



THE HALL AND STAIRCASE.

In 1775 the first "high ball" was served in the upper story of Fraunces' Tavern, fired from the British ship, "Asia," then in the harbor. It passed through the roof, giving rise to the oft-quoted lines of Freneau:

*"Scarce a broadside was ended till 'nother began again;
By Jove! It was nothing but 'Fire away, Flanagan!"
Some thought him saluting his Sallys and Nancys
Till he drove a round shot through the roof of Sam
Francis."*

Black Sam by his friends, a man of French extraction from the West Indies. Fraunces, who had been an innkeeper in New York since 1755, took possession in 1763, and put over his door the picture of Queen Charlotte, the young wife of George III. She, at the age of 17, was promoted to the honor of being Queen of England because of an essay she had written, addressed as a letter to Frederick the Great of Prussia, on "The Horrors of War." The tavern then was called "The Queen's Head Tavern." After some years of very prosperous business, for Fraunces was a remarkable caterer and host, Fraunces, advertising the tavern for sale, described it as follows: "The Queen's Head Tavern, near the Exchange, is three stories high, with tile and lead roof, has fourteen fireplaces, a most excellent large kitchen, fine dry cellars, with good and convenient offices, sufficient for a large family, the business mentioned above, a merchant or any other large trade. Is a corner house, very open and airy and in most complete repair, near the ferry." The roof is a gambrel, or curb roof, hipped also at the ends, another writes.

In the famous "Long Room," many of the most celebrated men of early days met and indulged in their convivialities. It was here also that the Stamp Act was discussed and seeds of liberty sown. Here was held the first meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce in April, 1768, and here that were organized the Society of St. Andrew, the New York Society, the Society for Promoting Arts and Agriculture and the New York Yacht Club. It was also a favorite resort for lawyers' dinners, and meetings of "Gentlemen of the Bar." The Long Room frequently was used for balls, lectures, charitable affairs, the meetings of the New York Society of the Cincinnati, the Governors of the New York Hospital, the General Society of Machanica and Tradesmen