

Entering the building, the rotunda, ninety-six feet in diameter, forms the great central hall, and is ornamented with a number of works of art in painting and statuary, as are also the wide corridors leading to the wings, right and left, in which are the halls of the Senate and of the House of Representatives. These halls are covered with glass ceilings, lightly colored, above which are placed a great number of jets of gas, that diffuse through the halls and galleries a soft and uniform and very agreeable light. Among the works of art, the representation in fresco on the walls of the stair hall leading to the gallery of the House of Representatives, of the backwoods life and progress of the emigrant, is worthy of special notice.

February 20th.

I had intended to have made "a few remarks" on the men and acts of Congress, now so active and exciting; but I find the men and acts vexed and uncertain, and have decided to consult my ease and reputation by letting them alone. I heartily wish the nation "better times," and close these Notes.