

apprentice at Smyrna ; and to-day granted my request to take a copy of one, written, as they all are, in Italian, in which he communicates his ideas of this federal domain, or city, as it is called, *propter dignitatem*, I suppose, together with a narrative of the mishaps that lately befel him in the sylvan suburbs of Washington. As you will have received before this the letter* containing my views of this singular capital, I shall present my fellow traveller's without comment ; observing only, that I have no other reason for believing his narrative to be fabulous, (as it is all very possible,) than that with the fancy and vivacity of an ancient Greek, and all a traveller's prejudices, he does not unite a Turk's deliberation ; but notwithstanding a total ignorance of mankind, and indeed of every thing, except half a dozen different languages that seem to be equally familiar to him, he commonly marches straight forward on his conclusions, and seizes them by storm, without the least regard to the ordinary process of getting to them by a course of reasoning. The truth is, that the foundations of this federal city have not been laid under prosperous auspices ; and it is the only part of the United States of America I have ever seen on the decline. Commenced on a huge, unwieldy scale, in a district occupied by slave-holders, without the habits of industry or the spring of commerce, instead of rising like Carthage, *instans operi, regnisque futuris*, the enormous joints fall asunder before they can be well knit together ; and the symptoms of premature dilapidation.

* This letter must have miscarried or been suppressed, as it does not appear.....E.