

Some two or three members command attention, others talk on as long as they please; the members being occupied in writing letters, and in reading or folding up newspapers. Spitting-boxes are placed at the feet of each member; and, contrary to the practice of the upper house, at once members and visitors wear their hats.

The post-office is a large brick building, situated at about equal distances from the president's house and the Capitol. Under the same roof is the Patent-office, and also the National Library, for the use of members of congress: in the first of these departments I witnessed upwards of nine hundred specimens of native mechanical genius. The library is small, consisting but of three thousand volumes; but it is select and well chosen.

The house designed for the president is a handsome stone edifice, in which the principal apartment is of an oval form. Between this building and the Capitol is erected a large hotel, which is of brick, ornamented with stone. Two fine malls, intended to be embellished by a variety of elegant buildings, run from the Capitol to the president's house, till they meet on the banks of the river, where they terminate. Places are marked out for many more noble, useful public buildings, but few of them are begun. There is to be a marine hospital, a general exchange, a city hall, churches, colleges, market-houses, theatres, public walks, and gardens. Two streams, Reedy Branch and the Tiber,