

the springs of vegetable life when they have once been cut off. Among these I often paused to contemplate the grand aspect of the capitol from a distance, which is visible from a thousand points around. The enormous tolls paid on the road to Alexandria show the inconveniences arising to travellers out of a thin population. Roads and bridges are erected at greater expense, and contributions for their support are divided among a few instead of multitudes. The reconstruction of the long bridge over the Potomac, as I ought to have mentioned, has been undertaken: but it seems to me a discouraging task, especially since the steamboats carry so large a part of the travellers on the route to Alexandria.

Alexandria is a large town, with spacious stores near the water, and in the upper part several streets of handsome and even elegant houses. The view of the city and its environs, from an eminence beyond it, was such as to show its extent and principal edifices, yet not to exhibit any thing of its harbour or the general plan of the streets. After this I had nothing like an extensive or a pleasing view during the rest of my ride, as the season was not far enough advanced to give the woods all their beauty, the late rains had rendered the road very wet, and the habitations of men were few and poor.

At length I entered the Mount Vernon estate; and there was some feeling excited by the thought of the cavalcades and personages that had passed through the same gate. I was also reminded of visits I had made to Roman villas, and the deserted avenues to ancient cities; and my impressions were in some respects similar, though in others very different from any thing I had ever experienced before. The solitude was as profound as that of any deserted region of Italy; the habitations of men, at many parts of the road, seemed as distant; and nature appeared almost as much left to herself. But who can describe the difference between the character of Washington and that of the ancient warriors, whose memory we associate with the scenes they visited? Though our education teaches us far too much to admire them, plain sense as well as Christianity leads us to

despis
will o
just e
heart
antiqu
junction
exert
The
times
reache
nearer
dwelling
offered
on to
Two r
from t
what
have a
sloping
the pre
broad
have b
of land
The
moved
brow o
yard en
which
may g
scription
alone i
I appro
and ho
define
hours i
bitter.
and his
or who
he may