

facings are still in perfect preservation, though a hundred years old. Its central location, long western verandas, spacious rooms, and the perpetual assurance of space and fresh air afforded by the proximity of the Park, whence comes the constant sound of waters falling in the fountains, all combine to make this house a desirable place of residence.

The earthquake of 1885 injured the building materially, and it was overhauled at considerable expense by the late Mr. Daniel Ravenel (1834-1894), son of Henry, who then lived there.

It is still owned and occupied by his family.

The mercantile house established early in this century by Mr. John Ravenel and Mr. Sam'l N. Stevens deserves mention as a part of the economic development of Charleston. It was the first house established here by members of the planter class after the Revolution. Prior to that time there had been many wealthy merchants, as Cleland, Brewton, and others. But these, even when born in the colony, acted under the influence of the English commercial spirit.

After the Revolution planting and the professions became the almost exclusive occupations of the gentry, and when Mr. John Ravenel, then a very young man, proposed to sell his patrimonial acres and become a merchant he met with strong opposition. He persevered however, and in conjunction with Mr. Sam'l N. Stevens established the firm of "Ravenel & Stevens." The name was changed to "Ravenel, Stevens & Co." when Mr. William Ravenel, the brother of Mr. John Ravenel, entered the firm; and upon the death of Mr. Stevens, to "Ravenel Bros. & Co.," Alfred F. and subsequently Frank G., the sons of Mr. John Ravenel, becoming partners also.

They did not only a large cotton business but an importing one; bringing in large quantities of woolen cloths from Rhode Island, but chiefly from England. "The business