

It will be perceived that the senate is in every respect the most important assembly known to the federal constitution, combining, as they do, legislative, executive, and judicial functions. The feelings and interests of every state are here equally concentrated; and from this body alone is derived the salvation of the country in all cases of emergency.

The executive branch of the government is subdivided into the following departments, viz.

Department of State,  
Department of the Treasury,  
Post-Office Department,

Department of War,  
Department of the Navy,  
Attorney-General,

the heads of which are styled secretaries; they are ineligible to a seat in either house of the national representation, but sit as a privy council for advice to the president in all matters with which he is officially charged. The three grand divisions of government enact and carry into effect all laws of a general nature, and superintend the welfare of the whole nation, but refer to local or state assemblies the power of governing themselves agreeably to the wishes of the people, and in their own particular mode; hence it is that no two of the states are governed alike, or subject to the same code of laws. The national statute has only made it imperative on the different members of the union to aid and assist each other in prosecuting to justice all delinquents or violators either of the state or federal constitutions.

The congress of the United States has the exclusive privilege of levying duties on imports, regulating commerce, and of declaring war; and the states are bound by the federal compact to sustain the national executive in the discharge of all such official obligations.

That any bill introduced into either the senate or house of representatives, become a law, it is necessary that the same be passed by a majority of both houses upon its third reading, and receive the signature of the president of the United States; or if he object thereto, two-thirds of the senate and of the house of representatives agreeing, it is the law of the land to all intents and purposes, the objections of the president to the contrary notwithstanding, and he is constitutionally bound to see that it be duly enforced.

The power of conducting all treaties is confided to the president, and the power of ratifying the same is held exclusively by the senate in its executive capacity.

The senate, in the discharge of their judicial functions, sit as often as circumstances may require, as the only high court for the trial of federal officers impeached by the lower house for official malversation; and the prosecution, under such circumstances, must be conducted by a committee from the house who has laid the information.

The district of Columbia—which has been appropriated exclusively to the uses and purposes of the general government—contains three cities: viz., Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. In the former city are located the capitol of the nation—the president's house, and all other public buildings rendered necessary at the seat of government. The capitol is built after the plan of St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome. The president's house is large and magnificently furnished, and has much the appearance of Goldsmith's Hall, London. White marble being found in the greatest profusion in many parts of the United States, all public and many private buildings are built of that beautiful and splendid material. The district of Columbia is only a place of importance during the sessions of congress; its population is little short of fifty thousand.

The constitution of the country declares that no particular religious belief or denomination of Christians shall be tolerated by government to the exclusion of others, holding as sound doctrine, that as man is by nature free and independent, it would be an abridgment of his liberties were he required to worship his God otherwise than according to the dictates of his own conscience. Under such wise and humane constitutional provisions, it will be readily assumed as a fact, that the various sects of professing christians to be found throughout the world flourish in this country in proportion to the measure of their good deeds