

after a voyage of forty hours, is pleasantly situated upon a hill of these marly strata, 50 feet or more above the level of the river. The streets are well laid out, at right angles to each other, as in most American towns, but as the roadway is neither paved nor macadamized, and the weather happened to be wet when I was there, it was a perfect quagmire, through which beasts of every kind struggled as they could.

The Capitol is well situated on an eminence, and, as the Legislature was sitting, I went to have a look at them.

I entered a large circular chamber, below a dome, where a number of members were sitting at desks with pens, ink, and paper before them. These desks are arranged in circular lines, as seats in a theatre are, the "Chair" occupying the spot that in the theatre would be the centre front of the stage. This form appears to be general in the American Houses of Legislature, and naturally so, for it is well known that this is the form of building which enables the greatest numbers of persons to hear, and to be heard with ease. Strange to say, the example has not been followed in England, though, at the time of rebuilding the new Houses of Parliament, an opportunity was afforded of making a change in the shape of the chambers.

From the Capitol the view extends over a thick forest as far as the eye can reach. The State of Alabama is but thinly inhabited, the number of inhabitants to a square mile not being above fifteen, by the last Census of 1850.

The beds of red and variegated marl here are said to belong to the eocene formation.