

stantinople, or any other city I ever saw or heard of, Washington is not built compact or in streets, but, as an image of the federal dominion, lies scattered over a wilderness, yet in a great measure unreclaimed from a state of nature. The parks and pleasure grounds, attached to the mansions of the principal officers of government, are so extensive, that though I have been very industrious, I have not yet been able to see much of the town; detached portions of which, I understand, are situated a few miles off, in different directions from where I lodge. Within sight of my window, there is a large castle, with a flag flying from the top, in which two hundred congress-men, as they are called, are confined, like muedhdkins in the minaret of a mosque, preaching day and night for the salvation of the people. Attached to the president's palace, as there is to the sultan's, there is a garden stretching all the way to the water's edge. But I believe he has no harem, and but one wife; what his religion is, I have not yet discovered. Whatever I learn hereafter, I shall take care to let you know. At present, every thing appears to me to be on a great scale. The barber, who shaves me of a morning, comes on horseback with his razors; and the physician, whom I sent for in haste to examine my wounds, lives five miles from my lodgings.

But alas! at the thought of a physician my bones ache anew; and my heart sinks at the recollection of my miraculous escapes. As the story of my adventures will sufficiently exhibit this American Palmyra, I proceed to lay them before you, that you may de-