

LETTER IV.

Mr. Henry Franklin to Edwin Middleton.

Washington.

DEAR EDWIN,

THE affection I feel for you is not diminished by having crossed the Atlantic; and as I have an inclination to assure you of my regard, I begin a correspondence, without fear of intruding on the province of your brother; since the country we are in abounds sufficiently in novelty and variety, to supply us both with materials for our letters.

I date this from Washington, a city formed upon a vast plan, though yet very far from being completed, and designed to be the capital of the whole empire. Before the separation of the American States from Great Britain, Philadelphia was the seat of government; but the other provinces growing jealous that Pennsylvania should enjoy this privilege, it was agreed that a federal city, subject to the laws and regulations of congress alone, should be built in an independent district, where the congress should assemble for the purpose of making laws, and managing the concerns of government.

The choice of situation was left to General Washington, at that time president; and the new city bears his name, as a testimony of the gratitude
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