of land in the valley, then named as Gittings's Choice. He lived and died there, devising the estate to his son James. This son was zealous and active during the Revolution, and was a member of the General Assembly of Maryland at a time when the principal citizens were selected for the public service. It next became the possession of his son, James Gittings, Jr., who married Harriet Sterrett, daughter of John and Deborah (Ridgely) Sterrett. This lady was a daughter of John Ridgely, eldest son of the original proprietor of "Hampton," in Baltimore County. Mr. Gittings passed his childhood at Long Green, and received the rudiments of his education at his mother's knee. His studies were further pursued at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania. At the age of fifteen he left college, and entered the counting-house of James A. Buchanan. At seventeen he was made Discount Clerk in the City Bank. In the spring of 1820 his father died, and he

was recalled to the country to take charge of his father's estate. In 1821 he married Miss Eleanor Addison Smith, daughter of William Rogers Smith. This lady died in 1848, leaving two children, Eleanor Addison, who married George H. Williams, a prominent member of the Maryland bar, and William S. Gittings, who died several years since, leaving a son and a daughter. In the same year of his marriage, Mr. Gittings commenced business in Baltimore as a stock-broker. In 1835 he was elected President of the Chesapeake Bank. The following year he was appointed Commissioner of the Loans for the State of Maryland, which office he filled until removed through a change in the administration of the State. He was reinstated under Democratic rule, but again removed under Republican sway. For many years he was a member of the City Council of Baltimore, during which time he was Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. He was elected by the city, and also appointed by the State, a Director in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company during the Presidency of Mr. William G. Harrison, and was Chairman of the Finance Committee, and was President of the Northern Central Railroad for two years. When the State of Maryland was divided into four judicial districts, he was elected Commissioner of Public Works. In the Democratic State Convention which nominated E. Louis Lowe for Governor, Mr. Gittings's name was presented as the choice of Baltimore County. In November, 1853, Mr. Gittings married Charlotte Carter Ritchie, daughter of the venerable and distinguished Thomas Ritchie, and granddaughter of Dr. Fouche, of Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Gittings has filled the position of President of the Chesapeake Bank, with the confidence of the public, for more than forty years.