

advantageous for the admission of ships of all sizes, at all seasons. This bay extends two hundred and eighty miles up the country. It receives a great number of rivers; among which are the Potowmac and the Susquehanna: of these I shall speak hereafter.

Most of the inhabitants are Presbyterians. The Quakers are not so numerous as at Philadelphia. The court of justice, the custom-house, and the guildhall, are fine and well preserved edifices. As at Philadelphia, there are an hospital and poor-house, prison, theatre, and a bank, which was not completed on my departure. The principal commercial houses in Baltimore are Scotch. This active, enterprising, economical, and industrious people, carry with them the love of labour and the arts. Strangers are received here with a politeness uncommon in the United States.

Having remained eight days at Baltimore, I set out for the Federal City, at which I arrived the same day. The lands are of an inferior quality, and the villages on the road are so inconsiderable that there is no necessity of even mentioning their names.

Agreeable to the report of the surveyors, who were appointed by the Congress to examine what position offered most advantages for the erection of a city, it was determined, in 1790, to build it on the river Potowmac, which divides Maryland from Virginia. The act of the Congress which had authorised the establishment of the Federal City, had also voted considerable sums for the erection of the different buildings. The palace of the Congress was begun on a most magnificent plan; but the expences required were so large, that it remains unfinished. That of the president, as well as those of the different chiefs of the government, were to be completed against the first of January 1800, at which time the assembly of the Congress was to be held for the first time in the Federal City.

It would require a volume to relate the extravagant speculations to which this new establishment has given rise. The richest individuals, imagining that people would flock to it from all parts, bought the lands at a high price, in hopes of selling them again at a still higher, or of building houses to let; but how have they been deceived! The Federal City, built on a too extensive plan, will not for many years yield any recompence to speculators.

The Potowmac falls into the bay of Chesapeake. The harbour formed by it is good, and ships of all sizes can navigate it at all seasons. The plan of the city would have been superb, if it could have been executed; but every thing indicates that many ages will elapse before this point can be attained. The palace of the Congress has at present only one wing built, and it appears they do not intend to complete it. That of the president, which is distant above a mile, is finished; but the elegant street which communicates from one to the other, contains only a few houses,