

indeed handsome, but so distant from each other, that they look more like country houses than those in the principal street of a city destined to be the metropolis of an extensive empire.

The Potowmac, some miles below its entrance, ceases to be navigable. The states of Maryland and Virginia, in proportion to the advantages derived from the Federal City, have undertaken the formation of a canal, by means of which ships will avoid those chains of rocks that render it impassable. The Federal City does not contain above 8000 persons, and they have been less active in building than in most other maritime parts of the United States.

The place opposite to the palace of the Congress would be, if completed, one of the finest in the world. In the centre of this place, which is called the capitol, the statue of Washington was designed to be erected, concerning which so many debates arose in the Congress. But the memory of this truly great man has been well preserved by his numerous friends, who in all the towns of the United States have generously subscribed towards leaving to posterity a monument of their love and esteem for a citizen, whose equal the United States perhaps will never produce. I shall not delay the time in composing his elegy; it is engraven in indelible characters on the hearts of all honest people, who know with what prudence, what courage, and, above all, with what impartiality he served his country.

Georgetown, situated beyond the territory of the Congress, was before the establishment of the Federal City, from which it is only divided by a creek, a very commercial place. It is pleasantly situated on the eastern branch of the Potowmac. Its harbour is good, and capable of receiving merchantmen of all burthens. Its population does not exceed two thousand.

The debate which has so long occupied the attention of the Congress, and which continued during my residence in the Federal City, attracted the attention of every person in the United States. The federalists, strongly attached to the letter of the constitution, maintained that they could not repeal the act of the preceding Congress, which, by virtue of its right, had appointed a supreme tribunal to examine the acts of the different powers against the safety of the republic, and the respect due to its laws. The democrats, on the other hand, affirmed, that the tribunal was only calculated to produce troubles; that its suppression was not contrary to the constitution. Both parties argued with that enthusiasm which party spirit never fails to inspire. The partizans of democracy, like those in France, are generally men turbulent through their speculations, and unwilling to bear any superiority, even of the laws. They are particularly inhabitants of the Southern States, who, being accustomed from their infancy to