

foot is a bronze bust by Vincenti of the Chippewa Chief, Beeshekee, the Buffalo. On the walls above the landing is the popular picture known as "Westward the Course of Empire takes its Way." It is the work of the genial German-born artist, Emanuel Leutze, an historical painter of some distinction, and its title is a quotation from Bishop Berkeley. The scene is a panorama, impossible in extent, of western country. In the foreground are depicted the struggles and privations of an early wagon-train crossing a pass in the Rocky Mountains. Beyond are spouting geysers, grand cañons and the El Dorado, stretching like a mirage of hope before the eyes of the weary travelers. The view is truly an inspiring one.

In the fanciful border to the right, the artist has placed a portrait of Daniel Boone and, beneath it, the appropriate quotation from Jonathan M. Sewall's *Epilogue to Cato*:

"The spirit moves with its allotted spaces,
The mind is narrowed in a narrow sphere."

The corresponding portrait, worked into the border upon the left, is that of Captain William Clarke, whose pioneer story is so fascinatingly told by Washington Irving. Its quotation also is from Sewall:

"No pent-up Utica contracts our powers,
But the whole boundless continent is ours."

In the long narrow border beneath is seen the Golden Gate, the entrance to the harbor of San Francisco.

We owe the picture in great part to General Meigs, who took the responsibility of contracting for it with the artist and who, for his pains, received at the time much criticism on the score of extravagance. A sharp controversy regarding his accounts also arose with the Auditor of the Treasury. It seems that there was some discrepancy in dates owing to the fact that, in disregard of the letter of the law, money had been advanced to the artist to enable him to visit the frontier for the purpose of studying its scenes and making his sketches from life. The great popularity of the picture, however, compensates for the unkind reflections upon General Meigs, as it does also for its technical imperfections and totally impossible ensemble.

The work is what is known as stereochromy, a process of wall painting brought to perfection by Kaulbach and others. The immediate basis is a thin layer of cement composed of powdered marble, dolomite, quartz and air-worn quicklime. Upon this the colors, mixed with water, are applied. They adhere but loosely; and the artist, unlike in fresco, may work at leisure, and correct mistakes or hide blemishes at will. The colors are then fixed by applying a spray of water-glass solution, which, after a few days, gives to the



WESTWARD THE COURSE OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY.

surface hardness, transparency and a peculiar brilliancy of effect. The painting finally is washed with alcohol to remove the eliminated alkali and dust. This style of decoration is practically proof against atmospheric influences. Leutze is said to have studied the mechanism of the method under Kaulbach.

The dullness in color is due to the partial failure of the artist properly to execute the method selected. The colors have so sunk into the wall as to lose the desired luster and leave a lifeless effect which materially detracts from the picture. Then, too, some of its best points are lost because the painting cannot be viewed from the proper distance. The contract for this work was executed in July, 1861. The artist worked rapidly and earnestly without regard to the great war that was then raging about the capital. The picture was completed in the autumn of 1862. The artist received \$20,000.

Portrait of Marshall.—On the wall above the upper landing of this staircase is a full-length painting of John Marshall, the fourth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, copied from the original by William D. Washington, a pupil of Leutze of Düsseldorf. Washington was a native of Fauquier County, Virginia, the county of Marshall, and the original of this picture was executed in the city of Washington under the immediate supervision and criticism of Leutze. It was a commission from the county of Fauquier, and now hangs in the County Court room over the judge's seat. It is regarded by the descendants of Marshall as the best likeness of him extant. The present copy was painted pursuant to an order of the Joint Committee on the Library in 1880 by Richard N. Brooke, the well-known Washington artist, who, like Marshall and Washington, is a native of Fauquier County. It is a literal reproduction both in details and technique of the original. W. D. Washington was a favorite of W. W. Corcoran, who founded for his benefit the chair of fine arts in the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, a position which, upon the death of Washington, was filled by the appointment of Brooke.

Chamber of the House of Representatives.—From any one of the galleries, the hall occupied by the Representatives appears, as it is, considerably larger than the Senate Chamber. It is 139 feet in length, 93 feet in width and 36 feet in height. The medallions of stained glass in the center of each square of the ceiling represent the coats-of-arms of the various States and Territories which comprise the Union. Beneath the galleries, but opening directly off the hall, are rooms known as the Republican and Democratic cloak rooms, where the Members of the House and its employes receive the attention of barbers and hang up their political hats. Unlike in the tonsorial parlors of the Senate, its patrons are compelled to pay for shaving.

The first House of Representatives consisted of 65 Members. Under the apportionment act of February 7, 1891, the number of Representatives from

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States already in the Union was limited to 356, and since that time, in 1896, Utah has been admitted. This makes the number at present 357, besides the Delegates, one from each of the Territories, Arizona, Oklahoma and New Mexico, who, however, have no vote. Had the body been left to increase in numbers under the census of 1900, as it did under the census of 1890, the chamber would prove inadequate to the accommodation of the House.

Each new House is called to order by the Clerk of the preceding House. One of the Representatives is elected Speaker, and sworn into office by the oldest Member, or "Father of the House." The Speaker then administers the oath to the various Representatives, and the House is an organized body and ready for business. The Speaker receives \$8,000 a year salary, and the Members each \$5,000—together with mileage from their homes to the capital, and \$125 for stationery each Congress. A like compensation is provided for Senators. In 1873, Congress increased the salaries to \$7,500 and made the law relate to the full Congress just expiring; but this law was almost immediately repealed by the incoming Congress under the popular clamor against "salary grabbers."

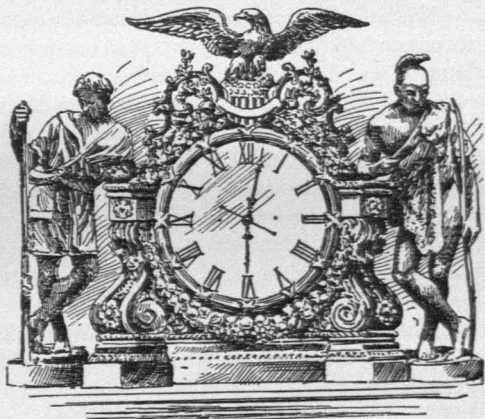
The Speaker, who presides over the body, occupies the rostrum in the center of the south side of the room. The steps leading to this were formerly crowded with pages, whom the Members summoned by clapping their hands; but, at the beginning of the Fifty-fourth Congress, benches for these floor-messengers were provided in the east and west cloak-rooms, and electric buttons attached to each of the desks. The Clerk of the House, the two reading clerks and the tally and journal clerks occupy the marble desk in front of the Speaker, while the one below is assigned to the official stenographers, whose duties in taking and preparing its proceedings for the *Record* are similar to those of the stenographers in the Senate. On the Speaker's right sits the Sergeant-at-Arms; on his left, the Doorkeeper.

The center aisle of the hall is customarily the dividing line between the two great parties, the Democrats sitting upon the Speaker's right and the Republicans upon his left. In the present crowded condition of the House, many of the Republicans are forced to sit upon the Democratic side in a row of seats which has become known as the "Cherokee Strip, or No Man's Land." From this center aisle one of the private secretaries to the President announces the Messages of the Executive, and the Secretary of the Senate any communication which that honorable body may desire to send to the House. When a division is called, the tellers, appointed by the Speaker to count the votes, stand where this aisle broadens into the semi-circular space before the desk of the presiding officer, while the Members pass between them. At this bar, Congressmen are arraigned for non-attendance upon a "call" of the House. Here also are brought those in contempt of the House, prominent among whom has been Hallet Kilbourn, a private citizen,

arrested for refusing to answer questions propounded by a committee in regard to a certain real estate "pool" in Washington.

Galleries.—The galleries have a seating capacity for 1,100 persons. They are open to the public at any time when the House is in session, with the exception of those which are reserved for the press, the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps, and for the families and friends of Members. The central southern gallery, over the Speaker's chair, is the press gallery, where the correspondents of the newspapers or news exchanges of this country and Europe which are represented at the Capitol view and make notes of the proceedings of the House. Behind it, ample means are provided to send by telegraph or telephone dispatches to all parts of the world.

Clock.—Directly opposite the press gallery, over the main entrance to the chamber, is a bronze clock which has marked the dying hours of many sessions. Its hands have often been conveniently turned back to prolong a Congress until the business of the House could be finished. The figures are those of a pioneer and an Indian. Surmounting it is an eagle for which the government paid Archer, Warner, Miskey & Co. \$150.



Furniture.—On February 13, 1807, in discussing in the House an appropriation of \$20,000 for the furnishing of their new chamber, where is now Statuary Hall, Mr. Jackson made the objection that, if approved, "the superintendent would think himself obliged to procure gilded chairs and plated tables." Even if the tables were small, he said, "there would be so much the more room. As the present furniture was good for nothing else, it must, unless used by the House, be put into a bonfire"; and he was against the destruction of so much property. Much laughter was caused by Mr. Masters declaring that they had "been told, formerly, that twenty thousand dollars was enough for all the fortifications in the United States." Mr. Lewis seemed to have no fears of waste, as the money was to be expended under the direction of the President, and everyone knew Jefferson's principles of economy. He added that, though he might never again be a Member, yet "if he did he should, he believed, be as willing to sit on a stool as other gentlemen. But

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the present furniture would not suit the new chamber in the south wing." This proved to be correct, for when the House moved and the desks were taken from the chamber where it had been sitting, Latrobe says: "It was found utterly impracticable either to place the desks on the new platforms, or to accommodate the platforms to the desks, without destroying all convenience within the House." \$2,164.66 out of the \$17,000 which had finally been appropriated for fitting up the new hall were therefore expended in purchasing new and better desks. Similar desks were adopted after the restoration.

When the House first moved into its present chamber, the Members were accommodated with handsomely carved oaken desks and chairs. These were later removed; and for one session, benches similar to those in the House of Commons were used, with desks for writing in the corners of the room. These were quite inadequate, however, to the Members' spirit of independence and desire for elbow-room. Upon the removal of the benches, the former desks were replaced, but were later succeeded by the present school-boy desks. Some of the old benches are still to be seen in the Supreme Court chamber, where they are used for the accommodation of visitors. Of late years, a new moquette carpet has been laid upon the floor before the assembling of each new Congress.

Paintings.—One day, a boy was working in a blacksmith's shop near Kingston, New York. Up rode a horseman whose horse had cast a shoe. His attention was caught by a rough charcoal sketch upon a neighboring barn door. "Who drew that?" asked the horseman. "I did it," said the lad. "Put a clean shirt in your pocket, come to New York, and call upon me," said the stranger. Some weeks later, the gentleman was breakfasting at his home, "Richmond Hill." A parcel was handed him. It contained a coarse shirt, and attached to it was his address in his own handwriting. He welcomed the blacksmith's apprentice into his family, and helped him to an education in the arts. Some years later, the horseman was an exile in France—"a man without a country." The lad was famous. He did not forget his benefactor. The horseman was Aaron Burr; the lad, John Vanderlyn.

The full-length painting of **Washington** to the left of the Speaker's chair is by this artist. The tradition is that, when the picture of Lafayette was presented to the government and placed on one side of the Speaker's chair in the old hall, the necessity for one upon the opposite side to balance it was apparent. Vanderlyn was accordingly commissioned to paint a picture of Washington as a companion-piece; and he painted this, with slight alterations, from the painting by Gilbert Stuart, his former master, on the walls of the White House. The likelihood of this story seems to be borne out by a careful comparison of the present painting with that on the walls of the Executive Mansion.

The corresponding picture to the right of the Speaker is of **Lafayette**, from the brush of Ary Scheffer, the great Dutch painter, who was a personal friend and political supporter of the Frenchman. It was executed at the order of Lafayette himself, who brought it to this country in 1824, upon his second visit to the United States, and presented it to Congress.

The **California landscape** upon the extreme left is by Albert Bierstadt. Many think it represents what might be styled the natal day of the Upper California mission. In 1601, Viscaino, the explorer, visited that coast. "We have already observed," writes Torquemada, "that on the 16th of December the squadron put into this port which was called Monte-rey, in honour of the count de Monte-rey, viceroy of New Spain; by whom they had been sent on this discovery, pursuant to his Majesty's orders. The next day the general directed preparations to be made, that the fathers Andrew de la Assumpcion and Antonio de la Ascencion, might say mass during their stay there. The church was erected under a large oak close to the sea side, and within twenty paces of it were some wells affording plenty of excellent water." Others, however, ably contend that Bierstadt intended here to celebrate with his brush the spot where Spanish tradition says Junipero Serra, the "Father of California," surrounded by his disciples, first said mass at Monterey in 1769, under an oak on the shores of the beautiful bay. If we were to ask the artist himself as to his meaning, he would, no doubt, evade the question, as the poet Browning cleverly evaded a similar inquiry: "Ask the Browning Societies. They know." The artist demanded \$40,000 apiece for two paintings for the Hall of Representatives. He received \$10,000 each for this and the one on the right of the Speaker's chair.

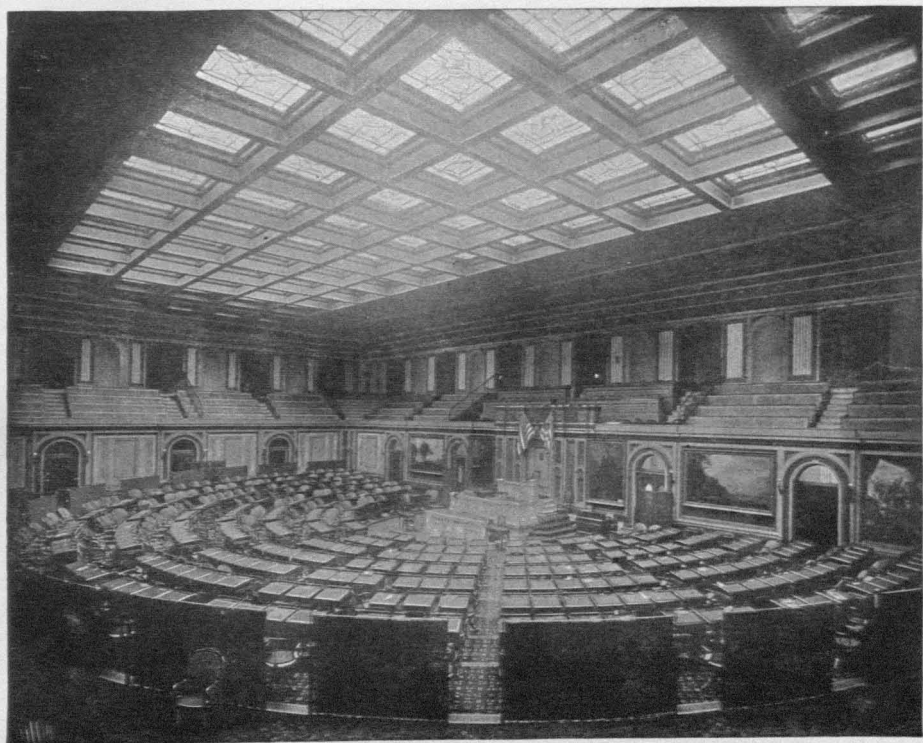
The painting to the right, purchased in 1875, has for its theme the **Discovery of the Hudson** by Hendrik Hudson, an Englishman then in the employ of the Dutch East India Company. Bierstadt is an intellectual rather than an emotional painter. There is little play of fancy in his work. In his landscapes he follows the Düsseldorf school. "Having received a Government Commission," writes Tuckerman, "Bierstadt sailed for Europe, in June, 1867, to make some studies for a picture of the discovery of the North River by Henry Hudson,—a subject admirably adapted to his pencil, and to national historical landscape. It was because of his conviction that the patient and faithful study of Nature is the only adequate school of landscape art that Bierstadt, like Cole and Church, fixed his abode on the banks of the Hudson. His spacious studio, but recently erected, commands a beautiful and extensive view of the noble river, in the immediate vicinity of the Tappan Zee and the Palisades. Wandering through the fields there, one summer day, we looked back from the brow of a hill upon one of those magnificent yet unusual sunsets, no where beheld so often as on this Western continent; a friend at our side remarked: 'If it were possible to transfer these brilliant

hues and this wonderful cloud-picture to canvas—how few would regard the work as a genuine reflex of a sublime natural effect!’ Just at that moment, in turning the angle of an orchard, we came in sight of Bierstadt, seated on a camp-stool, rapidly and with skilful eagerness depicting the marvelous sunset, as a study for future use; and the incident was but another evidence of the wisdom and fidelity of his method in seeking both his subjects and inspiration directly from Nature.”

The picture on the extreme right represents a scene at the **headquarters of Washington** at Yorktown on October 17, 1781. The American general is represented standing, in the act of receiving a letter which has come through the lines under a flag of truce. Lord Cornwallis sues for cessation of hostilities for twenty-four hours that commissioners may be appointed to settle upon terms of surrender. Washington, however, seeing in this a mere subterfuge to await the arrival of a fleet expected at any moment with reënforcements from New York commanded by Sir James Clinton, grants Cornwallis but two hours, stipulating that, at the end of that time, he must transmit definite proposals in writing. Thus baffled in his designs, the British commander complied with Washington’s demands. The final surrender took place on the 19th; and not until that day did Clinton sail from New York. When, on the 24th, he arrived and learned of the surrender, he returned immediately to the north.

This work is in fresco. The painter, piqued at the bitter attacks made upon the foreign artists, contrary to his usual custom, for he did not often sign his work, wrote boldly in the right-hand lower corner, “C. Brumidi, Artist, Citizen of the U. S.,” as if to emphasize his citizenship and patriotism. The painting thus signed is one of those least worthy of his name.

Maiden Speech of the Chamber.—“The 16th of December, 1857,” writes S. S. Cox, in his *Three Decades of Federal Legislation*, “is memorable in the annals of Congress. Looking back to that day, the writer can see the members of the House of Representatives take up the line of march out of the old shadowy and murmurous chamber, into the new hall with its ornate and gilded interior. The scene is intense in a rare dramatic quality. Above shine in vary-colored lights, the escutcheons of thirty States; around sit the members upon richly carved oaken chairs. Already arrayed upon either side are the sections in mutual animosity. The Republicans take the left of the Speaker, the Democrats the right. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, a full roseate-faced gentleman of large build and ringing metallic voice is in the chair. James C. Allen, of Illinois, sits below him in the Clerk’s desk. The Rev. Mr. Carothers offers an appropriate and inspiring prayer. He asks the Divine favor upon those in authority; and then, with trembling tones, he implores that the hall just dedicated as the place wherein the political and constitutional rights of our countrymen shall ever be maintained and



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defended, may be a temple of honor and glory to this land. 'May the deliberations therein make our nation the praise of the whole earth, for Christ's sake.' A solemn hush succeeds this invocation. The routine of journal reading; a reference of the Agricultural College bill, upon the request of the then-member, now Senator, from Vermont, Justin L. Morrill; and the presentation of a communication regarding the chaplaincy from the clergy of Washington; are followed by the drawing of seats for the members, who retire to the open space in the hall. A page with bandaged eyes makes the award, and one by one the members are seated. Then, by the courtesy of the chairman of the Printing Committee, Mr. Smith of Tennessee, a young member from Ohio is allowed to take the floor. He addresses the Speaker with timidity and modesty, amid many interruptions by Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, Mr. Boccock, of Virginia, Judge Hughes, of Indiana, George W.

Jones, of Tennessee, and General Whitman, of Mississippi, each of whom bristles with points of order against the points of the orator. But that young member is soon observed by a quiet House. Many listen to him—perhaps to judge of the acoustic property of the hall, some because of the nature of the debate; and then, after a few minutes, all become excited! Again and again the shrill and high tones of Mr. Speaker Orr are heard above the uproar. He exclaims: ‘This is a motion to print *extra* copies of the President’s Message. Debate on the subject of the message is, therefore, in order—upon which the gentleman from Ohio has the floor!’ That gentleman is now the writer. His theme was the Lecompton Constitution. As the questions discussed involved the great issues leading to war or peace, his interest in the *mise-en-scene* became less; but his maiden speech—the maiden speech in the new chamber—began under influences anything but composing.”

Notable Events.—As this chamber is occupied by the Representatives, in it originate, according to the Constitution, all bills for raising revenue and, by custom, most bills appropriating money out of the Treasury of the United States. Eulogies are held here in honor of Senators and Representatives who die while in Congress; the proceedings are not only printed in the *Record*, but for distribution.

The memorial address on the life and character of **Abraham Lincoln** was delivered by George Bancroft in the chamber of the House on the 12th of February, 1866, at the request of both Houses of Congress. The assemblage, both official and civil, as well as the historian-orator, was an honor to the nation’s greatest dead. The Marine Band occupied the ante-room behind the reporters’ gallery, and discoursed appropriate music.

On Tuesday evening, April 16, 1872, a large number of distinguished people assembled here to do the last honor to the scientist, **Samuel Finley Breese Morse, LL.D.** The memorial services were conducted under the direction of the National Telegraph Memorial Monument Association and of a committee appointed by the House. His portrait, painted by Bendan of Baltimore, framed in black and wreathed with evergreens, looked down from the parapet of the gallery facing the Speaker. On it were the words: “What hath God wrought!” Immediately behind was the Marine Band. The “Choral Society” were upon the floor in front. On the Speaker’s right sat Vice-President Colfax. President Grant and his Cabinet, several members of the deceased’s family and the Supreme Court of the United States and of the District of Columbia occupied the front row of seats before the Speaker. At the Clerk’s desk, telegraphic instruments ticked ceaselessly another and yet more vivid tribute to the mute but ever-living dead. James A. Garfield and S. S. Cox were among those who addressed the reverent throng. After the prayer, Mr. Speaker Blaine opened the ceremonies with the words: “Less than thirty years ago a man of genius and learning was an earnest petitioner

before Congress for the small pecuniary aid that enabled him to test certain occult theories of science which he had laboriously evolved. To-night the Representatives of forty millions of people assemble in their legislative hall to do homage and honor to the name of Morse."

Seven years later, at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, January 16th; the Senate and House assembled in the same chamber to perform a similar mournful duty in honor of another scientist dead. Samuel J. Randall, as Speaker, called the body to order, and then presented the gavel to Vice-President Wheeler, who was to preside with his support. President Hayes with members of his Cabinet occupied the front seats to the right, the Chief Justice and associate justices corresponding seats to the left. To more fully bespeak the honor thus conferred upon the memory of **Joseph Henry**, late Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, we have but to remember that William T. Sherman, James A. Garfield, S. S. Cox and Asa Gray, the botanist, added to the occasion the tribute of their words. The eulogium of Hannibal Hamlin, because of his unavoidable absence, was read by the Vice-President.

Here, on Monday, the 27th of February, 1882, occurred the exercises in commemoration of the life and character of **James A. Garfield**, the eulogium being pronounced at the special invitation of Congress by James G. Blaine. John Sherman was chairman of the committee on the part of the Senate; William McKinley, Jr., on the part of the House. The assemblage, which filled to their capacity the floor and galleries, was among the most notable ever gathered within the walls of the Capitol. The Senators attended in a body, as well as justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and many distinguished in the army, the navy and civil life, out of respect to the martyred President.

One of the most impressive funeral ceremonies which have taken place at the Capitol was that in honor of **Chief Justice Waite**, in the Hall of Representatives, March 28, 1888. At twelve o'clock, the casket was borne through the east doors into the rotunda, where it was placed upon two stools awaiting the formation of the procession to the House. There the heavy chairs of Russia leather from the Speaker's lobby had been arranged before his desk about the spot reserved for the casket. President Cleveland and his Cabinet, the Lieutenant-General of the army, Rear-Admiral Porter, diplomats and others distinguished in law, legislation, letters and war filled the hall in tribute to the departed. Mr. Ingalls, President pro tempore of the Senate, sat upon the Speaker's right. Bishop Paret and six assistants in Episcopal robes entered the door and stood silently in the aisle while the cortege formed behind them. "I am the Resurrection and the Life," rang out again and again through the great legislative hall in the impressive voice of the Bishop as the procession moved down the aisle. The Congressional committee wore white sashes with crape rosettes. The casket was borne by messengers of the

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Court. Behind it came members of the bereaved family, followed by the justices. The choir of Epiphany Church sang the funeral chant, "Lord, let me know mine end," as the casket was placed upon the bier. The Episcopal funeral service was pronounced from the Clerk's desk. As the Bishop read the "Apostles' Creed," the vast audience upon the floor and in the galleries arose, many uniting their voices in the solemn service. The hymn, "Abide with Me," was sung during the ceremony, and as the cortege left the chamber at the completion of the exercises, a little before one o'clock, the words of "Asleep in Jesus" reverberated softly through the great hall.

The Electoral Count.—The President and Vice-President are not truly elected until the votes cast by the electors chosen by the people of the several States are counted, according to the Constitution, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Vice-President declares that each has received the requisite majority of ballots. This ceremony customarily takes place in the House Chamber. First, the Doorkeeper of the House announces the arrival of the Vice-President and Senate, preceded by a half dozen Capitol police and by a doorkeeper of the Senate, who bears two cherry boxes in which are the electoral votes still sealed just as they were delivered to the Vice-President by the special messenger of each State. The Secretary of the Senate escorts the Vice-President to the Speaker's chair. They are followed down the aisle by the two Senators who are to act as tellers on behalf of the Senate, and by the remaining Senators, two by two, to whom are assigned the front rows of seats on the right of the Speaker. Two keys are then placed upon the Speaker's desk by the Secretary, with which the Vice-President opens the boxes. From these he takes long brown envelopes, each marked with the name of its State, and for the first time breaks their inner wrappers. The enclosed certificates are then read—that only, however, from Alabama, as it is the first in the alphabetical list, in full—and given to the tellers, of whom there are two also on the part of the House. When all are opened, the tellers announce the number of votes for each candidate, the Secretary gathers up the originals of the certificates and the duplicates taken from the second box, and the Vice-President declares the result. Then falls the gavel, and the electoral count is finished. In a few moments, the House resumes its session. An amusing incident occurred at the count in 1893. Vice-President Morton was unable to find one of the keys, and only after considerable search and much discomfiture at last discovered it in his own vest pocket.

House Library.—The House Library is in the upper story of the annex, north of the main corridor on the gallery floor. It contains the records of every Congress from the first to the present one, state papers, the *Executive, Senate and House Documents*, and the *Statutes at Large*—an invaluable collection for studious Members.

Portraits of Clay, Bedford and Carroll.—A full-length portrait of Henry Clay, executed by Jno. Nagle in 1843 and purchased for \$1,500, hangs on the wall above the eastern staircase. To the right and left, respectively, are portraits of Gunning Bedford of Delaware and of Charles Carroll, the signer of the Declaration of Independence. When Hancock asked the latter if he would sign, he answered: "Most willingly," and taking a pen, at once put his name to the instrument. "There go a few millions," said one of those who stood by; and all present agreed that in point of fortune few risked more than Charles Carroll of Carrollton. At the time of the purchase of the picture, in 1868, Mr. John B. Latrobe and Mr. John Robertson, an artist of Baltimore, wrote letters giving a brief history of it and certifying to its artistic merits and authenticity as one of Sully's. One thousand dollars was paid for it.

Proclamation of Emancipation.—On the wall above the landing of the staircase is the much-copied painting by Frank Carpenter of New York, known as the Signing of the Proclamation of Emancipation. This picture, painted at the White House in 1864, represents the meeting of the Cabinet there, in the room set apart for such meetings, when President Lincoln read his Proclamation of the 22d of September, 1862. Lincoln is in the foreground, presiding at the head of the long table, in his left hand the great Proclamation, and in his right a quill pen, which, on this occasion, was truly "mightier than the sword." Behind the President, on his right, stands Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, by whom is seated Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. Upon Lincoln's left sits William H. Seward, Secretary of State; while at the rear, in the center of the painting, sits Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy. On the extreme right, Edward Bates, Attorney-General, is also seated at the table; and of the two Cabinet officers standing together in the background, the taller is Montgomery Blair, Postmaster-General, and the other, Caleb Smith, Secretary of the Interior.

When the artist first met President Lincoln, at a reception at the White House, he was welcomed with these words: "Oh, yes; I know; this is the painter." Then straightening himself to his full height, with a twinkle in his eye, the President added playfully: "Do you think, Mr. Carpenter, that you can make a handsome picture of *me*?" Carpenter describes his next interview with the Executive in this wise: "He received me pleasantly, giving me a seat near his own arm-chair; and after having read Mr. Lovejoy's note, he took off his spectacles, and said, 'Well, Mr. Carpenter, we will turn you in loose here, and try to give you a good chance to work out your idea.' Then, without paying much attention to the enthusiastic expression of my ambitious desire and purpose, he proceeded to give me a detailed account of the history and issue of the great proclamation. Having concluded this interesting statement, the President then proceeded to show me the various positions occupied by himself and the different members of the Cabinet, on

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the occasion of the first meeting. 'As nearly as I remember,' said he, 'I sat near the head of the table; the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War were here, at my right hand; the others were grouped at the left.'

"At this point I exhibited to him a pencil sketch of the composition as I had conceived it, with no knowledge of the facts or details. The leading idea of this I found to be entirely consistent with the account I had just heard. I saw, however, that I should have to reverse the picture, placing the President at the other end of the table, to make it accord with his description. I had resolved to discard all appliances and tricks of picture-making, and endeavor, as faithfully as possible, to represent the scene as it actually transpired; room, furniture, accessories, all were to be painted from the actualities. It was a scene second only in historical importance and interest to that of the Declaration of Independence; and I felt assured, that, if honestly and earnestly painted, it need borrow no interest from imaginary curtain or column, gorgeous furniture or allegorical statue. Assenting heartily to what is called the 'realistic' school of art, when applied to the illustration of historic events, I felt in this case, that I had no more right to depart from the facts, than has the historian in his record.

"The general arrangement of the group, as described by the President, was fortunately entirely consistent with my purpose, which was to give that prominence to the different individuals which belonged to them respectively in the Administration. There was a curious mingling of fact and allegory in my mind, as I assigned to each his place on the canvas. There were two elements in the Cabinet, the radical and the conservative. Mr. Lincoln was placed at the head of the official table, between two groups, nearest that representing the radical, but the uniting point of both. The chief powers of government are War and Finance: the ministers of these were at his right,—the Secretary of War, symbolizing the great struggle, in the immediate foreground; the Secretary of the Treasury, actively supporting the new policy, standing by the President's side. The Army being the right hand, the Navy may very properly be styled the left hand of the government. The place for the Secretary of the Navy seemed, therefore, very naturally to be on Mr. Lincoln's left, at the rear of the table. To the Secretary of State, as the great expounder of the principles of the Republican party, the profound and sagacious statesman, would the attention of all at such a time be given. Entitled to precedence in discussion by his position in the Cabinet, he would necessarily form one of the central figures of the group. The four chief officers of the government were thus brought, in accordance with their relations to the Administration, nearest the person of the President, who, with the manuscript proclamation in hand, which he had just read, was represented leaning forward, listening to, and intently considering the views presented by, the Secretary of State. The Attorney-General, absorbed in the constitutional ques-

tions involved, with folded arms, was placed at the foot of the table opposite the President. The Secretary of the Interior and the Postmaster-General, occupying the less conspicuous positions of the Cabinet, seemed to take their proper places in the background of the picture."

"When, at length," continues the artist, "the conception as thus described was sketched upon the large canvas, and Mr. Lincoln came in to see it, his gratifying remark, often subsequently repeated, was, 'It is as good as it can be made.'"

"It is not too much to say that the enthusiasm in which the work was conceived, flagged not to the end. The days were too short for labor upon it. Lighting at nightfall the great chandelier of the state dining-room, which was finally assigned me for a studio instead of the library, where the windows were shaded by the portico, the morning light frequently broke in upon me still standing pencil or palette in hand, before the immense canvas, unable to break the spell which bound me to it. 'We will turn you in loose here,' proved an 'open sesame' to me during the subsequent months of my occupation at the White House. My access to the official chamber was made nearly as free as that of the private secretaries, unless special business was being transacted. Sometimes a stranger, approaching the President with a low tone, would turn an inquiring eye toward the place where I sat, absorbed frequently in a pencil sketch of some object in the room. This would be met by the hearty tones of Mr. Lincoln,—I can hear them yet ringing in my ears,—'Oh, you need not mind him; he is but a painter.' There was a satisfaction to me, differing from that of any other experience, in simply sitting with him. Absorbed in his papers, he would become unconscious of my presence, while I intently studied every line and shade of expression in that furrowed face. In repose, it was the saddest face I ever knew."

It is not necessary to tell the story of the six months of incessant labor spent by the artist at the White House upon this work, nor to repeat the encomiums or criticisms of the press and public upon the painting during the days when it hung in the East Room, by the kind permission of the President, in order that the people might have an opportunity to see and enjoy it. The final view of the picture taken by the Executive and the artist together before the latter's farewell to his work at the Executive Mansion is characteristic of the great war-President in his relations to men in far diverging walks of life, and shows him in the new light of an art critic: "Turning to me," writes the artist, "President Lincoln said: 'Well, Carpenter, I must go in and take one more look at the picture before you leave us.' So saying, he accompanied me to the East Room, and sitting down in front of it, remained for some time in silence. I said that I had at length worked out my idea, as he expressed it at our first interview, and would now be glad to hear his final suggestions and criticism.

The National Capitol

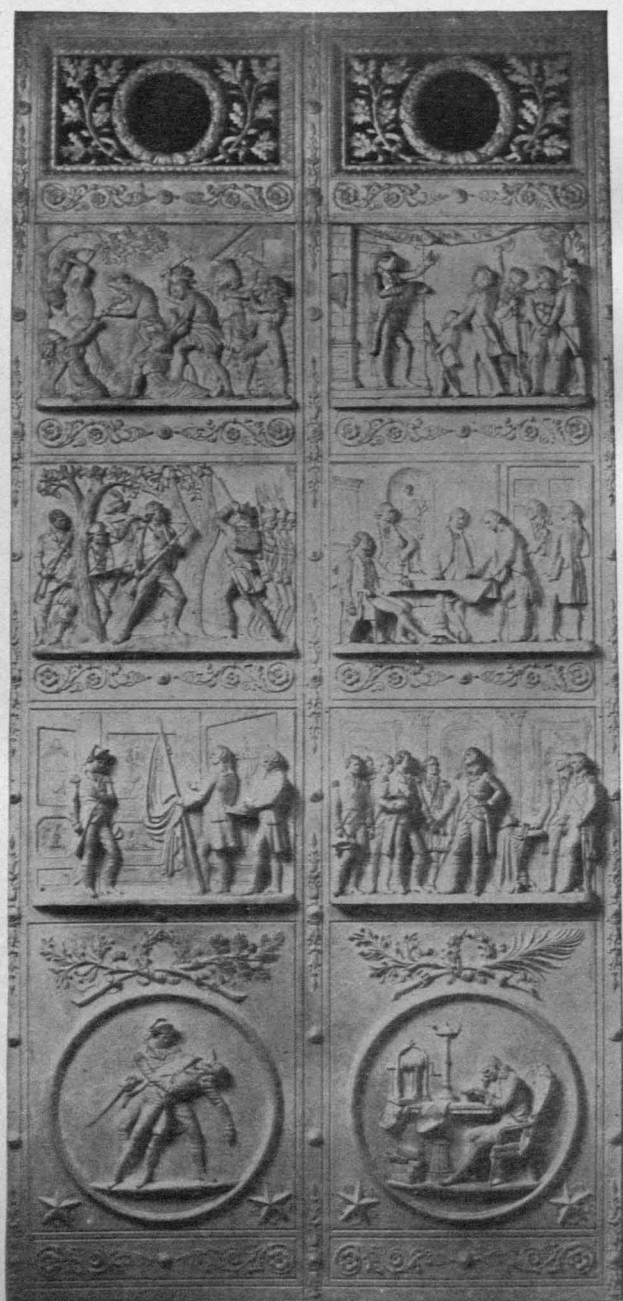
" 'There is little to find fault with,' he replied; 'the portraiture is the main thing, and that seems to me absolutely perfect.'

"I then called his attention afresh to the accessories of the picture, stating that these had been selected from the objects in the Cabinet chamber with reference solely to their bearing upon the subject. 'Yes,' said he, 'there are the war-maps, the portfolios, the *slave*-map, and all; but the book in the corner, leaning against the chair-leg,—you have changed the title of that, I see.' 'Yes,' I replied; 'at the last moment I learned that you frequently consulted, during the period you were preparing the Proclamation, Solicitor Whiting's work on the 'War Powers of the President,' and as Emancipation was the result in fact of a military necessity, the book seemed to me just the thing to go in there; so I simply changed the title, leaving the old sheepskin cover as it was.' 'Now,' said he, 'Whiting's book is not a regular law-book. It is all very well that it should be there; but I would suggest that as you have changed the title, you change also the character of the binding. It now looks like an old volume of United States Statutes.' I thanked him for this criticism, and then said: 'Is there anything else that you would like changed or added?' 'No,' he replied, and then repeated very emphatically the expression he used when the design was first sketched upon the canvas: 'It is as good as it can be made.'

"I then referred at some length to the enthusiasm in which the picture was conceived and had been executed, concluding with an expression of my profound appreciation of the very unusual opportunities afforded me in the prosecution of the work, and his unvarying kindness and consideration through the many weeks of our intercourse.

"He listened pensively,—almost passively, to me,—his eyes fastened upon the picture. As I finished he turned, and in his simple-hearted, earnest way, said: 'Carpenter, I believe I am about as glad over the success of this work as you are.' And with these words in my ear, and a cordial 'good-bye' grasp of the hand, President and painter separated."

In his masterly lecture upon Abraham Lincoln, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll tells an anecdote which throws a humanizing ray upon this canvas: "On the 22d of July, 1862, Lincoln sent word to the members of his cabinet that he wished to see them. It so happened that Secretary Chase was the first to arrive. He found Lincoln reading a book. Looking up from the page, the President said: 'Chase, did you ever read this book?' 'What book is it?' asked Chase. 'Artemus Ward,' replied Lincoln. 'Let me read you this chapter, entitled "*Wax Wurx in Albany*."' And so he began reading while the other members of the cabinet one by one came in. At last Stanton told Mr. Lincoln that he was in a great hurry, and if any business was to be done he would like to do it at once. Whereupon Mr. Lincoln laid down the open book—opened a drawer, took out a paper and said: 'Gentlemen, I have



PROPOSED BRONZE DOORS—HOUSE WING

By permission of Edward Clark

called you together to notify you what I have determined to do—I want no advice. Nothing can change my mind.’

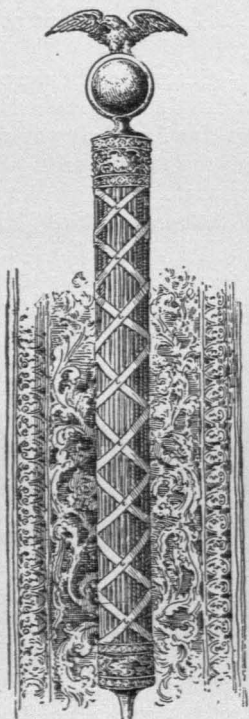
“He then read the Proclamation of Emancipation—Chase thought there ought to be something about God at the close, to which Lincoln replied: ‘Put it in, it won’t hurt it.’ It was also agreed that the President would wait for a victory in the field before giving the Proclamation to the world.

“The meeting was over, the members went their way. Mr. Chase was the last to go, and as he went through the door looked back and saw that Mr. Lincoln had taken up the book and was again engrossed in the *Wax Work at Albany*.”

This painting was purchased from Frank H. Carpenter, the artist, for \$25,000, and was formally presented to Congress, February 12, 1878, by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, for which she received its thanks through a joint resolution, approved February 1st. The ceremony of acceptance was quite impressive. During the short recess just preceding, the picture, which, covered with the American flag, had been suspended back of the Speaker’s chair, was unveiled. At two minutes before two o’clock, the House came to order. The Senate, preceded by the Vice-President and accompanied by its Sergeant-at-Arms, entered the hall in a body and took the seats assigned to it. The donor and the artist were honored with seats upon the floor. The Vice-President sat upon the right of the Speaker. Garfield, a Northern general, made the presentation speech. He was followed by Stephens, formerly the Vice-President of the Confederacy. The thanks of Congress conferred upon Mrs. Thompson the privilege of the floor of the House during any of its sessions. Only one other woman has been similarly honored, Dolly Madison, the wife of President Madison, who received the thanks of the House in 1844, presumably for her distinguished character and for her courage in preserving for the enjoyment of posterity the famous Gilbert Stuart painting of Washington, which hung upon the walls of the White House when the city was burned by the British in 1814. It is not remembered, however, that either Mrs. Madison or Mrs. Thompson ever availed herself of the privilege thus conferred.

Statue of Jefferson.—In the niche at the foot of the stairway stands a marble statue of Thomas Jefferson, for which the government paid \$10,000. This sum was a part of an appropriation made by the act of March 3, 1855, authorizing the President to contract with Hiram Powers for some work of art to adorn the Capitol.

Proposed Bronze Doors.—In 1855, Thomas Crawford was engaged to furnish designs for doors, to be cast in bronze, for the eastern entrance to the House wing. These designs were executed in plaster in 1864 by William H. Rinehart for \$8,940, and, for many years, have been stored beneath the crypt. No appropriation has been made for their casting. The panels represent historical scenes during the days of the building of the nation.



Sergeant-at-Arms' and Committee Rooms.

—The rooms of the Committees on Military Affairs, adorned with a series of paintings of the forts of the United States, and on Ways and Means, decorated in fresco, are on the main floor and front to the east. It is the duty of the latter committee to frame in the first instance all tariff legislation for the country. Each bill is customarily named, by courtesy, after the chairman of the committee at the time, as he is usually the leader of his party and necessarily represents the measure upon the floor. In this room, the famous Mills, McKinley, Wilson and Dingley tariff bills were formulated before they were reported to the House for its action.

In the southeast corner of the wing is the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, one of whose agreeable duties it is to compel the attendance of absent Members upon a "call" of the House. As its disbursing officer, he pays the salaries, mileage and funeral expenses of its Members, disbursing yearly from \$2,250,000 to \$2,500,000.

Great Mace.—Among the official duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms rests also the care of the Great Mace. This time-honored emblem of authority is composed of thirteen ebony sticks, silver-bound and surmounted by a silver globe, delicately engraved

with the map of the world, upon the top of which rests a silver eagle with wings outstretched. A few minutes before the assembling of the House, it is the duty of an assistant Sergeant-at-Arms to carry the mace to the floor and rest it on the platform, prepared for that purpose, against the wall beside the Speaker. When the Chaplain finishes the benediction, the Speaker declares the House in session, and the mace is raised and placed upon its immovable pedestal of malachite, where it remains until the House adjourns. The assistant Sergeant-at-Arms then formally bears it back and replaces it in the custody of his superior.

The House is not always an orderly body. This was especially so in war times. Indeed, as late as August 27, 1890, Mr. Enloe appropriately asked the Speaker if it would not "be in order to substitute the Marquis of Queensberry rules for the rules of the House and proceed to do business"? The question of enforcing order is a vital one, and two Members are reported as once saying defiantly: "Let them try it." Whenever during sessions the House becomes too turbulent for the Speaker to control, he directs the

Sergeant-at-Arms to take the mace from its pedestal and carry it among the Members. It has been upon the rarest occasions only that this authority has not been immediately respected.

Taulbee-Kincaid Affair.—On February 28, 1890, shortly before two P.M., the stairs leading from the eastern corridor of the House to the basement were the scene of a tragedy. Ex-Representative William Preston Taulbee of Kentucky was shot by Charles E. Kincaid, correspondent of the *Louisville Times*, as he was descending the lower flight. The primary cause of the trouble was generally accredited to an account of a scandal, published about a year before in Judge Kincaid's paper, in which were insinuations of Taulbee's implication. He certainly believed Kincaid wrote the article. Two hours before the shooting, an altercation had occurred between the gentlemen near the east entrance to the House floor. The wounded man did not fall, but staggered down the steps. He was taken to the room of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, where he was soon surrounded by most of the Kentucky delegation. Kincaid was removed to the guard room of the Capitol. Taulbee died at five o'clock on the morning of March 11, 1890. The autopsy showed the ball lodged at the base of the brain. On April 8, 1891, a jury in the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia found Kincaid "Not guilty."

STATUARY HALL



THE central or northern doors leading to the floor of the House of Representatives form the southern terminus of the main corridor of the Capitol. Through this long interior vista, in case all doors are opened and obstructions removed, the Vice-President of the United States and the Speaker of the House can see, but not recognize, each other, while presiding over their respective legislative bodies at the two ends of the Capitol.

Old Hall of Representatives.—

This corridor passes through Statuary Hall, which, as the original Hall of Representatives, was occupied by the House from 1807 to 1814, when the British burned the Capitol, and again, after the restoration by Latrobe, until the 16th of September, 1857, when that body formally took possession of its present chamber. Since that time, the hall has not been altered, save to re-

move the furniture and draperies and to tile the floor. This was once nearly four feet lower than it is to-day, and in its elevation relative to that of the Senate, no doubt, took rise the otherwise inappropriate title of the "Lower House."

In the old days, even after the restoration, there were few decorations in the Capitol. The walls for the most part were plain, and whitewashed every year. No extensive lobbies, as now, existed for the accommodation of the Members. When there was a "call" of the House, a vote or a motion for adjournment, Representatives were notified by two large bells, one in each of the corridors down stairs near the committee rooms, which were rung by the doorkeepers in such a manner as to distinguish their meaning. These sounded like great fire-bells through the Capitol.

Librarian Watterston, writing in 1842 of this chamber, says the capitals of the pillars support a "dome with painted caissons, to represent that of the Pantheon at Rome. From the centre of this dome is erected, to admit the light from above, a handsome cupola, richly painted and ornamented by a young Italian artist named Bonani, who also painted the ceiling, and who died in this city soon after it was completed. The colossal figure of Liberty (in plaster) is by Causici. On the entablature beneath is sculptured in stone the American eagle in the act of taking wing, executed by another Italian artist (Valaperti) of high reputation, who has left but this single specimen of his talents in this country, and who disappeared suddenly and mysteriously soon after it was executed. Between columns, at their base, are placed sofas for the accommodation of the members and those who are privileged to enter the Hall; and within the bar, in a semicircle fronting the Speaker's chair, are seated the members of the House, each of whom is furnished with a mahogany desk, an armed chair, and writing materials. The entrances to the galleries are at the south end of the wing; and at the point on each side of the Hall, where the staircases diverge, is stationed a doorkeeper, to prevent the persons from passing into the ladies' gallery, who are excluded by the rule, and to direct others who are not the way in to it, and also to the gentlemen's gallery opposite. There is also a passage to those galleries from the interior of the Hall, which leads through two lobbies. On the left of the eastern lobby are the Speaker's room and that of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and above the latter an apartment for bound documents and state papers, called the Library of the House. At the same elevation in the western lobby are two commodious apartments, which are used as the depositories of Executive and Congressional documents not bound, and for immediate use. Below one of these and on the floor of the lobby formed by an angle of the building, is the Post Office of the House."

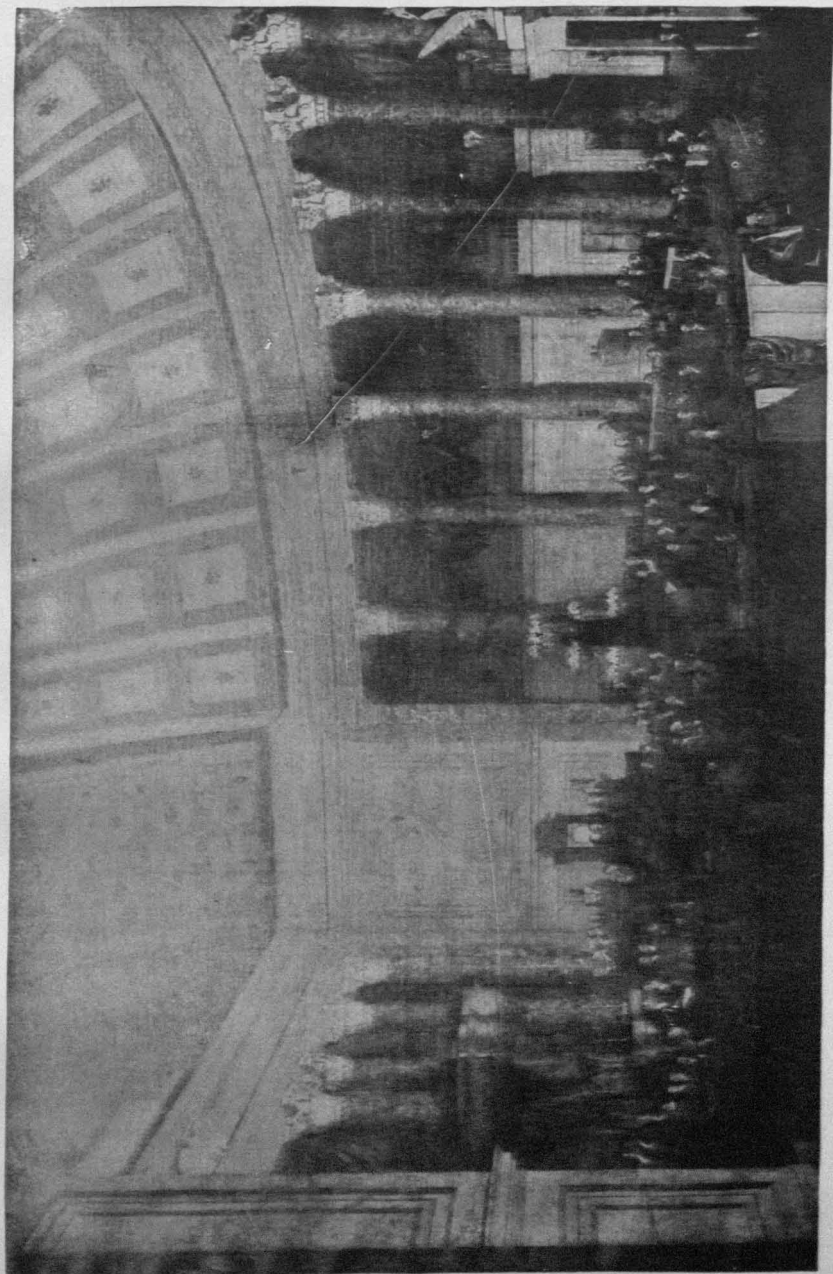
Lafayette's picture, presented to Congress during his last visit to America, then hung on the west side of the loggia; Vanderlyn's Washington in a panel on the opposite side. Dickens, who visited Congress nearly every day during his stay in Washington in the same year, describes this chamber as "a beautiful and spacious hall of semicircular shape, supported by handsome pillars. One part of the gallery is appropriated to the ladies, and there they sit in front rows, and come in, and go out, as at a play or concert. The chair is canopied, and raised considerably above the floor of the House; and every member has an easy-chair and a writing-desk to himself; which is denounced by some people out-of-doors as a most unfortunate and injudicious arrangement, tending to long sittings and prosaic speeches. It is an elegant chamber to look at, but a singularly bad one for all purposes of hearing. Both Houses are handsomely carpeted; but the state to which these carpets are reduced by the universal disregard of the spittoon with which every honorable member is

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accommodated, and the extraordinary improvements on the pattern which are squirted and dabbled upon it in every direction, do not admit of being described. It is strange enough too, to see an honorable gentleman leaning back in his tilted chair with his legs on the desk before him, shaping a convenient 'plug' with his pen knife, and when it is quite ready for use, shooting the old one with his mouth as from a pop-gun, and clapping the new one in its place. I was surprised to observe that even steady old chewers of great experience are not always good marksmen."

Notable Events.—**Madison** was twice inaugurated in this old Hall of Representatives, before the restoration, on March 4, 1809 and 1813; **Monroe** once, after the restoration, on March 5, 1821, the 4th having fallen on Sunday. Chief Justice Marshall administered the oath on each occasion. Jefferson's proclamation of 1808 required the Senate to convene in extra session in the Senate Chamber. When the time came, however, they assembled in the Hall of Representatives, and there the new Senators took the oath of office. After the ceremony of the inauguration was completed, the President retired, and the Senators repaired to their own chamber. At the two other inaugurations, there being no necessity to confirm new Cabinets, no proclamations were issued convening the Senate. In 1813, Madison was escorted to the Capitol by the District cavalry, where he was received by several volunteer corps of Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, drawn up in line. He delivered his speech in the presence of many Members of Congress, the justices of the Supreme Court, the foreign Ministers and a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. Monroe had a less propitious day in 1821; for snow and rain had fallen during the preceding night; yet the ceremony was perhaps even more imposing within doors. Immense crowds thronged the Capitol, and at least two thousand persons gained admission to the chamber itself. The President took his place on the platform in front of the Speaker's chair. He first took the oath of office, and then, with the Chief Justice still standing at his side, delivered his inaugural. About were grouped noted dignitaries of the government and members of the foreign legations, while many ladies occupied seats in the interior. The Marine Band played as the President entered and as he left the chamber. Vice-President Tompkins had already taken the oath, on entering his second term, at his private residence on Saturday, the 3d. Here, also, on July 10, 1850, the day following the death of President Taylor, the Heads of Departments and the Senate joined the House; and at noon, William Cranch, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, administered the oath of office to **Millard Fillmore**.

Election of President by House.—When the electoral votes were counted in the old Senate Chamber in 1825, it was found that John C. Calhoun was duly elected Vice-President, but that none of the candidates for



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1822

From the original painting, now dim with age, by Samuel Finley Breese Morse, by permission of Daniel Huntington.

President had received a majority of the votes. According to the Constitution, therefore, the House, after the Speaker had appointed a teller from each of the twenty-four States in the Union, proceeded to ballot by States for the three who had received the highest number, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams and William H. Crawford. Upon the count it was found that Adams had received the votes of thirteen States, and the Speaker declared him elected President. At this announcement, there was some clapping of hands, but also hisses, and the galleries were cleared. The election caused much dissatisfaction among those who had voted for Jackson, as he had received the largest popular vote. Many attributed the result to an alliance between Adams and Clay, and John Randolph soon after in the Senate evidently referred to it when he said: "I was defeated, horse, foot, and dragoons—cut up, clean broke down by the coalition of Blifil and Black George—*by the combination, unheard of till then, of the Puritan with the Black-leg!*" Randolph's repeated charges drew a challenge from Clay. The duel took place on the banks of the Potomac, but Randolph fired in the air and no one was hurt.

Attempted Assassination of Jackson.—On the afternoon of January 30, 1835, the funeral services of a Representative from South Carolina in this hall barely escaped forming the prelude to a great tragedy. President Jackson, accompanied by Mr. Woodbury and Mr. Dickerson, was near the head of the procession which was to escort the departed to the grave. The President had crossed the rotunda and was about to step upon the eastern portico when a man rushed forth from the crowd, and, leveling a pistol at the breast of the Executive, but eight feet away, pulled the trigger. The spectators were breathless. The cap exploded with a loud report, but the pistol was not discharged. Dropping it quickly to the floor, the would-be assassin attempted to fire a second weapon, with the same fortunate result. The President, wild with rage and thoughtless of danger, rushed at his adversary with uplifted cane. Lieutenant Gedney of the navy, however, knocked the madman down before the President reached him.

Harriet Martineau was a witness of this scene. "We went to the Capitol," she writes, "at about half an hour before noon, and found many ladies already seated in the gallery of the Hall of Representatives. I chanced to be at the precise point of the gallery where the sounds from every part of the House are concentrated; so that I heard the whole service, while I was at such a distance as to command a view of the entire scene. In the chair were the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Representatives. Below them sat the officiating clergyman; immediately opposite to whom were the president and heads of departments on one side the coffin, and the judges of the Supreme Court and members of the Senate on the other. The representatives sat in rows behind, each with crape around the left arm; some in black; many in blue coats with bright buttons. Some of the fiercest political foes

The National Capitol

in the country; some who never meet on any other occasion—the president and the South Carolina senators, for instance—now sat knee to knee, necessarily looking into each others' faces. With a coffin beside them, and such an event awaiting their exit, how out of place was hatred here!

"After prayers there was a sermon, in which warning of death was brought home to all, and particularly to the aged; and the vanity of all disturbances of human passion when in view of the grave was dwelt upon. There sat the gray-headed old president, at that time feeble, and looking scarcely able to go through this ceremonial. I saw him apparently listening to the discourse; I saw him rise when it was over, and follow the coffin in his turn, somewhat feebly; I saw him disappear in the doorway, and immediately descended with my party to the Rotundo, in order to behold the departure of the procession for the grave. At the bottom of the stairs a member of Congress met us, pale and trembling, with the news that the president had been twice fired at with a pistol by an assassin who had waylaid him in the portico, but that both pistols had missed fire. At this moment the assassin rushed into the Rotundo where we were standing, pursued and instantly surrounded by a crowd. I saw his hands and half-bare arms struggling above the heads of the crowd in resistance to being handcuffed. He was presently overpowered, conveyed to a carriage, and taken before a magistrate. The attack threw the old soldier into a tremendous passion. He fears nothing, but his temper is not equal to his courage. Instead of his putting the event calmly aside, and proceeding with the business of the hour, it was found necessary to put him in his carriage and take him home.

"We feared what the consequences would be. We had little doubt that the assassin Lawrence was mad; and as little that, before the day was out, we should hear the crime imputed to more than one political party or individual. And so it was. Before two hours were over, the name of almost every eminent politician was mixed up with that of the poor maniac who caused the uproar. The president's misconduct on the occasion was the most virulent and protracted."

Death of John Quincy Adams.—On February 13, 1847, during the discussion of the "Three Million Dollar" bill, John Quincy Adams, who had been dangerously ill, appeared for the first time in Congress during that session. As he passed into this old Hall of Representatives, the entire House arose from their seats out of respect; all business was temporarily suspended; and Andrew Johnson, afterwards President, turning to the chair said that in accordance with his intention when he selected his present seat he now renounced it in favor of the former President of the United States. The bronze tablet to-day upon the floor marks the spot where stood this desk, and where later that veteran of politics was prostrated. When the House moved into its present quarters, the mahogany desks in the old hall were sold, and,

it is said, this desk of John Quincy Adams brought more than any of the rest. The commemorative tablet was laid at the instance of ex-Governor Long of Massachusetts when a Member of the Fiftieth Congress.

The death of Adams is graphically told by Charles Jared Ingersoll, his fellow-Member: "On the 21st of February, 1848, he underwent his death-stroke in attempting to give utterance to an emotion. The House of Representatives were voting thanks to several of the generals in the Mexican War, to which he was opposed, not only because of his disapproval of the war and the administration charged with it, but because, as he objected, some of the generals were under charges to be tried for misconduct. Uttering his nay to the Clerk's call for votes, with the petulant vehemence he often effected, as if not merely to negative but stigmatize the proposition, and soon afterwards trying, as is believed, to rise and say something, he sunk forward in his seat senseless, in a fit of mortal paralysis. A crowd of members rushed to his help, and keeping my place at some distance, I did not see him till lifted up and borne off by Dr. George Fries, one of the Ohio members, who, attended by many others, carried him through the middle aisle out of the House, by the centre door into the rotunda, where Dr. Fries in his lap supported Mr. Adams, till a sofa was brought, on which he was laid and taken into the Speaker's room. Almost inanimate, he is said to have uttered a few words, 'This is the last of earth,' as his valedictory to the world, from which he had prepared for conspicuous departure. His family, friends, and several ministers of the Gospel soon came and prayed for him, not, however, without misunderstanding as to which clergyman was best entitled, and further heart burning afterwards concerning their invitations to the funeral, as passionately preached by one of the disappointed from the pulpit the following Sunday.

"Mr. Adams longed to die in the Capitol, and surpassed Chatham's death, which he emulated. If Adams could have expired when, as well as where, he wished, it would have been next day after his attack, the 22d February, Washington's birth-day, instead of living until the evening of the 23d.

"Hated and vilified as he had been in the Capitol, his death was instantly followed there by a gush of unanimous veneration for his memory, and unbounded respect for his mortal remains.

"Adjourning at once on his apparent, the House of Representatives adjourned again the next two days, awaiting his actual demise, and then the rest of the week for his obsequies.

"The Hall and his chair were draped in mourning on the day of his funeral, and many of the houses of Washington in like manner."

They first bore the couch of the dying statesman to the east door of the rotunda, where are now the bronze portals, hoping that the fresh air might

The National Capitol

revive him. This view across what might be appropriately called the President's portico was the last fading impression of the world outside the Capitol reflected by the shattered mind. The atmosphere, alas, was chilly and heavy with vapor; and at the suggestion of Mr. Winthrop, the couch was taken to the Speaker's room. Mrs. Adams and the nephew and niece of the afflicted arrived post haste but they could do little else than watch the image fade before their tear-stained eyes.

The funeral ceremonies were held in the Hall of Representatives on the 26th. The Capitol was filled to overflowing. The old hall was shrouded in black with "great taste and judgment by the officers of the House, under the suggestion, and kind supervision of a distinguished lady." The fair figure of *History* was robed in black, save the arm "holding the recording pen," says the *Intelligencer*, "whose alabaster whiteness, in strong contrast with the surrounding stole, had a fine effect; heightened as it was by the attitude of the head, which, turning towards one side, happened to have its countenance in the very direction where stood the vacant seat of Mr. Adams, as if in the act of recording the solemn circumstances of his death. That seat by order of the house was draped in mourning, and by the fact of its vacancy recalled every beholder to the blow which had there fallen, like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky. The portraits of Washington and Lafayette, on either hand of the chair, were covered over with thin crape, casting a melancholy dimness over the features, without entirely concealing them, the frames being covered with a deeper black. The effect of this, too, was very fine, most truly representing what would have been the feeling of both those distinguished men if alive to witness the solemn scene; for Washington gave the deceased his first Commission, and Lafayette embraced him in his arms when taking his last adieu of America."

Seats before the desk were reserved for judges, the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps and the committee of arrangements, which consisted of one Representative from each State in the Union. In the center stood a table, covered with a black velvet pall, to support the casket. Behind the foreign representatives were the seats for officers of the army and navy. Clergymen also were accorded places upon the floor, some coming from Alexandria, Baltimore and even Massachusetts to attend the ceremony. Seats for the family were reserved upon the extreme left. Some of the diplomats appeared in full court dress, with orders and decorations, while others came in simple suits of black. The Speaker, President of the Senate, officers of both Houses, members of the committee of arrangements and attendant physicians wore white scarfs. The galleries and lobbies were packed to suffocation. Following the reading of the journal, the Senate entered, preceded by its venerable presiding officer, George Mifflin Dallas, with white and flowing hair. He sat upon the Speaker's left. Everyone arose as James K. Polk, the President of the

United States, entered the hall. The casket was escorted by the committee of arrangements and followed by the Massachusetts delegation as mourners. Chaplain Gurley read from Scripture and offered prayer. The choir then sang a hymn. The address followed, after which came the closing hymn and apostolic benediction.

As soon as the ceremonies were completed, the procession formed. The casket was borne to the rotunda, out the eastern portal, and down the steps, where carriages were in waiting. The funeral car was canopied in black velvet and surmounted by an eagle with wings outstretched, covered with crape. It was drawn by six white horses, led by as many grooms—both horses and grooms attired in sable. The casket was covered with black velvet, ornamented with silver lace. Upon its plate was the following inscription:

John Quincy Adams,
Born
An Inhabitant of Massachusetts, July 11, 1767,
Died
A Citizen of the United States,
In the Capitol of Washington,
February 23, 1848;
Having served his Country for Half a Century,
And
Enjoyed its Highest Honors.

Acoustics.—The difficulty of speaking and hearing in this hall was much complained of by the Members from the first time they occupied it, in 1807. The present flooring is tessellated in black and white marble. Some of these squares have accidentally fallen into key with the peculiar form of the ceiling, arch and dome, and now definitely mark the marvelous acoustic properties of the hall, in the way of whispering galleries, curious echoes and ventriloquist effects. These strange echoes have constantly baffled the most skilful efforts of various architects. Their history forms an interesting chapter, not only architecturally but popularly. It is especially amusing to observe how learnedly Latrobe comments upon them, and how readily he points out for the edification of Congress all the difficulties and their remedies; for, when it fell to his lot to rebuild the old south wing after the fire, though untrammelled in the supervision, his theories * did not solve the difficulty. Thornton always maintained that the chamber would have given no trouble had Latrobe but followed *his* original design. The curious echoes still cling to the old hall and reverberate strangely in the ears, like admonitions from the spirits of departed statesmen whose voices once rang out within its walls.

* For reports, see Appendix, pp. 261-273.

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There is certainly something ghostly about it, with its circular assembly of mute representatives in bronze and marble and its wonderful whispering walls.

The acoustic properties of the room are truly unaccountable, as it was modeled after buildings successfully used for theaters and auditoriums in Greece and Rome, and is quite similar in design to the French Chamber of Deputies in Paris. Some of the difficulty was obviated, however, by a simple suggestion* of Robert Mills, an architect, who, in 1832, showed the fallacy in the arrangement of the seats by which Representatives were compelled to speak toward the flat wall at the south end of the room, where the Speaker had his desk, near the center of the prostyle. The seats were accordingly reversed with slightly beneficial results, the presiding officer occupying the north end of the room and the Members speaking toward the semi-circular wall.

Franzoni Clock.—The clock above the door which leads to the rotunda was carved from a solid piece of marble by Franzoni, and commands admiration for its beauty. Clio, the Muse who presides over History, standing in a winged chariot, records the passing events of the nation upon tablets. The wheels indicate the flight of time as the car rolls over a globe, which is encircled by a belt whereon are chiseled the signs of the zodiac. This artistic bit was carved in the Capitol at a per diem compensation. Its cost is unknown. Behind the clock runs a semi-circular gallery, once occupied by wealth and fashion, but now the depository of hundreds of dusty, rarely-read volumes.

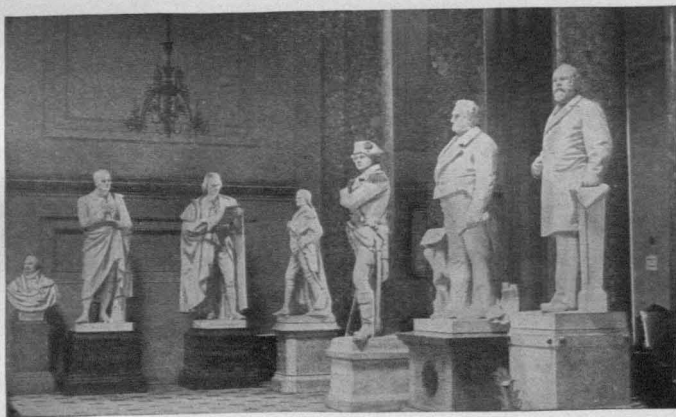
Statuary.—This old Hall of Representatives was set apart as a National Hall of Statuary by a provision of the sundry civil bill of July 2, 1864, pursuant to a resolution offered by Mr. Morrill of Vermont. The President, at the same time, was given authority to invite each State to contribute for its adornment two statues in bronze or marble, of deceased citizens of the State, whom, "for their historic renown or from civic or military services," she should consider worthy of such national commemoration. At present *twenty-four* States have responded to this call.

In the southeast corner stand the contributions of the State of Connecticut, **Roger Sherman** and **Jonathan Trumbull**, by the same sculptor, C. B. Ives. Trumbull was Governor of the Colony and first Governor of the State. Washington, who "relied on him as one of his main pillars of support," called him "Brother Jonathan," and from this has come the nickname of the United States. The next in the circle, **John P. Muhlenberg**, by Blanche Nevin, is from Pennsylvania. On the Sunday following the news of the battle of Lexington, he preached a sermon which will live in the memory of man as long as history is read. The congregation was startled by its dramatic climax, excusable because of its sincere patriotism. Throwing off the robes

* For report, see Appendix, p. 268.

of the minister, he stepped forth in the uniform of the soldier, uttering the words: "There is a time for all things—a time to preach and a time to fight—and now is the time to fight." He then organized a company of troops from among his congregation, joined Washington's army, became a general, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.

From Vermont comes a statue, by Larkin C. Mead, of **Ethan Allen**, the



hero of Ticonderoga, who demanded its surrender "in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Michigan sends one statue, of **Lewis Cass**, the work of the eminent sculptor, Daniel C. French, whose "Minute Man" at Concord, Massachusetts, is universally admired. The artist had an admirable subject for a statue in this sturdy son of Michigan. The rugged lines of his face, which reveal his strength of character and Spartan raising, lend themselves to the chisel's nicest art. In looking at the statue, one feels the force and reality of the man who, when Hull ignominiously surrendered at Detroit, then a young colonel, broke his sword across his knee, exclaiming: "The British never shall have it!"

From the State of Ohio comes **James Abram Garfield** and Governor **William Allen**, both by Niehaus. **Jacob Collamer**, Senator from Vermont, is the work of Preston Powers. **Robert Fulton**, by Howard Roberts, is the gift of Pennsylvania. His *Clermont*, the first successful steamboat, left New York for Albany August 7, 1807. This picturesque statue attracts universal attention, but deserves little recognition from critics, otherwise than for its graceful and idea-possessing pose. The face is characterless. The statues which follow, of General **Nathaniel Greene** of Revolutionary fame, the corner-stone of whose monument in Savannah, Georgia, was laid by Lafay-

The National Capitol



ette in 1825, and of **Roger Williams**, the founder of the Colony, are from Rhode Island. They were sculptured respectively by H. K. Brown and Franklin Simmons. A bust of **Abraham Lincoln** by Sarah Fisher Ames, which was purchased by the government for \$2,000, occupies the next pedestal. Then comes a bust of **Thomas Crawford**, the sculptor, by T. Gagliardi. The Empire State is represented by the following figure in bronze, of **George Clinton**, her first Governor, also by H. K. Brown. The same artist appears again as the sculptor of the statue of **Richard Stockton**, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the gift of the State of New Jersey. Illinois contributes a bronze statue of General **James Shields**, her Senator and warrior, by Leonard W. Volk; and the second statue from New Jersey, of **Philip Kearney**, a Major-General in the Civil war who was killed at Chantilly, is still another work of H. K. Brown.

Next in the circle is an exquisite statue of Father **James Marquette**, by the Italian sculptor, G. Trentenove, the first contribution to the Hall of Statuary from the State of Wisconsin. This is the statue which has awakened such antagonism, because the sculptor represented the pioneer of Wisconsin in his habitual robes of a Jesuit priest.

The opposition, instigated by members of the organization known as the "A. P. A.," has fortunately died out, however, after elaborate discussion in the press and on the floor of Congress; and the statue, having been duly accepted by the Senate, remains as one of the choicest art-treasures within the walls of the Capitol. A statue of **Abraham Lincoln**, by Vinnie Ream, stands next in line. It was bought by the government to commemorate him whose "loving life, like a bow of peace, spans and arches all the clouds of war." Then follows **Alexander Hamilton** by Horatio Stone, bought by the government for \$10,000. **John Winthrop**, by Richard S. Greenough, represents the Old Commonwealth. He was the first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

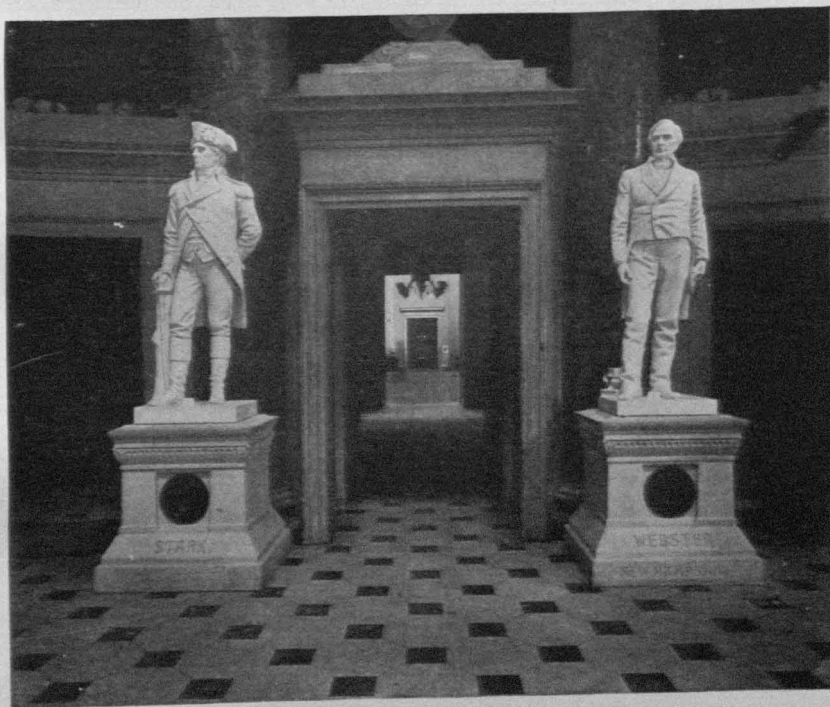
By the door leading to the rotunda stand marbles of **John Stark** and **Daniel Webster** as mute exponents of the saying that New Hampshire is good only "to build school-houses and raise men." Stark was the hero of Bennington; as he came in view of the British, he said to his New Hamp-

shire militia: "See, men: there are the red-coats; we must beat to-day, or Molly Stark's a widow."

These statues were modeled by Carl Conrads after statues in bronze now in the State House park at Concord, New Hampshire. The original also of Stark is by Conrads, and was erected by the State. The original of the Webster statue is by Ball, and was presented to New Hampshire by Benjamin Pierce Cheney.

On the occasion of the acceptance of these statues by Congress, Mr. Gallinger exclaimed of General Stark: "Amid the gloom and despondency of the darkest days of that heroic struggle his vision discerned a victorious ending. Eighty-four years of age when the second war with Great Britain commenced, he longed for the energy of youth that he might engage in the strife, and chafed under the burdens that kept him from again serving his country."

Mr. Chandler, representing the State of Webster's birth, proudly said: "In centuries to come, if the statues in the gallery escape the levelling hand of time, and tuture generations look upon the likeness of Webster and ask



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who he was and what he did, there shall come the undying eulogium: He was the great expounder and defender of the American Constitution."

Mr. Hoar of Massachusetts honored his State's adopted son and Senator, whose greatest life-work had been performed in the Capitol, in words of eloquence and kindly judgment: "It would have been fortunate," he said, "for Mr. Webster's happiness and for his fame if he had died before 1850. But what would have been his fame and what would have been his happiness if his life could have been spared till 1865! He would have seen his great arguments in the reply to Haine, in the debates with Calhoun, inspiring, guiding, commanding, strengthening. The judge in the court is citing them. The orator in the Senate is repeating them. The soldier by the camp fire is meditating them. The Union cannon is shotted with them. They are flashing from the muzzle of the rifle. They are gleaming in the stroke of the saber. They are heard in the roar of the artillery. They shine on the advancing banner. They mingle with the shout of victory. They conquer in the surrender of Appomattox. They abide forever and forever in the returning reason of an estranged section and the returning loyalty of a united people! Oh, if he could but have lived! If he could but have lived, how the hearts of his countrymen would have come back to him! In all the attributes of a mighty and splendid manhood he never had a superior on earth. Master of English speech, master of the loftiest emotions that stirred the hearts of his countrymen, comprehending better than any other man save Marshall the principles of her Constitution, he is the one foremost figure in our history between the day when Washington died and the day when Lincoln took the oath of office."

The statue of **Samuel Adams**, by Anne Whitney, next in line, is the gift of Massachusetts. On its base are words addressed by him, as the spokesman of the committee, to Governor Hutchinson on March 6, 1770, the day after the Boston Massacre, in demanding the withdrawal of the British troops: "Night is approaching. An immediate answer is expected. Both regiments or none." **William King**, by Franklin Simmons, comes as the first Governor of the State of Maine. The statue is interesting for the debate provoked in the Senate, January 22, 1878, when Mr. Hannibal Hamlin introduced the resolution for its acceptance by the government. Mr. Blaine practically imputed to the Massachusetts Senators, Hoar and Dawes, an ignorance of the history of their own State. A skirmish naturally ensued, which opened old wounds relative to the war of 1812, the creation of the State of Maine out of Massachusetts territory, and the sacrifices forced upon the northern State under the Ashburton Treaty, negotiated by a former Massachusetts Senator when Secretary of State, Daniel Webster.

The plaster statue of **George Washington**, which occupies the next place in the circle and which, perhaps, found its way into the possession of

the government through Thomas Jefferson, is probably one of the models which the sculptor, Jean Antoine Houdon, made for the marble statue now in the rotunda of the State House at Richmond, Virginia. This theory of its origin is suggested by the following letter from Jefferson to Mr. Parker, written in the Senate Chamber January 13, 1800: "I have the honor to inform you that the marble statue of General Washington in the Capitol at Richmond, with its pedestal, cost in Paris 24,000 livres or 1,000 Louis d'ors. Besides this we paid Houdon's coming to and returning from Virginia to take the General's likeness, which as well as I recollect were about 500 guineas, and the transportation of the statue to Virginia with a workman to put it up, the amount of which I never heard. I believe that in Rome or Florence, the same thing may be had from the best artists for about two thirds of the above prices, executed in the marble of Carrara, the best now known. But unless Ciracchi's busts of General Washington are, any of them, there, it would be necessary to send there one of Houdon's figures in plaster, which, packed for safe transportation, would cost 20 or 30 guineas."

The Richmond statue was sculptured in pursuance of a resolution of the Legislature of Virginia, of January 22, 1784, which authorized the Executive "to take measures for procuring a statue of General Washington, to be of the finest marble and the best workmanship, with the following inscription* on its pedestal:

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia
have caused this Statue to be erected
as a Monument of Affection and Gratitude to
GEORGE WASHINGTON;
Who,
uniting to the Endowments of the Hero the Virtues of the Patriot,
and exerting both in establishing the Liberties of his Country,
has rendered his Name dear to his Fellow Citizens,
and given the World an Immortal Example
of true Glory."

Governor Harrison accordingly wrote to Jefferson and Franklin, then in Paris; and they selected Houdon as "the first statuary in Europe." The artist seems to have considered the work "as promising the brightest chapter of his history." His eagerness to undertake the task was, no doubt, prompted partly by the hope of being employed to design also the equestrian statue, authorized by Congress on August 7, 1783, for which he made a model, exhibited in the Salon of 1793. He reached Washington's home upon the Potomac late on Sunday night, October 2, 1785, where he remained a fortnight enjoy-

* This tribute is said to have been penned at the time by James Madison, upon his knee.

ing the intimacy of the family. Every opportunity was afforded him by close companionship for the study of his subject's physiognomy and temperament, and he was permitted not only to take accurate measurements of Washington's frame, but to make a mold of the face, head and chest. "George Washington, in the prime of life," writes George W. P. Custis, "stood six feet two inches, and measured precisely six feet when attired for the grave." This statue is taller.

Washington himself suggested the costume. It is the Continental uniform which he was accustomed to wear as Commander-in-chief, and in which he resigned his commission at Annapolis. Many think the statue overcrowded with symbolism, and that the sword, cane, ploughshare and fasces detract from its dignity. This would undoubtedly be true, if it were not for the easy and natural pose which the artist has given to the figure. Washington was fifty-four years of age when Houdon visited Mount Vernon; and the fact that

no other statue was ever made from his person renders this work particularly interesting and valuable. How well it satisfied his contemporaries, may be gathered from an expression of Marshall to Jared Sparks, that, "to a person standing on the right hand of the statue, and taking a half front view, 'it represented the original as perfectly as a living man could be represented in marble.'"

The bronze statue of **Thomas Jefferson**, by P. T. David d'Angers, which is the next in line, was presented by Lieutenant Uriah P. Levy of the navy, in 1834, and is rightfully considered one of the most artistic statues in the hall. Beside it stands a colorless representation in marble of **Edward Dickinson Baker**, the Senator-soldier from Oregon, another example of the art of Horatio Stone. The bronze statue of **Robert R. Livingston**, who, as first chancellor of his State, administered the oath of office to the first President of the United States, is the gift of New York. Its sculptor, E. D. Palmer,



deserves credit for an exquisite piece of work—one of the best in the Capitol.

This circular assemblage of statues, at present, is completed by busts of Polish heroes of the Revolution. The first is by H. D. Saunders (1857, \$500) of **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**, who inspired in Campbell the words:

“ Hope, for a season, bade the world farewell,
And Freedom shriek’d—as Kosciuszko fell.”

The other is of **Kazimierz Pulawski**, who was killed at the siege of Savannah, and is by H. Dmochowski (1857 Phi.). Statues of Blair and Benton, to be presented by Missouri, and of Kenna, by West Virginia, are now being sculptured.

On the east wall, within the columns, overlooking the small lobby now reserved for ladies, is a **portrait of Joshua R. Giddings** (1865), for which the government paid the artist, Miss C. L. Ranson, \$1,000.

Columns.—The Corinthian columns which surround the chamber are of breccia or Potomac marble from quarries in Loudon County, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland. The polishing of their surfaces has produced designs and pictures almost as weird and curious as the echoes. Some of the outlines formed by cutting the imbedded pebbles are such perfect caricatures that the imagination is not required to distinguish them. On the column to the right of the door which leads to the office of the Clerk of the House, about seven feet from the ground, is found a perfect head of a deer; and on the column behind the statue of Ethan Allen, about four feet from the ground, an almost perfect head of a Turk. An Episcopal clergyman in his clerical robes is easily distinguishable on the column behind the statue of Garfield. Behind Collamer is a form suggestive of ex-Senator Edmunds; and behind the statue of William Allen, about four feet high, the characteristic face of Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts appears. Upon the column to the left of the entrance to the document rooms is a face which strikingly resembles Joseph Pulitzer, the great journalist.

Old House Post-Office.—In a corner of the business-like document rooms, opening off, where are now kept bills, resolutions, reports and other printed documents for the use of Members, was located in the old days the post-office of the House. Here, writes Ben: Perley Poore, “during the Christmas holidays, Mr. Lincoln found his way . . . where a few jovial raconteurs used to meet almost every morning, after the mail had been distributed into the Members’ boxes, to exchange such new stories as any of them might have acquired since they had last met. After modestly standing at the door for several days, Mr. Lincoln was reminded of a story, and by New Year’s, he was recognized as the champion story-teller of the Capitol. His

favorite seat was at the left of the open fire-place, tilted back in his chair, with his long legs reaching over to the chimney jamb. He never told a story twice, but appeared to have an endless repertoire of them always ready, like the successive charges in a magazine gun, and always pertinently adapted to some passing event. It was refreshing to us correspondents, compelled as we were to listen to so much that was prosy and tedious, to hear this bright specimen of Western genius tell his inimitable stories, especially his reminiscences of the Black Hawk War."

This extract, culled from the *Reminiscences* of the veteran-correspondent, throws a halo and aroma about the room, and gives to what remains of its fire-place, now hidden by prosaic desk and documents, almost as much interest as clings to the one in the Red Horse Inn at Stratford-on-Avon, made historic on the night when Washington Irving sat there alone poking the fire and dreaming his magic dream. The old chair in which he sat is looked upon with as much reverence as a royal throne, and his poker has come to be the famous scepter of Geoffrey Crayon. These are almost religiously preserved in Shakespeare's hamlet on the banks of the Avon; and to the eyes of Americans, who go thousands of miles to see them, they are sacred. But where, alas, is the chair Lincoln tipped against the wall of this old post-office, while the room resounded to the applause evoked by that genius of story-telling? And where is the poker with which "Old Abe" tickled the laughing embers until they cracked their sides with merriment? The echoes of his voice have joined the mysterious voices in Statuary Hall, but where are his democratic throne and scepter once in the old House post-office?

Clerk's Room.—The narrow hallway to the northeast of Statuary Hall, which is still of the level of the old Hall of Representatives, leads directly to the private room of the Clerk of the House. On its west wall is a bracket holding a **bust of John Quincy Adams**, commemorative of his death in this former Speaker's room. The plain inscription is said to have been written by Mr. Sumner: "John Quincy Adams, who, after fifty years of public service, the last sixteen in yonder Hall, was summoned thence to die in this room, 23 February, 1848."

This marble bust was secured by voluntary subscriptions of \$600, made in the House by gentlemen of all parties. On March 3, 1849, about a year after the tragic death-stroke, Mr. Ashmun arose in the chamber and notified the House of the arrival of the bust and that it was then on exhibition in the Congressional Library, awaiting authority for its removal to the proposed resting place in the Speaker's room. The resolution which he proposed granted this permission and also authorized the Clerk to pay to the sculptor, John C. King of Boston, such sum, not exceeding \$400, as in his judgment seemed proper. This was to meet a deficiency in the collection of the subscriptions, not unusual in such matters, and to reimburse the artist for his labor and expense in

bringing the marble to Washington himself, which was outside the terms of his contract. The resolution brought an immediate objection from Mr. Jones of Tennessee; and the ensuing skirmish on points of order brought Mr. Grinnell to his feet, who besought his colleague, Mr. Ashmun, to modify it so as to strike out all that part which proposed an appropriation. He said feelingly that he never wanted to hear the name of Mr. Adams connected with money in that hall, and added that he would pay the expenses from his own pocket. Mr. Ashmun complied, though he thought it not "an honor to the House that the gentleman should be placed in such circumstances." Mr. Jones was pettily triumphant, though the resolution, minus its clause appropriating \$400, was passed by a vote of 125 to 19.

Latrobe Capitals.—The columns at the head of the stairway which was the main entrance to the old south wing are crowned with capitals of a unique character. These were designed by Latrobe supposedly from the leaves and flowers of the cotton plant, but are not so natural or happy in effect as his now historic designs from the maize.

Statues.—The bareness of the rotunda was relieved in 1901 by the transfer from Statuary Hall of the statues of Baker, Jefferson, Lincoln and Hamilton and by the addition of one of General Grant. The last named is the work of Franklin Simmons (*Fecit* 1899) and was presented by the Grand Army of the Republic. To the collection in Statuary Hall were added about the same time Thomas Benton and F. P. Blair of Missouri and John McKenna of West Virginia, all by Doyle; and O. P. Morton of Indiana, by Niehaus. Maryland has ordered statues of Hanson and of Calvert; and Illinois is unique, in that one of her contributions to the collection will be Mrs. F. P. Willard.

LATTER-DAY HAPPENINGS

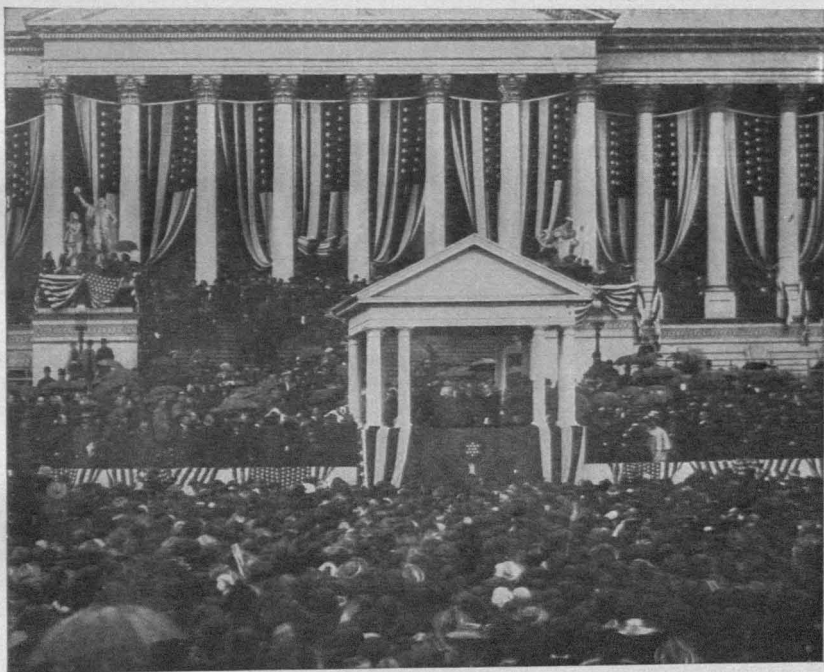
Garland's Death.—Few men have had the good fortune—if death can be called a good fortune at any time—to die in the Capitol. Ex-Attorney General Augustus H. Garland died in the presence, practically, of the Supreme Court of the United States, while arguing a case before the Chief Justice and Associate Justices Harlan, Gray, Brown, Shiras, Peckham and McKenna, on January 26, 1899. The records of the Court give the case as “No. 198. *Blanche K. Townson et al.*, appellants, v. *Christiana V. Moore et al.* Argument concluded by Mr. A. H. Garland for appellants.” In a pencil note, the Clerk has added, “Mr. Garland fell while making this argument, and died in the clerk's office.” Attorney General Griggs formally notified the Court of the almost tragic demise. The Chief Justice responded in a sympathetic manner, and, as a mark of respect to the memory of this distinguished member of the bar and eminent public servant, the Court adjourned until the following day.

Dewey at the Capitol.—Perhaps no ceremony connected with the history of the Capitol has been more splendid than that in honor of Admiral George Dewey, October 3, 1899, when Congress honored the hero of Manila with a sword, presented in the presence of official, military and civic Washington by President McKinley, upon a platform raised for the occasion on the east front of the building. It was a glorious day—all blue and gold. The Admiral had just returned to his native land, and his victories were deep in the hearts of the people. The President recognized that it was Dewey's day, and conceded the wild enthusiasm during the ride to the Capitol and the cheering of the populace gathered on the plaza to the great sea-captain. Upon their arrival, the President proceeded to the room in the Senate wing set apart for the Executive. The Admiral was received in the Vice-President's room. Thence, at the time appointed, the Commander-in-chief and the Admiral walked arm-in-arm to the east front, where their presence was greeted by a sea of faces and a deafening cheer from the multitude. The Admiral seemed reassured as his eye caught sight of his own “blue jackets”—“the men behind the guns”—for whom places had been set apart upon the steps of the Senate wing, and who made the campus ring with their cheers as their Admiral came into view. Neither the President, nor Sampson, nor Schley, nor Miles that day could take the lustre from the hero of Manila. As they came upon the stand, the President gracefully forced Dewey to the front, who acknowledged modestly the plaudits of his admiring country-

men. The President and the Admiral then sat side by side in the face of the multitude during the simple but impressive ceremonies which followed.

Some of the spectators say that, as the Admiral took his seat, his curiosity was so great that he eagerly raised the lid of the case containing the sword to admire its beauty; but that the applause of those about him led him to drop the cover as quickly, with the look upon his face of a schoolboy who has been caught doing the forbidden.

Secretary John D. Long delivered the address of presentation. Then, taking



McKINLEY'S SECOND INAUGURAL

the beautiful jewelled gift from its rich case, he handed it to the President, in order that the sword might pass first into the Admiral's hand from the hand of his Commander-in-chief. The President said to Dewey: "There was no flaw in your victory; there will be no faltering in maintaining it." The Admiral expressed his gratitude in a few well-chosen words. He was deeply affected by the scene. Cardinal Gibbons pronounced the benediction, after which, amid the wild cheering of the spectators, the President and the Admiral reviewed the parade, led by General Miles. Carriages then took them back to the White House.

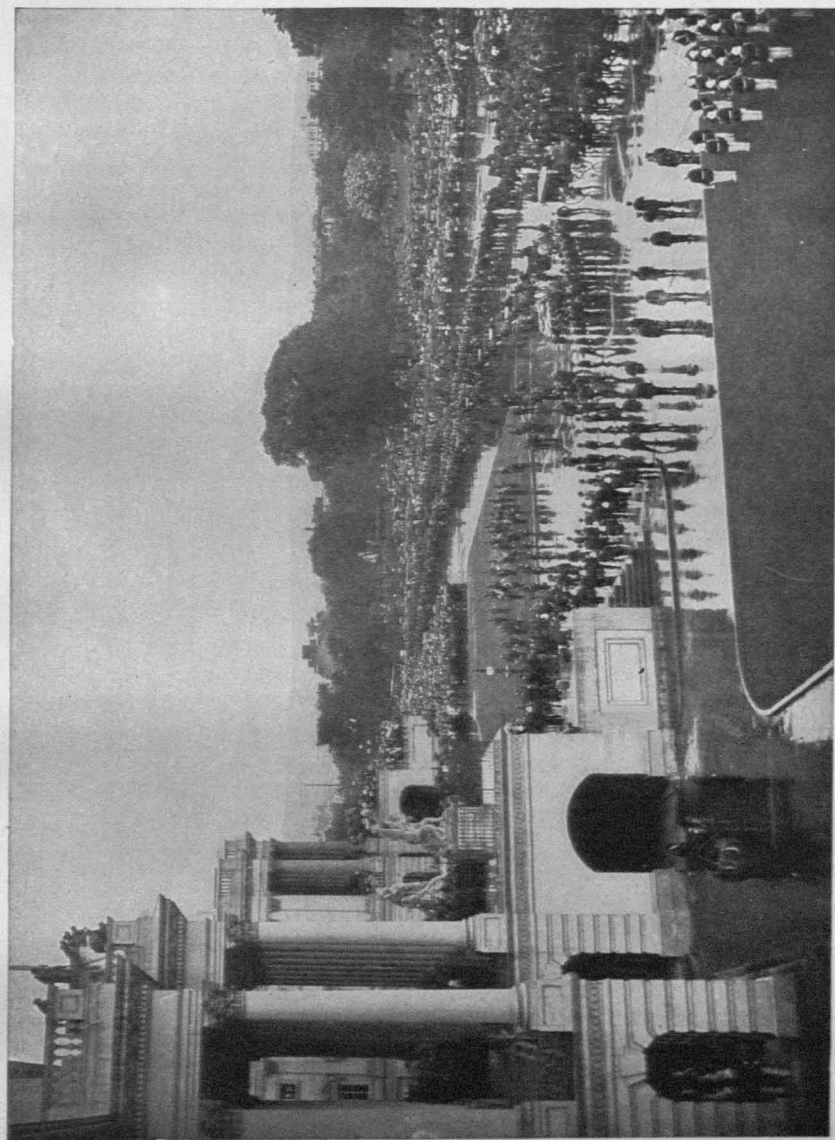
McKinley's Second Inaugural.—The second inaugural of President

McKinley, March 4, 1901, differed little from the first, except that there was no packing of trunks at the White House and that, in the carriage-seat by the President's side, usually occupied by the retiring President, sat the smiling Senator Marcus A. Hanna, with whom no one can dispute the honor of being the Warwick of America—the American King-Maker. Much picturesqueness was added to the ceremonies of the day by the personality of the Vice-President, since President Roosevelt, whose career as cowboy, hunter, soldier and statesman won cheers for him from the lovers of the strenuous along the way.

The day was overhung with clouds, and during the inaugural the rain began to beat down in torrents; but even this did not prevent thousands from listening to the voice of the popular President, as he reviewed, in the eloquent address, the needs and conditions of our new possessions and the prosperity of our land. Over the heads of the President and of Chief Justice Fuller, who administered again the oath of office, was erected a small but substantial canopy, which lent a slightly novel appearance to the scene. Mrs. McKinley attended the ceremonies, leaning on the arm of Adjutant-General Corbin. General Miles and Admiral Dewey, and the diplomatists, headed by Lord Paunceforte, contributed the usual lustre and gold lace to the picture.

McKinley in State.—The remains of President McKinley were brought to Washington, September 16, 1901, from Buffalo, and taken directly to the White House. At nine o'clock on the morning of the 17th, the parade formed and escorted the body to the rotunda of the Capitol, where the funeral services were to be held. The choir of the Metropolitan M. E. Church, which McKinley had attended, opened the services by singing "Lead, Kindly Light." The Reverend Henry R. Naylor offered the invocation and Bishop Andrews delivered the funeral address. The choir then sang "Sometime We'll Understand." The benediction, which was spoken by Reverend W. H. Chapman, was followed appropriately by the hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee." The rotunda was then cleared; and there the body lay in state until evening, open to the view of the "plain people," who by thousands reverently passed the casket. President Roosevelt and Ex-President Cleveland were the most distinguished of the auditors of these sad rites at the Capitol.

Superintendent of the Capitol.—Edward Clarke, the veteran Architect of the Capitol, died January 6, 1902. For some time previous to his death, his health had been so impaired that the burden of his work had fallen upon his chief clerk, Elliott Woods, who had been associated with Clarke, except for a short time, since 1885, when Woods came to Washington from Indiana. The law which gave the chief clerk authority thus to act as Architect was approved July 5, 1895, and was passed especially to provide for the exigency caused by the unfortunate condition of the Architect's health. This law provided also that, in case of a vacancy, the chief clerk should perform the duties of Architect until the vacancy had been filled according to law.



THE REMAINS OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY BEING BORNE TO THE ROTUNDA

At the time of the Architect's demise, a strenuous effort was made to oust the chief clerk from the authority so conferred upon him, on the ground principally that he was not an architect and the office of Architect of the Capitol was a traditional one. This argument was somewhat weakened, however, when it was remembered that the great central idea of the Capitol, which is the wonder of the world to-day, was the conception of Doctor Thornton, not an architect; and that Doctor Thornton's masterpiece had succeeded against the plans of architects and in spite of architects—and that largely through the good sense of Washington. Then, too, during the long period from 1828 to 1851, when the marble wings were begun, there had been no Architect of the Capitol, and the building had been successfully managed by the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds. Even the great original work of Architects Walter and Clarke had been largely directed to extending harmoniously the thought of Doctor Thornton.

In the end, and in order, no doubt, to provide for the popular chief clerk, Congress passed a law, approved February 12, 1902, which provided that thereafter the office of Architect of the Capitol should be designated as Superintendent of the Capitol Buildings and Grounds, and that he should be appointed by the President. This appointment is unique in that it does not have to be confirmed by the Senate. In accordance with this law, on February 20, 1902, President Roosevelt appointed Elliott Woods Superintendent.

Under his direction, but mainly preceding Architect Clarke's death, new steel roofs—*facsimiles* of the old ones—were erected over Statuary Hall and the Supreme Court Chamber, and the floor, galleries, anterooms and ventilating plant of the Chamber of the House of Representatives remodeled and new mahogany desks provided. The burden of the work incident to changing the old Library rooms on the western front to committee rooms, in the summer of 1900, also fell to the lot of Woods, though suggested in part by Architect Clarke before his death. These rooms command a fine view of the city to the westward. They are commodious, and are rendered attractive by appropriate mural decorations, in each instance illustrative of the character of the committee which makes the room its home. On the main floor are the House committees on Naval Affairs, Patents, District of Columbia, Public Buildings and Grounds, Arts and Expositions and Expenditures in the Treasury Department. On the Senate side are the Senate committee rooms on Enrolled Bills, Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, Foreign Relations, Pensions and Interoceanic Canals. On the gallery floor, on the House side, are the rooms set apart for the House committees on Mileage, Expenditures in the War Department, Pacific Railroads, Coinage, Weights and Measures and Expenditures in the State Department and the Minority room for consultation. On the Senate side of the gallery are located the Senate committees on Railroads, Geological Surveys, Private Land Claims, Improvements in the Mississippi River, Transcontinental Route to Seaboard and Organization of Executive Departments.

The National Capitol

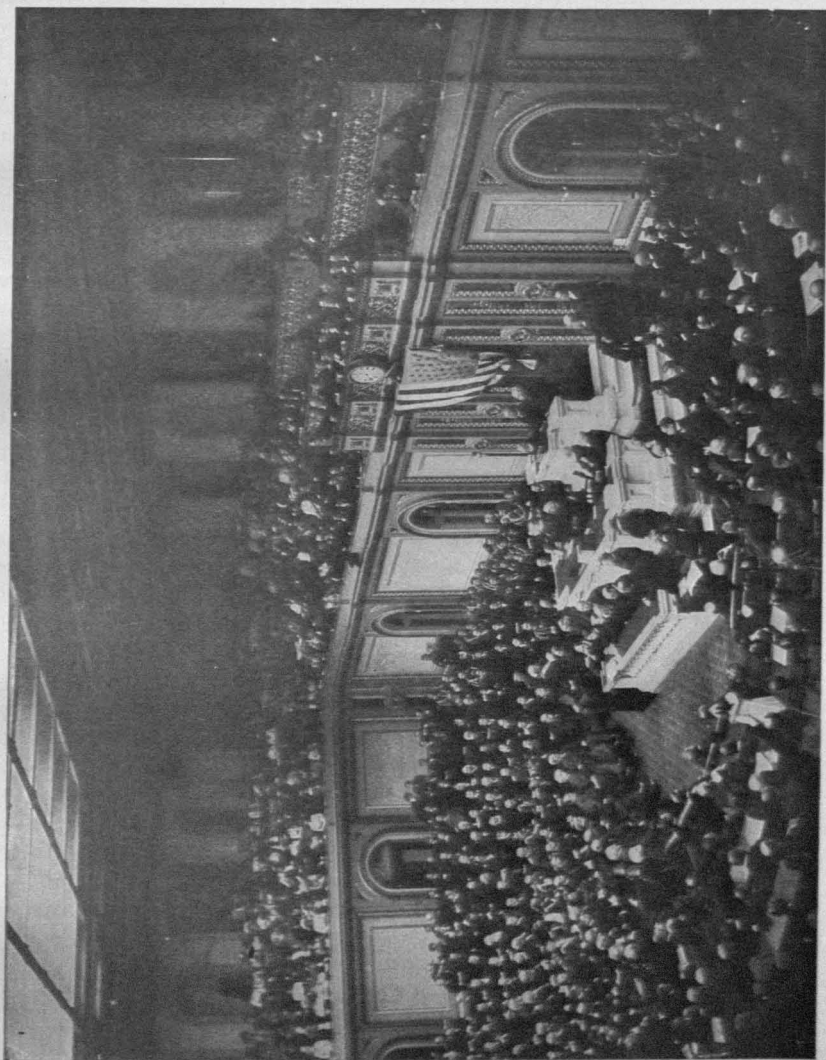
Superintendent Woods is an ardent advocate of the extension of the entire east front of the old central structure in accordance with what is known as the "Walter plan." This plan was not made pursuant to any resolution of Congress, but was drawn at the suggestion of President Fillmore, who took an active interest in the growth of the building, and often visited the Architect's offices to discuss with Architect Walter the designs for its improvement. It is thought that this extension will furnish much needed space, besides bettering the proportions of the building, and more especially its relations to the dome. Roscoe Conkling



PROPOSED EXTENSION OF EAST FRONT KNOWN AS "WALTER PLAN"

was heard once to remark that the present structure was "a dome with a building under it, instead of a building with a dome upon it."

Princes at the Capitol.—When the Prince of Wales, since King Edward VII., visited Washington in October, 1860, he made a tour of the Capitol, and, curiously enough, passed over ground and within walls which the English had captured when they burned the building in 1814. Kinahan Cornwallis gives the following account of the few minutes spent by the Prince in the Capitol: "The Prince, accompanied by Lord Lyons, Secretary Floyd and others, drove up to the eastern front of the Capitol, where he was received by the architect and chief engineer of the works, and by them conducted over the building. First they visited the library, from which they passed by a private staircase to the Senate Chamber and the committee rooms, and thence to the rotunda, where the beautiful paintings hung round its magnificent interior attracted their especial attention. The history of Pocahontas was inquired into, and even the 'Surrender of Lord Cornwallis' became a theme of pleasant conversation.



McKINLEY MEMORIAL SERVICE

From this they proceeded through the old hall of the House of Representatives to the new Hall of the House, where the sides occupied by the administration and opposition members were pointed out, and much general information afforded in answer to their queries. The Speaker's room was next entered, then the Agricultural and other rooms, the Naval and Military Committee apartments and offices of the Senate. The party then viewed the Capitol grounds from the portico of the east front, and, descending the steps after half an hour's stay, drove back to the White House."

Prince Henry of Prussia visited the Capitol on the 24th of February, 1902, under the eyes of the applauding populace, who filled the plaza and every coign of vantage in the building. The Prince, who was accompanied by the German Ambassador, his suite and Rear Admiral Evans, was received on the eastern portico by a committee of the House of Representatives. During a moment's delay in the rotunda, incident to the arrival of General Corbin and some members of "His Highness's" suite, who followed, the Prince's eye was caught by the paintings of "The Discovery of the Mississippi" and "The Baptism of Pocahontas." The visitor was cheered loudly by the people in the rotunda, who were held at bay by a rope stretched across the great circle. The party then proceeded through Statuary Hall and on through the corridors by the rooms of the Military Affairs and Ways and Means Committees to the Speaker's room, where the Prince was received by Speaker Henderson, with a truly democratic handshake and a short address of welcome. Some say the Speaker began his greeting by referring to the friendly feelings existing between the Prince's "republic" and ours—but, seeing his error, quickly and diplomatically changed the word "republic" to "nation."

The Prince was next escorted into the gallery of the House, where he sat an interested spectator for some minutes. When he appeared in the gallery door, he was cheered to the echo, not only by the occupants of the galleries, but by the Representatives of the forty-five States. It was hearty if not dignified, and must have impressed "His Highness" with a spirit of gratitude. As he took his departure, he was accorded a second rousing cheer from all in the chamber. He turned and bowed his acknowledgments. A brief reception was then held in the Ways and Means Committee room, where the Prince graciously accepted the inevitable and shook hands American-fashion with one and all.

Later, on the arm of Senator Cullom, who headed a committee of the Senate, appointed to do him honor, the Prince passed through the building to the north wing, to be received by the more conservative body of Congress. The Prince's suite were escorted to the diplomatic gallery by General Corbin, but the Prince himself and the German Ambassador were taken directly into the Senate Chamber. Here Senator Frye, the President *pro tempore* of the body, accorded the royal visitor a seat of honor next the President's chair. As the Prince entered the Chamber, an exciting debate was in progress as to whether the two Senators

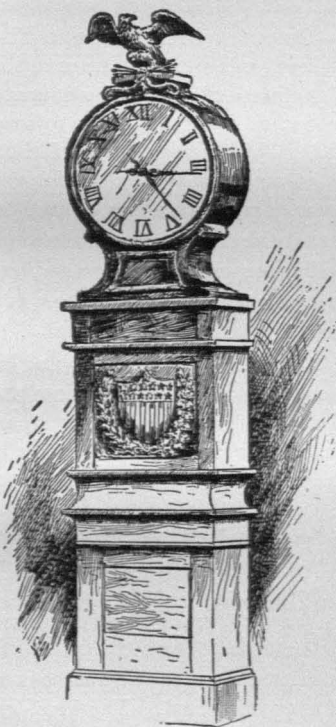
from South Carolina, who were in contempt of the Senate, should be permitted to vote on the Philippine bill. The Senators arose in a body, however, out of respect to "His Highness," as he was conducted down the aisle and to his seat. The Prince became so interested that he did not depart until a word from the Ambassador, sitting at the Clerk's desk below, indicated that it was opportune. The Prince thanked Senator Frye, who momentarily stopped the debate with his gavel, and passed out, bowing his acknowledgments to the Senators right and left, who again respectfully arose in their seats. The continuance of the debate prevented a reception being held as had been planned. As "His Highness" passed from the Chamber, the gallery broke into applause.

McKinley Memorial.—On the afternoon of February 27, 1902, Secretary John Hay, the distinguished diplomat and author, before a brilliant assembly in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, pronounced a panegyric in honor of McKinley, our third martyred President. By a strange fate, just twenty years before, the great Ohioan, as chairman of the committee of arrangements, had escorted President Arthur and the orator of the day to their places in the same chamber, when it had fallen to the lot of Ingersoll's "plumed knight," James G. Blaine, to voice the nation's sorrow before a similarly distinguished audience, upon the life and character of Garfield, our second martyred President.

The presence of Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of the Emperor of Germany, at such a gathering, for the purpose of eulogizing republican principles as represented in the person of a martyred President of our republic, who, if anything, was democratic in life and thought, was strange and unique. The Prince, who appeared in the simple dark blue fatigue uniform of a German Admiral, listened respectfully to utterances that would have been almost treason in his own land. He was preceded down the aisle by General Miles in brilliant regimentals. Some embarrassment was caused by the uncertainty of the officials as to what to do with the Prince after he had been brought into the chamber formally announced as "His Royal Highness, Prince Henry of Prussia," and hailed by the inspiring notes of "My Country, 'tis of Thee!" No one seemed to know what chair belonged to the visiting Prince, and he was accordingly requested to move several times, which he did most graciously, before the German Ambassador was called into consultation and the matter properly arranged.

When President Roosevelt was announced, the Marine Band played "Hail to the Chief." He passed down the aisle with Secretary Hay, the orator of the day. The President, throughout the exercises, sat by Prince Henry in the circle before the orator, who occupied the Clerk's desk. He exchanged a word of greeting with the Prince as he took his seat beside him.

MISCELLANEOUS



Congress.—Each House of Congress makes its own rules, elects its officers and is the judge of the qualifications and elections of its members. Neither body can adjourn for more than three days without the consent of the other, nor to any other place than that in which Congress is sitting. They must meet at least once each year, and on the first Monday in December; but Congress may by law change this date. Each Congress dies at noon on the 4th of March of the odd year. The President may, "on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper." The Senate is always an organized body, and needs but to be called to order by the presiding officer. Its officers and rules stand until changed, but the officers and rules of the House remain only for one Congress.

Communications between the House, Senate and President.—At the organization of the two Houses of

Congress, a question arose as to the proper method by which bills and communications should be transmitted from one to the other. The matter was referred to a committee; and it was agreed that in the interim such communications should be conveyed by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House. The report of the committee was not adopted; and the practice, which began as a temporary arrangement, has become customary. It has been disregarded in two instances. In 1813 the Embargo Act was sent to the Senate by two of the Members of the House, with a request that the

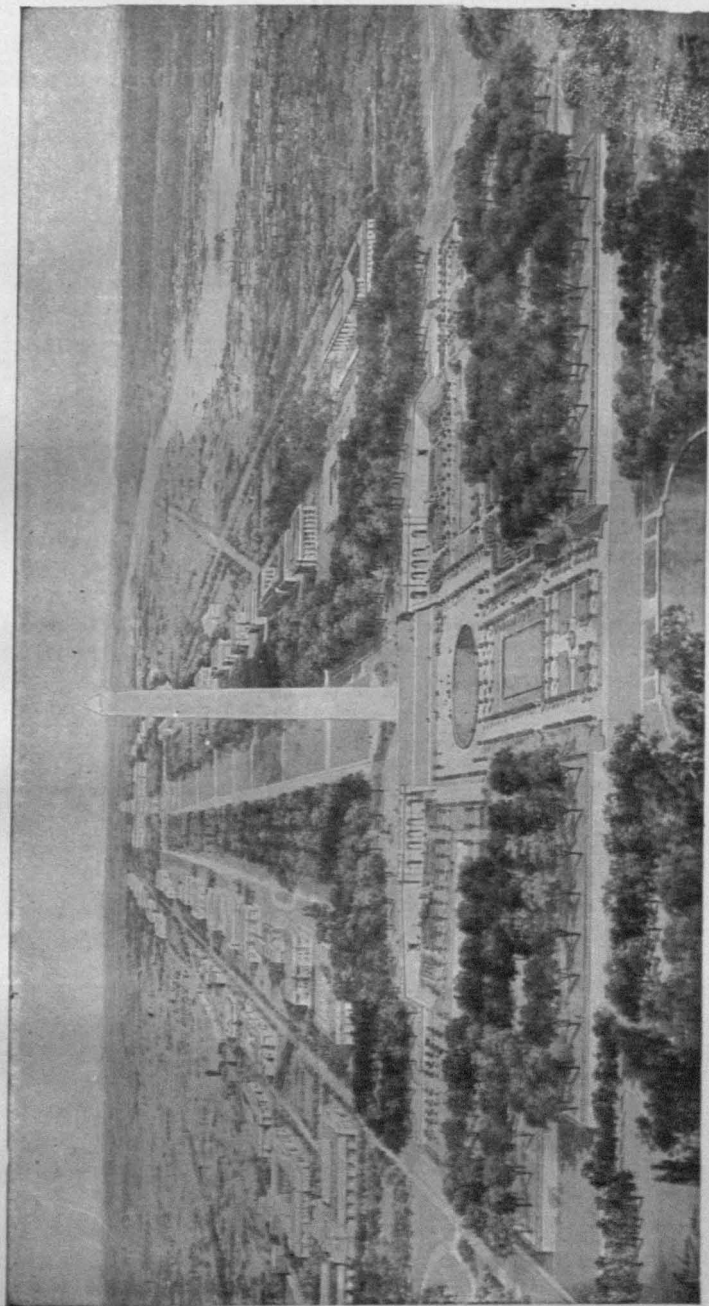
Senate consider it confidentially; and the bill was reported by the Senate to the House in like manner. The second instance was in 1815.

Communications from the President to Congress were at first delivered by Cabinet officers, but the President's private secretary early became the messenger; and one of his secretaries still continues to perform this important duty. Communications from the Senate to the President are made through a committee of Senators or by its Secretary; from the House by a committee of Members or by its Clerk.

Use of Senate and House Chambers.—On a few occasions in its history, the Senate has permitted the chamber where it was sitting to be used for purposes of a religious or charitable nature. March 16, 1822, the Chaplains of Congress were given permission to occupy the Senate Chamber on the following day "for the purpose of public worship." January 24, 1865, Bishop Simpson was tendered by unanimous consent the use of the chamber for the purpose of delivering a lecture. The next year, a resolution was offered to permit Mrs. M. C. Walling to use the chamber for the same purpose, the floor to be reserved for members of the Senate and House, and for their families. This resolution called forth much contention on the part of the Senators, but finally, May 8th was reconsidered for the third time and passed, subject, however, to the condition that "hereafter the Senate chamber shall not be granted for any other purpose than for the use of the Senate." During the progress of the discussion over the Walling resolution, it seems the Senate permitted James E. Murdock, the distinguished actor, to use the chamber in giving a reading for the benefit of a fair in aid of the National Home for Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors.

The House, as early as November 19, 1804, resolved that in future no person, other than the Chaplain, be permitted to perform Divine service in its chamber without the consent of the Speaker. The first public use of the present Hall of Representatives, on December 13, 1857, was for Divine service, the Rev. G. D. Cummins officiating.

Privilege of the Floor.—The privilege of the floor of the Senate is an honor, of late years, rarely conferred by that august tribunal. The President of the United States seems never to have exercised his right to appear upon the floor of the Senate during a regular session, save twice before the government moved to Washington, on August 22d and 24th, 1789, and on the occasion when President John Adams read his Message in 1800. On December 7, 1833, a resolution was adopted formally recognizing the existence of the privilege in the Members of the House and their Clerk, Heads of Departments, several officers of the Treasury, the Postmaster-General, the President's secretary, federal judges, foreign Ministers and their secretaries, persons who had received the thanks of Congress by name, commissioners of the Navy Board, Governors of States or Territories, persons who had been Heads of



PLAN OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON PROPOSED BY PARK COMMISSION

Departments or members of either branch of the Legislature, and, at the discretion of the President of the Senate, members of the legislatures of foreign governments in amity with the United States. The rule was amended from time to time so as to include several officials of the army and navy, together with the Clerk and reporter of the Supreme Court; and in 1838, certain reporters of newspapers were given the privilege. It was evidently abused, however; for in 1853 the rules were again more stringent, requiring each person, except in a few cases, to register his name before going upon the floor. When the Senate was about to move into its new chamber in 1858, the privilege was cut down to officers of the Senate and Members of the House. It was, however, soon extended so as to embrace various federal officials; and in 1872, the private secretaries of the Senators also were admitted. Contestants for seats have uniformly been admitted until the settlement of their titles, but no other persons are allowed in the chamber except it be parties in contempt or persons appearing as counsel in cases of contempt or impeachment.

Since 1803, the privilege of the floor has been repeatedly sought on behalf of the ladies; and in several instances, it has been granted for one day only, notably in 1850, during the debate on the Compromise Measures, and again in 1858, when the admission of Kansas was under consideration.

On a few occasions, the Senate has honored distinguished visitors and citizens with the privilege of the floor. December 9, 1824, at one o'clock, **Lafayette**, in accordance with a prearranged plan, was conducted into the chamber by a committee appointed for that purpose, and introduced by Mr. Barbour, its chairman, to the Senate. The Senators arose from their seats and remained standing until the French general was seated in a chair to the right of the Vice-President, to which he was invited by that presiding officer. Then, upon the motion of Mr. Barbour, the Senate adjourned by unanimous consent that the Senators individually might present their respects to their honored visitor. The ex-President of the Republic of Texas was admitted to the floor of the Senate by unanimous consent February 17, 1842; and the Rev. Theobald Matthew once received a like honor, through the efforts of Mr. Clay, who argued in favor of the resolution in opposition to Senators Calhoun, Dawson and Foote.

January 5, 1852, at one o'clock, **Kossuth** was conducted into the chamber of the Senate by a committee appointed for that purpose, it having been reported by the committee and agreed to by the Senate that the same ceremonies should be held in his honor as had been held in honor of Lafayette. Mr. Shields, as chairman of the committee, presented the visitor to the Senate. The Senators having arisen, the President pro tempore addressed him as follows: "Louis Kossuth, I welcome you to the Senate of the United States. The committee will conduct you to the seat which I have caused to be prepared for you." The Senators then resumed their seats, after which,

upon the motion of Mr. Magrum, the body adjourned to speak in person with the distinguished Hungarian.

January 9, 1855, the officers and soldiers of the war of 1812, then holding a convention in Washington, received the unprecedented honor of an invitation to occupy seats upon the floor of the Senate without the bar during the meeting of their convention in the city. February 6, 1860, the ex-President of the Republic of Bolivia was admitted to the floor of the Senate. January 13, 1865, upon the announcement by Mr. Grimes of the presence in the Senate Chamber of **Vice-Admiral Farragut**, the first officer in the navy upon whom that title had been conferred, the Senate by unanimous consent took a recess of ten minutes to exchange courtesies with their visitor. April 20, 1870, the privilege of the floor for that day only was extended to the officers and members of the Legislature of the State of Ohio, then on a visit to the national capital.

As a mark of respect and honor, on January 8, 1879, **George Bancroft** was tendered the privilege of the floor, which he continued to enjoy during the remainder of his life. Though the resolution, reported by Mr. Blaine, spoke of him as "the ex-Cabinet Minister, whose appointment was earliest in the line of those now living," there is no doubt that his great worth as an historian was as instrumental in securing this honor as his administration of the portfolio of the Navy and his diplomatic service abroad. **Winfield S. Hancock**, by a resolution unanimously consented to March 5, 1881, was accorded by the Senate the privilege of the floor during his stay in Washington.

The House has never been so strict in this matter as the Senate. Even small children of Members have been often accorded the privilege—not by resolution but by courtesy—the difficulty of keeping them off the floor having been found greater than the annoyance of their presence.

Reporters.—In 1802, it was decided to admit reporters within the area of the Senate Chamber, and they were accordingly assigned a place by the President of the Senate. Afterwards they were removed to the gallery, but in 1835 were again given the privilege of the floor. Five years later the number of reporters was limited to two for each of the daily papers and one for each tri-weekly published in Washington. In 1841, all reporters were again assigned seats in the gallery. Six years later, the official reporters were re-assigned a place on the floor. In 1859, the reporters of the *Globe* seem to have been placed again in the gallery, but only temporarily. Their successors, whose deft fingers facilitate the preparation of the *Record*, remain on the floor at all times, excepting during executive sessions. Like privileges are now accorded to official reporters in the House.

Camp Life at the Capitol.—Among the first to respond to Lincoln's call for troops after the firing on Sumter were several companies from Pennsylvania, who hastened to Washington. The Capitol was turned into temporary

barracks for their reception. The night they arrived, fully five hundred letters were penned in the building by the soldier-boys to the girls they had left behind them, perhaps forever, on the hills of their native State.

The *Star* of April 19, 1861, says: "We found company E (of this city), National Guard, the spirited volunteer company recently formed, on guard at the north wing. They are quartered in the handsome room on Revolutionary Claims. Two of the Pennsylvania companies we found quartered in the luxurious committee rooms of the north wing. The newly arrived soldiers had here Brussels carpets, marble washstands, and all that sort of thing, but seemed to think they should prefer to all this to have a bite of something to eat. They took all in good spirits except the failure in the commissariat department at their quarters. Some bacon sides had been served out in the basement (Senate kitchen refectory), where a fire had been started, and some of the soldiers were struggling with a dull knife to chip off a rasher, but nothing seemed to be in readiness for the hungry men. The three Pennsylvania companies stationed in the south wing of the Capitol were faring better, we found, as some of the Capitol employees had been laboring to get things in readiness. In the House refectories, we found the work of broiling and frying fresh and salt meat going on briskly, while numerous hogsheads and boxes containing other edibles were being depleted of their contents. Ascending to the Representatives' Hall we found nearly every seat and all the sofas of that big room occupied with the soldiers. In the centre of the room the Ringgold Artillery was located, and the wings were occupied by two other Pennsylvania companies. The lucky occupants of the sofas were taking a comfortable snooze, and those in the chairs were almost to a man engaged in writing."

The next day came the old Massachusetts Sixth, which had bravely run the gauntlet of the Baltimore mob, and they also bivouacked in the Capitol. The *Star* thus describes the loyal reception of that regiment by the people: "The train stopped just outside of the depot, and the troops disembarking, formed in column and marched through to New Jersey Avenue, and thence to the Capitol, entering the rotunda by the East Portico. They were followed by the crowd which were now swelled to several thousands, who cheered the troops vociferously as they passed up the street. They were dressed in full winter uniform, with knapsack strapped to their back over their gray overcoats, and presented a thoroughly soldierly appearance. After halting for a while in the rotunda, the men were taken to their quarters in the new Senate chamber and the adjoining rooms. Orders were then passed among the line to stack their arms and lay aside their knapsacks, but no man was allowed to lay off his overcoat, or in any way embarrass his movements in case of an alarm. Having eaten nothing but part of a soldier's ration since ten o'clock Thursday night, the troops were nearly exhausted, and on being filed into the galleries,

immediately sank down upon the cushioned seats, and forgot their fatigue and hunger in refreshing sleep."

The Seventh Regiment left New York City for Washington April 19, 1861, and upon arrival reported to President Lincoln. The regiment then marched to the Capitol, where it was housed for about a week, marching, by company, to Willard's Hotel for rations. Many of the gallant Seventh recall to this day the hard marble floors of the Capitol on which they spread their blankets. The regiment was mustered in on the campus by General McDowell.

Hospital.—During the early part of the war, when Congress was not in session, the Capitol was a hospital for soldiers. The committee rooms were appropriated by the doctors and nurses, and each legislative chamber was turned into a general ward for the wounded, the cloak rooms and lobbies being reserved, for the most part, for the officers. At this time, huge bakeries were built in the cellarage back of the old sodded terrace; and each morning army wagons might have been seen about the Capitol loading with loaves of bread to supply the forts, hospitals and encampments in the neighborhood. On July 11, 1862, an appropriation of \$8,000 was made to remove these army bakeries and repair the damage which they had done.

Prison.—The Capitol has never been regularly used as a prison; but occasionally men have been imprisoned in one of the basement rooms for contempt in refusing to answer questions put to them by committees who were making investigations in accordance with some act of Congress.

Liquor at the Capitol.—Liquor has been sold in the Capitol from the earliest days. It was sold in the crypt by the apple-women soon after its erection; and later, the old-fashioned desks used in the committee rooms became private sideboards tempting in the extreme. Owing to the abuse of this privilege, however, an obscure room was set apart northwest of the crypt, which received the now oft-used title "a hole in the wall." It was easily accessible from the old Supreme Court chamber, just across the corridor, and from the Senate Chamber above, by means of the private staircase, which is now used in the ascension to the dome. A similar room in the old south wing is remembered to have been set aside at one time for the better accommodation of the Representatives. These rooms became useless when the marble extensions were erected and provision was made for the present cafés. Here also, by joint rule, restrictions were at one time placed upon the sale of liquors, but the matter was easily evaded by the statesman's proverbial "cup of tea."

One of the liveliest contests upon this question, affecting the rights of man in the Capitol, occurred on April 11, 1866, when Mr. McDougall made a speech on the floor of the Senate which is worthy of perusal, whether one agrees with his conclusions or not:

"Mr. President, it was once said that there are as many minds as men, and there is no end of wrangling. I had occasion some years since to discourse with a reverend doctor of divinity from the State which has the honor to be the birthplace, I think, of the present President of this body. While I was discoursing with him, a lot of vile rascallions invited me to join them at the bar. I declined, out of respect to the reverend gentleman in whose presence I then was. As soon as the occasion had passed, I remarked to the reverend doctor, 'Do not understand that I declined to go and join those young men at the bar because I have any objection to that thing, for it is my habit to drink always in the front and not behind the door.' He looked at me with a certain degree of interrogation. I then asked him, 'Doctor, what was the first miracle worked by our great Master?' He hesitated, and I said to him, 'Was it not at Cana in Galilee where he converted the water into wine at a marriage feast?' He assented. I asked him then, 'After the ark had floated on the tempestuous seas for forty days and nights, and as it descended upon the dry land, what was the first thing done by father Noah?' He did not know that exactly. 'Well,' said I, 'did he not plant a vine?' Yes, he remembered it then.

"I asked him, 'Do you remember any great poet that illustrated the higher fields of humanity that did not dignify the use of wine, from old Homer down?' He did not. I asked, 'Do you know any great philosopher that did not use it for the exaltation of his intelligence? Do you think, doctor, that a man who lived upon pork and beef and corn bread could get up into the superior regions—into the ethereal?' No he must

'Take nectar on high Olympus
And mighty mead in Valhalla.'

I said to him again, 'Doctor, you are a scholarly man, of course—a doctor of divinity—a graduate of Yale; do you remember Plato's symposium?' Yes, he remembered that. I referred him to the occasion when Agatho, having won the prize of Tragedy at the Olympic Games at Corinth, on coming back to Athens was fêted by the nobility and aristocracy of that city, for it was a proud triumph to Athens to win the prize of Tragedy. They got together, at the house of Phædrus, and they said, 'Now, we have been every night for these last six nights drunk; let us be sober to-night, and we will start a theme'; which they passed around the table as the sun goes round, or as they drank their wine, or as men tell a story. They started a theme, and the theme was love—not love in the vulgar sense, but in its high sense—love of all that is beautiful. After they had gone through, and after Socrates had pronounced his judgment on the true and beautiful, in came Alcibiades with a drunken body of Athenian boys with garlands around their heads to crown Agatho and crown old Socrates, and they said to those assembled, 'This will not do; we have been drinking and you have not'; and after Alcibiades had made his talk in pursuance of the argument in which he undertook to dignify Socrates, as I remember it, they required (after the party had agreed to drink, it being quite late in the evening, and they had finished their business in the way of discussion) that Socrates should drink two measures for every other man's one, because he was better able to stand it. And so one after another they were laid on the lounges in the Athenian style, all except an old physician named Aristodemus. and Plato makes him the hardest-headed fellow except Socrates. He and Socrates stuck at it until the grey of the morning, and then Socrates took his bath and went down to the groves and talked Academic knowledge.

"After citing this incident I said to this divine, 'Do you remember that Lord Bacon said that a man should get drunk at least once a month, and that Montaigne, the French philosopher, indorsed the proposition?'

"These exaltants that bring us up above the common measure of the brute, wine and oil, elevate us, enable us to seize great facts, inspirations, which, once possessed, are ours

forever; and those who never go beyond the mere beastly means of animal support never live in the high planes of life, and cannot achieve them. I believe in women, wine, whiskey, and war. Let the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Wilson], if he chooses, drink his wine, as his fathers did before they cut down all the apple trees in Massachusetts. Because apple trees raised apples, and apples made cider, and cider made brandy, they cut them down all through New England; but in his grandfather's time every gentleman of Massachusetts, or every man who was able to afford it, had on his sideboard a bottle of good apple brandy and he offered it to his guests the moment he received them. Those were the good old times when gentlemen were abounding in the land. This kind of regulation tends to degrade humanity and to degrade the dignity of the Senate."

Heating.—The engines, in the basement of the Capitol, bring air into the building through tunnels extending from two granite towers situated in the park; and by means of large fans it is then driven through the building, heated in winter and cooled and moistened in summer. Fans also carry off the vitiated air. The official statements show that, from March 3, 1831, to 1875, the net expenditures for heating and ventilating the Capitol were \$298,584.39; and that between March 3, 1855, and June 1, 1875, the heating of the Library netted \$17,071.60.

Lighting.—The chambers of the Senate and House are lighted almost exclusively from above, through double glass roofings by day and by incandescent lights by night, which burn brightly between the ceilings and produce soft and beautiful effects throughout the rooms. Above the Senate Chamber are 1,200 lamps with 842 outlets of sixteen candle power each, making a total candle power of 19,200. Above the House Chamber are 1,388 lamps with 1,192 outlets of sixteen candle power each, making a total of 22,208 candle power. The net expenditures for lighting the Capitol from March 3, 1829, to March 3, 1875, are given by the Treasury Department as \$1,335,757.70.

Guarding the Capitol.—The Capitol and grounds are under the authority of a Police Board, composed of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House and the Architect of the Capitol. This board acts through a Captain of Police, customarily assisted by three lieutenants and a corps of privates, who are directly responsible for the protection and peace of the building. The supreme authority in the Senate wing is always vested in the Vice-President of the United States, who presides over the Senate; the Supreme authority in the House wing, in the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and the supreme authority in the old building, in the Architect of the Capitol.

Social Events.—On three occasions the National Capitol has been devoted to social events, though the purpose in each instance was to raise money for charitable or other meritorious objects. The first of these was the **Centennial Tea Celebration**, or "Centennial Tea Party" as it was more popularly called, held on the evenings of the 16th and 17th of December,

1874. Its purpose, like many similar ones held throughout the country about that time, was to awaken interest in the coming Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, and to raise funds for some of the proposed exhibits. The rotunda was the principal scene of the fête, though the old Hall of Representatives also was open to visitors, where, in a dim, religious light, the Marine Band discoursed its sweetest melodies. This old hall became more ghostly than usual under the spell of the magician's wand—directing his marvelous musicians, each with a stand and score lighted by a single flickering candle, even before the mute assembly of statues of the dead.

The rotunda was artistically decorated with flags; and the thirteen tables, representative of the thirteen original States, were presided over by nineteenth-century dames, glorying in eighteenth-century flounces, powdered hair and patches. The Maryland table was conspicuous for Revolutionary relics, notably the gilt candelabras, loaned by a niece of Mrs. General Hunter, which had been in the family over one hundred years. Among other objects of interest was a bell whose tongue had proclaimed liberty to the people in 1776. Over the door leading from the rotunda to Statuary Hall was a miniature ship, representing the *Dartmouth*, commemorative of the event which had given the gathering its name. Two boys, dressed in Mohawk costume, stood ready to throw the proverbial tea into Boston harbor. The presence of a band of Navajo Indians, with General Ardy, attracted as much interest from the throng as they themselves took in the "Indian boys" presiding over the destiny of the taxed cargo. These boys, the old chiefs promptly pronounced good Navajos.

From a rostrum which had been prepared, General Hawley, and afterwards Secretary Robeson, addressed the throng. Some disappointment was felt by the curious that King Kalakaua, then in the city, sent his regrets. His suite were present, however, occupying places upon the rostrum during the addresses, where they attracted their share of attention. The affair was a brilliant one, and much credit was due to the ladies who arranged and conducted it.

The Garfield Tea Party, which may be described as a fashionable fair, was held on Saturday evening, May 6, 1882, by the ladies of the National Aid Association for the Garfield Memorial Hospital, and realized to its worthy charity several thousand dollars from the \$1 tickets of admission and the profits on sales. The rotunda was occupied by thirteen booths, divided among the various States and bearing their coats-of-arms, from which fancy articles were sold by fair representatives gaily decked as maids of Gotham, in Puritan garb as Priscillas, or in other attractive styles. These booths, decorated with flags and banners, almost hid from view the historical pictures about the hall. The room was one mass of palms, which added greatly to the beauty of the scene. The flower booth stood in the center, where bouquets from the White

The National Capitol

House conservatory were sold at a premium. President Arthur and many in official and diplomatic circles are recorded by the press as having attended. A material feature of the fair was a promenade concert, and some even tripped the light fantastic toe within the old Hall of Representatives to the music of the Marine Band, playing the Devil's dance-tunes in the very faces of the pious-looking statues of Roger Williams and John Winthrop. Frances Hodgson Burnett, the authoress, attracted much mirthful attention while assisting the ladies at the Tennessee table, that being the State in which she first located on coming to America. Little Lord Fauntleroy, in blue velvet, tugged at his mother's apron strings, while she went among the Senators in the rôle of peanut-vender. Mrs. Burnett cleverly sold and resold the same stock—one peanut and two shells, upon a dainty silver tray, to one statesman after another for what, considering the value of her merchandise, would be regarded as somewhat fabulous. She no sooner pocketed the money of one politician, accompanied with his graceful refusal of the goods, than she was merrily off to entice another—all for the sake of charity.

The rotunda and adjacent rooms were granted to the Garfield Monument Committee, Society of the Army of the Cumberland, from November 25th to December 3d, 1882, for the **National Art and Industrial Exposition**, the object being to raise a fund to aid in the erection of a statue at Washington to the memory of the late President Garfield. At two o'clock, President Arthur appeared, escorted by Mr. John W. Thompson, chairman of the Board of Directors. Then followed from the Senate wing, where they had assembled with the Executive, the justices of the Supreme Court in their judicial robes, the diplomatic corps in court dress, the General of the army and Admiral of the navy with their staffs, the Garfield Guard of Honor, members of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland and a number of the members of Congress, including Speaker Keifer and Senators Logan and Sherman. They all took places in the east half of the rotunda, which had been cleared for them, the President and Cabinet occupying a platform. The Marine Band rendered a selection, and a prayer was offered by Chaplain F. D. Power. The President then declared the Exposition duly opened to the public, after which he held a short informal reception before retiring.

The lofty walls of the rotunda were draped with maroon-colored cloth to a height some distance above the historical paintings, which were first boarded over. This afforded ample space for the hanging of the pictures exhibited. The huge circular hall itself was divided into four sections by aisles intersecting at the center, where were exhibited statuary, pottery and other interesting art-treasures.

In the center of the room, on the spot where Garfield's remains had lain in state a little over a year before, stood a bronzed Gothic temple containing a colossal bust of the martyred President, about the base of which

living plants were tastily arranged. Over the bust, a swinging lantern of handsome design was kept burning.

This was a gala week for the old Hall of Representatives, usually as somber as "some banquet hall deserted." There was held the bazaar and there were arranged the State booths, where, under the direction of lovely women, a tempting array of flowers, fancy-work, bric-à-brac and bon-bons were sold. The old room had not been the scene of such a brilliant assemblage, such a chatter of voices or so much merry laughter in many and many a year. It formed quite a contrast to the rotunda, where art had its quieting effect upon the visitor. Flowers, ferns and grasses graced the scene, and government displays of arms from the War Department and of the apparatus of the Life Saving Service also added to the attractiveness of the hall.

Pianos were placed in the open space near the light-well in front of the Supreme Court chamber, and, at intervals during the fair, vocal selections were heard reverberating through the corridors of the Capitol. Even the gloomy crypt, over the "Washington tomb," became the scene of light and beauty. Local merchants there exhibited their fancy-goods, tobacco, upholstery and confections.

The Exposition closed Saturday, December 2d, at midnight. Large crowds attended the last evening, when nearly everything that was left was disposed of to the public by auction, raffle or sale. The fair did not net as much as was expected, because of the expenses, which were necessarily large. It is probably the last so-called social event that will be held at the Capitol; for much damage was done to the pictures in the rotunda. This led to the introduction of a resolution by Mr. Anthony, and its passage in the Senate, to prohibit the use of the Capitol for other than its legitimate purposes.



APPENDIX

CORRESPONDENCE

On consideration of the three plans presented by Capt Hobens for providing an apartment for the H. of Representatives of the U. S. that appears to me most to be approved which proposes to raise, to the height of one story only, the elliptical wall or arcade in the Southern wing destined ultimately for their occupation ; without carrying up at present the external square wall which is to include it.

THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

TH. JEFFERSON

June 2d 1801

Washington to Commissioners.

MOUNT VERNON July 23d 1792

Gentlemen,

Your favor of the 19th accompanying Judge Turner's plan for a Capitol, I have duly received and have no hesitation in declaring that I am more agreeably struck with the appearance of it than with any that has been presented to you.

* * * * *

There is the same defect, however, in this plan as there is all the plans which have been presented to you—namely, the want of an Executive department ; w, ought, if possible, to be obtained.—The Dome, which is suggested as an addition to the center of the edifice, would, in my opinion, give a beauty and grandeur to the pile ; and might be useful for the reception of a clock, Bell—&c.—The Pilastrade, too, in my judgement, ought (if the plan is adopted) to be carried around the semicircular projections at the end ; but whether it is necessary to have the elevation of the upper story 41 feet is questionable ; unless it be to preserve exactness in the proportion of the several parts of the building ;—in that case, the smaller rooms in that storey would be elevated sufficiently if cut in two. & would be the better for it in the interior provided they can be lighted.—This would add to the number of committee rooms of which there appears to be a deficiency :—

* * * * *

Could such a plan as Judge Turner's be surrounded with Columns, and a Colonnade like that which was presented to you by Maj. Hallet (the roof of Hallet's I must confess does not hit my taste) without departing from the principal of architecture, and would not be too expensive for our means, it would in my judgement be a noble and desirable structure.—But I would have it understood in *this* instance, and *always*, when I am hazarding a sentiment on these buildings, that I profess to have no knowledge in architecture, and think we should (to avoid criticisms) be governed by the established rules which are laid down by the professors of this art.

I think you have engaged Mr. Hoban upon advantageous terms : and hope if his industry and honesty are of a piece with the specimen he has given of his abilities . . .

Appendix

Commissioners to Thornton.

GEORGETOWN 4th Dec 1792.

Sir,

Your letter of 9th Ult is now before us. We have to inform you that as none of the plans sent in for the Capitol met with our entire approbation, Mr. Hallet, a French artist was engaged to prepare one, which he tells us will be finished by the first of next month. As we shall then forward it immediately to the President, we think it will be best, for you, to lodge your plan with the Secretary of State, for the President's inspection, who, when he returns Mr. Hallets, plan will also send us yours. . . .

Washington to Commissioners.

PHILADELPHIA, 31 January, 1793.

Gentlemen,

I have had under consideration Mr. Hallet's plans for the Capitol, which undoubtedly have a great deal of merit. Doctor Thornton has also given me a view of his. These last came forward under some very advantageous circumstances.—The grandeur, simplicity, and beauty of the exterior; the propriety with which the apartments are distributed, and economy in the whole mass of the structure will I doubt not give it a preference in your eyes, as it has done in mine, and those of several others whom I have consulted, and who are deemed men of skill in architecture. I have therefore thought it better to give the Doctor time to finish his plan and for this purpose to delay 'till your next meeting a final decision. Some difficulty arises with respect to Mr. Hallet, who you know was in some degree led into his plans by ideas we all expressed to him. This ought not to induce us to prefer it to a better; but while he is liberally rewarded for the time and labor he has expended on it, his feelings should be saved and soothed as much as possible.

I leave it to yourselves how best to prepare him for the possibility that the Doctor's plan may be preferred to his. Some ground for this will be furnished you by the occasion you probably will have for recourse to him as to the interior of the apartments, and the taking him into service at a fixed allowance, and I understand that his necessities render it material that he should know what his allowance is to be.

I am, &c.

PHILADELPHIA March 3d: 1793

Gentlemen,

This will be handed to you by Doctor Thornton of this City, who goes forward to lay before you a plan which he has prepared for the Capitol proposed to be built in the federal City.

Grandeur, simplicity and convenience appear to be so well combined in this plan of Doctor Thornton's, that I have no doubt of its meeting with that approbation from you, which I have given it under an attentive inspection, and which it has received from all those who have seen it and are considered as judges of such things.—

How far the expense of such a building, as is exhibited by the plan, will comport with the funds of the City, you will be the best judges, after having made an estimate of the quantity of materials and labour to be employed in executing it.—And to obviate objection that may be raised on this head, it should be considered, that the external of the building will be the only *immediate* expense to be incurred.—The internal work—and many of the ornamental parts without, may be finished gradually, as the means will permit, and still the whole be completed within the time contemplated by law for the use of the building.—

With very great esteem,

I am, Gentlemen,

THE COMMISSIONERS

OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

Your Obed't Servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

Commissioners to Washington.

GEORGETOWN 11 *March*, 1793.

Sir,

Dr. Thornton's plan for a Capitol has been laid before us; the rooms for the different Branches of Congress and Conference room, are much to our satisfaction and its outward appearance we expect will be striking and pleasing. . . .

Commissioners to Hallet.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE 26 *June* 1794.

Sir,

. . . In general nothing has ever gone from us by which we intended or we believe you could infer that you had the chief direction of executing the work of the Capitol or that you or anybody else were to introduce into that building any departures from Doc^t Thorntons's plan without the President's or Commissioners' approbation. Mr. Hoban was employed here before our acquaintance began with you more especially as chief over the President's house, of which he was fortunate enough to produce a plan which meet with general we may almost say universal approbation and to extend his superintendence to any other public buildings we might require—we claimed his services as superior at the Capitol and this was explained so fully last fall on the spot. . . .

PHILA. 9th *Novembr* 1795

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 31st. Ultio by Mr. Hatfield has been received. I have since seen Mr. Hoban. I have had a good deal of conversation with both of them, in the presence of each other, with the plans before us.

From the explanation of the former, it would seem as if he had not been perfectly understood: or in other words—that *now* he means no change in the interior of the building, of the least importance; nor any elsewhere, that will occasion delay, or add to the expense—but the contrary: while the exterior will, in his opinion, assume a better appearance, and the portico be found more convenient than on the present plan. As far as I understand the matter, the difference lies simply in discarding the basement, & adding an attic story, if the latter shall be found necessary; but this (the attic) he thinks may be dispersed, in the manner he has explained it, without—and to add a dome over the open or circular area or lobby, which in my judgement is a most desirable thing, & what I always expected was part of the original design, until otherwise informed in my late visit to the city, if strength can be given to it & sufficient light obtained.

However proper it may have been to you, to refer the decision of the objection, of Mr. Hatfield to the Executive—: I shall give no final opinion thereon.

1. Because I have not sufficient knowledge of the subject, to judge with precision. 2. because the means of acquiring it, are not within my reach.—3. if they were pressed as I am with other matters, particularly at the eve of an approaching perhaps an interesting session of Congress, I could not avail myself of them:—but above all, because I have not the precise knowledge of the characters you have to deal with—the knowledge of all the facts you have before you—nor perhaps the same view you can take of the consequences of a decision for or against Mr. Hatfield's proposed alterations, or of his abilities to carry them into execution if adopted.

I have told him in decise terms, however, that if the plan on which you have been proceeding, is not capitally defective, I cannot (after such changes, delays, and expenses as have been encountered already) consent to a departure from it, if either of these consequences is to be involved: but that if he can satisfy you of the contrary, in these points,—I should have no objection, as he conceives his character as an architect is in some measure at stake. . . . to the proposed change; provided these things, as I have just observed, can be ascertained to your entire satisfaction. I added further as a matter of material moment, the short term for which he was engaged, & what might be the consequence of his quitting the

building at the end thereof,—or compelling fresh perhaps exorbitant terms, if a new agreement was to be made. To this he replied, that he would not only *promise*, but bind himself to stick by the building until it was finished.—

On the spot—at the seat of information—with a view of the materials on hand—the facility of obtaining others—with a better knowledge of the only characters on whom you can rely for carrying on the buildings, than I possess :—with other details unknown to me, you can decide with more safety than I am enabled to do, on the measure proposed to be pursued under the embarrassment which has arisen from this diversity of opinion.—That decision be it what it may will be agreeable to

Gentlemen

THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Your Obedt Servt
GO. WASHINGTON.

Jefferson to Latrobe.

WASHINGTON April 25. 1808

Sir,

South wing—you best know what is to be done here—but I would advise the different branches of the work to be done *successively*, paying off each before another is begun.

North wing—to be begun immediately and so pressed as to be finished this season. 1. vault with brick the cellar story. 2. leave the present Senate chamber exactly in its present state. 3. lay a floor where the Gallery now is to be the floor of the future Senate Chamber, open it above to the roof to give it elevation enough, leaving the present columns uninjured, until we see that every thing else being done & paid for there remains enough to make these columns of stone.

You see, my Dear Sir, that the object of this cautious proceeding is to prevent the possibility of a deficit of a single dollar this year. The lesson of the last year has been a serious one, it has done you great injury, and has been much felt by myself—it was so contrary to the principles of our Government, which make the representatives of the people the sole arbiters of the public expense, and do not permit any work to be forced on them on a larger scale than their judgement deems adapted to the circumstances of the Nation— . . .

ARCHITECTS' LETTERS.

William Thornton's Letter to the Members of the House of Representatives, dated
Washington, January 1. 1805.

I consider it as a duty, not only to the public but to myself, to correct some unfounded statements made by Mr. Benjamin H. Latrobe, in his letter to the chairman of the committee of the house of representatives in congress, dated at Washington, 28th February, 1804.

This report I did not see till 23d of April following, long after the rising of Congress, and must own it excited my surprise. Previous to Mr. Latrobe's appointment, when he came here to report on the dry docks, suggested by the President, he often complimented me on the plan of the capitol, a ground plan and elevations of which I had shown him: and he declared in presence of the superintendent that he never saw any plan of a building besides his own and this* that he would deign to execute. I must own I cannot easily con-

* Latrobe in the notes to his report of Nov. 28. 1806, says:

I told the author of the Plan of the Capitol that I admired that work so much that I never saw any plan of a building in my life, not drawn by myself, which I would be willing to execute except that; & this I declare he has asserted & will declare under oath: but it was only one of my "polite ambiguities," & I only said so to flatter him into a friendly wish to see me appointed, for it never was my opinion.

I saw a copy of the plan given to the President some months before I drew mine. I now remember there were ten or twelve rooms which could have been made without the expense of altering or taking down the brick work, & would have saved fifty thousand dollars. Many of these rooms were larger than any of mine, but as Queen Elizabeth said of Queen Mary, "they were too large.—Mine are exactly the proper size;" for if one of the committee should fall asleep in his chair, he will not have room enough to fall back and break his neck.

ceive why previous to his appointment I should hear nothing but approbation of my plan, and after his appointment nothing but condemnation.

In the commencement of the report he mentioned the approval of my plan by General Washington. Alterations of it were afterwards authorized by law; but not I believe because it was impracticable, for on fuller investigation it was admitted to be practicable by some who had before deemed it not so; but because some alterations would improve it. Mr. Hallet was appointed to execute it, but not till after I had refused to superintend its execution; for with the able assistance to be derived from some of the excellent workmen who were engaged, I am confident I could have done as much justice to the public as some architects, whose fame has depended more on the assistance of judicious men than on their own abilities When General Washington honored me with the appointment of commissioner, he requested I would restore the building to a correspondence with the original plan. Not a stone of the elevation was laid. I drew another elevation preserving the general ideas, but making such alterations as the difference in the dimensions of the ground plan rendered necessary. I improved the appearance and restored the dome. This obliged me to cause the foundations, laid by Mr. Hallet to form an open square in the centre, to be taken up on the south side of the north wing, where a segment of the dome, or grand vestibule, is now built; but a portion of what I meant to remove was directed by the board of commissioners to remain, in order to erect thereon a temporary building of brick, for the accommodation of Congress, till more committee rooms could be prepared, by a further progress of the building. On the opposite side the walls built by Mr. Hallet between the dome and representatives' chamber, still remain, which may in some measure account for the difference, mentioned by Mr. Latrobe, between the plan as laid and the drawing. Mr. Hallet was not in the public service when or since I was appointed a commissioner which was on the 12th September, 1794. Mr. Hadfield was appointed to superintend the work at the Capitol, October 15th, 1795. At the time of his appointment the freestone work of the basement story of the north wing was carried up too high to admit of any material alteration, and the materials were principally prepared for its completion. He waited on General Washington to urge the propriety of various alterations. The General (then President) discountenanced all alterations, being satisfied with the plan as then under execution. In consequence of this Mr. Hadfield declined the further superintendence of the capitol. He was afterwards re-appointed to superintend the execution of the plan without alterations, in which he engaged. Thus Mr. Latrobe must have been exceedingly misinformed, when he speaks of the various stiles of each architect shewing themselves in the work: one having been out of public employ, before the present elevation was drawn, and before a single freestone was laid, and the other having taken his discharge because he was not permitted to make any material alterations. They are both however men of genius, which I acknowledge with pleasure.

Mr. Latrobe's observation respecting the want of agreement of the plan and foundation is already answered; but, if I could be surprised at any observation made by Mr. Latrobe, after reading his report, it would be at his stating that the author furnished him with only a ground plan. It may be true that I did not give him drawings, but I informed him what was intended in completing the south wing.

He speaks of the impracticability of the plan of the south wing. It has been deemed practicable by very skilful, and practical architects; and I never heard it disputed by any other than himself. He told me he could not execute it as it was intended. To support a coved ceiling, formed in the manner of the *Hal au Blé* at Paris, of the extent contemplated, on columns of wood, cannot, in the conception of any architect, be difficult; and I believe it will be generally admitted, that the grandeur of the room contemplated, would far exceed the appearance of the one intended by him, and at a much less expense. The stability of the work could not be an objection, when it is remembered how many hundred years Westminster hall has stood.

It is astonishing what evidence is considered as sufficient to establish facts to a mind, that, I am sorry to say, appears preoccupied by a desire to condemn. "The most indisputable evidence was brought before me to prove" (*a negation*) "that no sections or detailed drawings of the building had ever existed, excepting those which were from time to time made by Messrs. Hallet and Hadfield, for their own use in the direction of the 'work,'" p. 10. It will be remembered that one of these gentlemen never superintended the laying of a single stone of the elevation; the other did not make a single section that I

ever heard of, but required sections of me, which I drew, and of which Mr. Monroe told me he had informed Mr. Latrobe!

The whole area of the south wing of the capitol might be conceived by some as too extensive for a chamber of representatives, but if we consider the rapid increase of the American people, and that 500 representatives may be required, neither the space allotted for the members nor the gallery for the audience, will be considered as too large. To lessen either would consequently be in my opinion a very important objection.

Mr. Latrobe mentions the want of committee and other rooms. The President of the United States had, some months before Mr. Latrobe's appointment, spoken to me on this subject, and asked if they could not be formed in the basement story, with convenience under the representatives' chamber. Approving much the idea of many accounts, independent of its restoring the building to a greater conformity with my original drawing, from which I had deviated by other advice, I made a design of the north wing, raised the committee rooms under the galleries, and with a lobby to the south; also with chambers for the accommodation of the officers of the house; besides what was intended over the galleries. The President's idea was carried further, for I drew a plan of the Senate room, raised within a few feet of the base of the columns, and with two good rooms underneath, one on each side, besides two smaller for papers, &c. and a passage from a door in the external centre to the lobby. This would much improve the proportion of the Senate room, the arcade of which is too high for the columns. A coved ceiling might be thrown from the entablature, so as to give any required elevation. These alterations were laid before the President many months before Mr. Latrobe's report was written; and if Mr. Latrobe had extended his alterations only to the committee and other rooms, however they might have differed from mine in form, or appropriation, I would not have considered them of sufficient importance to call forth my objections; but under a sincere conviction that the representatives' chamber will be irreparably injured by alteration now in execution, I am compelled by a sense of duty, but with great reluctance on other accounts, to express my disapprobation of the measure.

I have seen Mr. Latrobe's report of December last, and find much stress is laid on the imperfections of the foundation of the south wing, which required it to be taken down. Six feet (in height) of that foundation had been built by a contractor, during whose absence the work was ill-constructed by those in whom he had confided. The work was directed to be examined, and was condemned by the commissioners. The correspondent part in the north wing was taken down, and good bond stones intermingled throughout the new work, by which it was rendered completely solid; and as that and the stone work of the elevation were well executed, if any defect can hereafter be discovered it must depend upon injuries received, by piercing so many large holes through it, or on defects in the lower part of the foundation, which was laid before I was in office. It was a query at the time of its execution whether it would not be better to lay the foundation with inverted arches, but it was thought more expensive and not better than by good bond-stone in the more usual manner; and I imagine that those who pierced the foundation of the north wing, thereby injuring it, by cutting loose many of the bonds, found it to be unexceptionable work; and that it will yet stand firm I have no doubt, but I think it might have been perfectly aired by tubes, at a trifling expense and without risking any injury whatever.

The roof has been justly condemned. It is next to impossible to put any elevated covering that shall resist the ingress of water when the gutters are filled with snow, or deluges of rain. I objected to the roof as now executed but not solely on that account. By rising so high, the balustrade is darkened behind, till the beholder advance so near the building as to lose the general view: it is thus rendered heavy in appearance. I proposed a flat roof made with a composition that has since been found to answer perfectly by Mr. Foxall, who by varying the ingredients a little has formed a variety of excellent cements. It is made in imitation of terraced roofs though greatly superior. A covering formed in the manner he has executed, is not much dearer than a roof of good shingles, and it will stand for ages without leaking a drop, if even knee deep in water. Its excellence also consists, not a little, in its growing better by age, it becoming as hard as iron itself. Those who have any doubts of the perfection of this kind of covering may be easily satisfied by examining a roof executed by Mr. Foxall the year before last at his own house in Georgetown, or the roof of one of the public stores executed the last year at the navy yard in this city.

Latrobe's Private Letter to the Individual Members of Congress, November 23, 1806.

In the year 1803 . . . that part of the south wing of the Capitol in which the House of Representatives then sat was in such a state as to require building from the very foundation . . . In the year 1803, the foundations of the external walls were condemned and pulled down. The center building occupied by the House of Representatives remained standing,—because in the opinion of many, a further appropriation appeared at least doubtful. The difficulty of working in the narrow space round that building can scarcely be conceived, and as the House met in December, all our men were of course discharged before that time. In 1804 the session concluded in March, & then first could our works commence. Much time was lost in pulling down and removing the old building, and before any new work could be begun. However, the progress made that year was great, considering all the disadvantages we labored under . . . As I had distinguished the recess from the south wing, the omission to appropriate for that part appeared to forbid its erection. But the plan of the building was necessarily such, that the whole area of the south wing was repaired for the Hall of the House of Representatives. The external walls therefore could receive no support from internal walls:—The south, east and west walls had been built so solidly and were so strengthened in the angles by the stair cases of the galleries, that there could be no danger of their giving way to the pressure of the vaults,—but the north wall which, in relation to the whole building, is an internal wall, and the support of which depended upon the recess, had not been calculated to stand alone. It was therefore carried up one story, and no alteration of consequence could be made . . .

That the House has not been completed, has been simply owing to this, that its completion was impossible in itself. When the President of the United States did me the honor to entrust to me the charge of the buildings, I found the north wing already constructed, and a commencement made in the erection of the south wing.

The designs of the public buildings at Washington were chosen from a collection obtained by public advertisement, offering a reward for the plan most approved by the then president of the United States. This mode of procuring designs of public buildings, though exceedingly common, is certain of defeating its own end. It brings into competition all the personal vanity of those who think they have knowledge and taste in an art which they have never had an opportunity to learn or practice;* . . . and it keeps out of the competition all who have too much self-respect to run the race of preference with such motly companions, and especially of all regularly educated professional men,—who understand their business too well not to know that a picture is not a design.

I frankly confess that excepting in a few details, all my ideas of good taste, and even of good sense in architecture were shocked by the style of the building.†

The entrance to the south wing from the ground or office story will be in the recess. That in the east front will be closed, it being intended for a window. It has been opened to the ground only for the convenience of the workmen. The outer door leads into a hall or vestibule. On the left hand is a door opening into a committee room. From the

* When I wrote this I did not know that our Present Chief Magistrate of the Union [Jefferson], was then Secretary of State; and that *he* published *in his own name* for the plans, and aided General Washington, the *then* President, in the choice of the one selected; but let me at the same time add, that as *I* was not in the country, it became a matter of necessity; as there is not a scientific man in the country but myself, as I once told the present Secretary of the Navy, before several witnesses. I cannot on this subject say less, though *modesty* and *delicacy* prevent me from saying much more.

† On reflection I must admit that the style of the Capital is very plain, and almost destitute of decoration considering it is the highest order, the Corinthian; especially if we compare it with some of the most admired works of the ancients; particularly the Maison Quarre of Nismes, the frieze of which is remarkably rich, and all the dressings of the doors and windows, &c. are very highly ornamented by carving, while those of the Capitol are plain and the frieze of the entablature has not a stroke of carving, or ornament. The Maison Quarre is thought by the President, and others, to be one of the finest pieces of antiquity, a model of which he sent and recommended for the plan of the Capitol at Richmond, but which is said to be spoiled by deviating from the plan, which I saw when I was building that Chef D'Oeuvre, the Penitentiary House, in that city. However, I am sorry to say I for one differ from this great man; but he cannot attribute to this declaration any intention to offend, when I say I differ with every great architect for these three or four hundred years back. He would never have thought of the Malson Quarre, if he could have formed an idea of my Centre house, Philadelphia. The Bank of Pennsylvania I know has been much admired, but it would have been much handsomer if Joseph Fox and the late John Blakely, Esqrs. directors, who had travelled, had not confined me to a copy of the Parthenon of Athens, which circumstance the world are not generally acquainted with. The lantern on the top I claim as my own, tho' every body who wants taste thinks it spoils the whole.

vestibule four steps lead up to the area of the staircase which is lighted from the sky, and gives light, to the entrance, to the octagon vestibule of the offices, and to the stairs. On the left hand the stairs lead up to the door of the hall of Representatives on the principal floor. The area of the staircase is connected with the vestibule of the offices, into which, on the left, a spiral staircase for the convenience of the persons coming from above to the offices, descends. A door immediately in front leads into a court which contains the pump, furnishes light to the deep part of the buildings, and contains various domestic conveniences. On the right is the entrance to the center of the building, which will be the principal and public access to the Capitol.

On the left hand of the octagon vestibule is the access to the offices, by the general passage or corridor. Immediately on entering the corridor and descending a few steps is a passage to a committee room on the right. The arched doors on each hand lead to deposits of fuel, and to the stoves which warm the hall above. This passage is crossed by a corridor running east and west. Immediately in front is the office of the clerk of the House. The center of the office is open for those who have business in it,—in each angle is a private office for the engrossing clerks, and around are six spacious vaults for the records of the House.

Returning into the corridor and proceeding to the west, you enter an antichamber, in which those who have business with the committees must wait. To the right are a small, and a large committee room, and to the left another of convenient size. The large committee room is accessible separately from the corridor. The east end of the corridor leads into another antichamber, which on the left communicates with two committee rooms, the largest of which opens also into the vestibule of the entrance. On the right is the room appropriated to the use of the President of the United States, whenever he shall come to the House.

On the south front of the building near each end, are the doors of the gallery, which at present have the appearance of windows, but which will soon be cut down to the level of the other doors.* Each door leads into a small lobby, from which a spiral staircase ascends to the gallery. These doors are so far distant from the entrance of the members to the House, that the inconvenience generally experienced by having only one entrance will be avoided.

The principal access to the hall of Representatives will be—when the Capitol shall be finished.—from the centre of the building, through the small circular vestibule. But the most usual entrance will always be from the basement story, & by the stairs in the recess. These stairs land at the door of the Legislative Hall on one side, as do the spiral stairs of the offices on the other. On entering the great door of the hall, the lobby of the House extends on both sides, and is separated from the area of the House by the basement wall upon which the columns of the House are erected. The bar of the House is the opening of this wall : opposite to it on the other side will be the Speaker's chair.

The lobby of the House is so separated from it, that those who retire to it cannot see, and probably will not distinctly hear, what is going forward in it. This arrangement has been made with the approbation of the President of the United States, and also under the advice of the Speakers of the two houses.

The construction of the Hall of Representatives was imposed by the general plan of the work. Whether it will be a room, in which to hear & to speak will be easy, can only be determined by actual experiment. All that the knowledge to which I can pretend, could do, has been done to make it so, by surrounding the area with a plain surface, and raising the columns above the heads of the speakers, and I believe this attempt will be successful. Rooms encumbered with many columns and projecting cornices are not well adapted to the ease of hearing and speaking. Of this truth the Chamber of the Senate is perhaps the most striking proof that can be adduced.

* On the south front . . . I must own I do not know what the workmen were doing in building up two windows, with expensive hewn freestone, which I shall be obliged to cut down and altar into doors: but I was not present when they made these foolish blunders. They likewise built up the wall of the *projecting recess* and omitted three windows which I have been obliged to cut out first. The stairs to which these window doors will hereafter lead, offer something as amusing as the brickkiln at the bottom of the 11th page. As I was going up one of these stone stairs their want of height knocked off my spectacles, on which there was a general laugh: whereupon, I immediately ordered the workmen to cut away the under part of each step, which has been done; and now there is room enough for a man 5 feet 6 inches to walk up without stooping. These steps have some how or other separated from the walls, but that will never be seen when plugged and plastered.

That it will be a splendid room.—probably the most splendid Legislative Hall that has ever been erected.—is certain : & it will also be extremely convenient in its arrangement, and remarkably warm in winter and cool in summer.

The whole of the wing excepting the Legislative Hall is vaulted. It was originally intended that this dome should also be turned in bricks, and the construction is such that it may at any time, should the present dome of timber decay, be covered with a brick or stone dome.

On the ground floor of the north wing, including lobbies and stairs, are 12 apartments. —in the south are 22 apartments, lobbies & stairs, & 11 depots of records, & fuel cellars of cheaper construction : in all 33.

NOTE.—In recapitulating the expenses of the south wing, I beg leave to state, that I have not included any of the fine flat stone taken up from the footways from the Capitol to George-Town, nearly, which cost the commissioners eight or ten thousand dollars : for why should I reckon stones picked out of the streets . . . They are clear gain : nor have I reckoned what I took from the foundations in the front : nor have I calculated many tons of free-stone rejected by the commissioners as unworthy, of the front. If I show the skill of working up what they thought unworthy, I ought to claim credit, instead of allowing such items as charges.

LETTER FROM JOHN TRUMBULL RELATIVE TO HIS PAINTINGS IN THE ROTUNDA.

Read and laid upon the Table, December 9. 1823.

To the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives, U. S.

Sir : On the 30th of May last, I received from the Commissioner of the Public Buildings a copy of the resolution of the honorable the House of Representatives, dated the 26th of May, authorizing him to take the proper measures for securing the paintings in the Rotundo from the effect of dampness, under my direction.

I had always regarded the perpetual admission of damp air into the Rotundo from the crypt below, as the great cause of the evil required to be remedied : and, of course, considered the effectual closing of the aperture which had been left in the centre of the floor as an indispensable part of remedy. I had communicated my opinions on this subject to the Chairman of the Committee on the Public Buildings, and had been informed that this had been ordered to be done.

So soon, therefore, as I received information from the Commissioner that this work was completed, (as well as an alteration in the skylight, which I had suggested,) and that the workmen and incumbrances were removed out of the room, I came on.

1st. All the paintings were taken down, removed from their frames, taken off from the panels over which they are strained, removed to a dry warm room, and there separately and carefully examined. The material which forms the basis of these paintings is a linen cloth, whose strength and texture is very similar to that used in the top gallant-sails of a ship of war. The substances employed in forming a proper surface for the artist, together with the colors, oils, &c. employed by him in his work, form a sufficient protection for the threads of the canvas on this face, but the back remains bare, and, of course, exposed to the deleterious influence of damp air. The effect of this is first seen in the form of mildew ; it was this which I dreaded : and the examination showed that mildew was already commenced, and to an extent which rendered it manifest that the continuance of the same exposure, which they had hitherto undergone, for a very few years longer, would have accomplished the complete decomposition or rotting of the canvas, and the consequent destruction of the paintings. The first thing to be done was to dry the canvas perfectly, which was accomplished by laying down each picture successively on its face, upon a clean dry carpet, and exposing the back to the influence of the warmth of a dry and well aired room. The next thing was to devise and apply some substance which would act permanently as a preservative against future possible exposure.

I had learned that, a few years ago, some of the eminent chemists of France had examined with great care several of the ancient mummies of Egypt, with a view to ascertain the nature of the substance employed by the embalmers, which the lapse of so many ages had proved to possess the power of protecting from decay a substance otherwise so perishable as

the human body. This examination had proved that, after the application of liquid asphaltum to the cavities of the head and body, the whole had been wrapped carefully in many envelopes, or bandages of *linen, prepared with wax*. The committee of chemists decided further, after a careful examination and analysis of the hieroglyphic paintings with which the cases, &c. are covered, that the *colors* employed, and still retaining their vivid brightness, had also been prepared and applied with the same substance.

I also knew that, towards the close of the last century, the Antiquarian Society of England had been permitted to open and examine the stone coffin deposited in one of the vaults of Westminster Abbey, and said to contain the body of King Edward I., who died in July, 1307. On removing the stone lid of the coffin, its contents were found to be closely enveloped in a strong linen cloth, *waxed*. Within this envelope were found splendid robes of silk, enriched with various ornaments covering the body, which was found to be entire, and to have been wrapped carefully in all its parts, even to each separate finger, in bandages of fine linen, which had been dipped in melted wax; and not only was the body not decomposed, but the various parts of the dress, such as a scarlet satin mantle, and a scarlet piece of sarsnet which was placed over the face, were in perfect preservation, even to their colors. The knowledge of these facts persuaded me that wax, applied to the back of the paintings, would form the best defence, hitherto known to exist, against the destructive effects of damp and stagnant air; and therefore,

2dly. Common beeswax was melted over the fire with an equal quantity (in bulk) of oil of turpentine: and this mixture, by the help of large brushes, was applied hot to the back of each cloth, and was afterwards rubbed in with hot irons, until the cloths were perfectly saturated.

3dly. In the mean time, the niches in the solid wall, in which the paintings are placed, were carefully plastered with hydraulic cement, to prevent any possible exudation of moisture from the wall; and as there is a space from 2 to 8 inches deep between the surface of the wall and the back of the panels on which the cloths are strained, I caused small openings to be cut into the wall, above and under the edge of the frames, and communicating with those vacant spaces, for the purpose of admitting the air of the room behind the paintings, and thus keeping up a constant ventilation, by means of which the same temperature of air will be maintained at the back of the paintings as on their face.

4thly. The cloths were finally strained upon panels, for the purpose of guarding against injury from careless or intentional blows of sticks, canes, &c., or childrens' missiles. These panels are perforated with many holes, to admit the air freely to the back of the cloths: and being perfectly dried, were carefully painted, to prevent the wood from absorbing or transmitting any humidity. The whole were then restored to their places, and finally cleaned with care, and slightly revarnished.

5thly. As the accumulation of dust arising from sweeping so large a room, and, what is much worse, the filth of flies, (the most destructive enemies of painting,) if not carefully guarded against, renders necessary the frequent washing and cleaning of the surface of pictures, every repetition of which is injurious, I have directed curtains to be placed, which can be drawn in front of the whole, whenever the room is to be swept, as well as in the recess of the Legislature during the Summer, when flies are most pernicious.

6thly. As nothing is more obvious than the impossibility of keeping a room warm and dry by means of fire, so long as doors are left open for the admission of the external air, I have further directed self-closing baie doors to be prepared and placed, so that they will unavoidably close behind every one who shall either enter or leave the room.

When the doors are kept closed, and fires lighted in the furnaces below, to supply warm air, I find the temperature of this vast apartment is easily maintained at about 68 of Fahrenheit: and the simple precaution of closed doors being observed, in addition to the others which I have employed, I entertain no doubt that these paintings are now perfectly and permanently secured against the deleterious effects of dampness.

I regret that I was not authorized to provide against the dangers of damage by violence, whether intended or accidental. Curiosity naturally leads men to touch, as well as to look at, objects of this kind: and, placed low as they are, not only the gilded frames and curtains, but the surface of the paintings are within the reach of spectators: repeated handling, even by the best intentioned and most careful, will, in the course of a few years, produce essential damage. But one of the paintings testifies to the possibility of their being approached, for the very purpose of doing injury; the right foot of General Morgan, in the

picture of Saratoga, was cut off with a sharp instrument, apparently a penknife. I have repaired the wound, but the scar remains visible. If I had possessed the authority, I should have placed in front, and at the distance of not less than ten feet from the wall, an iron railing, of such strength and elevation as should form a complete guard against external injury by ill-disposed persons ; unless they employed missiles of some force.

LETTER FROM THE SONS OF BENJAMIN WEST, OFFERING TO SELL HIS PAINTINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Read, and laid upon the Table, December 11, 1826.

To the Hon. J. W. Taylor,

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

Sir: The sons of the late Benjamin West request that you will do them the favor to represent to Congress the desire they have of offering the body of their father's works, which has devolved to them, to the Government of the United States for purchase, feeling deeply impressed with the conviction that the works of their father should find their final place of destiny in his native country. Their father was the first American born subject who distinguished himself by a spontaneous pursuit of the fine arts, his extraordinary love of which induced him to leave his native country in the twenty-first year of his age, to study the works of the renowned masters of that art, which were to be seen in Italy.

After the completion of his studies in Italy, which he prosecuted, during four years, with such avidity that it occasioned a fever which nearly deprived him of life, he went to England, where his talent for the arts very soon attracted the attention of some leading amateur characters; and his having painted a picture of an interesting subject, that displayed his abilities, for the Archbishop of York, he shortly after became honored by the notice and patronage of the king, (George the Third,) who beneficently sustained him in his practice and study of the fine arts for nearly forty years, and engaged him in great plans, from the subjects of English history and the sacred writings, for the embellishment of Windsor Castle. Under the sanction of his majesty, he became one of the original founders of the Royal Academy in London. In testimony, also, of his talent, and the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries in the arts, they elected him twenty-seven times President of the Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, (of which he was one of the original founders,) and as a further sanction of the abilities he possessed as an artist, and of the spreading abroad of his fame, he likewise received honorable distinctions from most of the academies for the encouragement and promotion of the fine arts in the polished countries of Europe. Whenever his works first made their appearance before the public, they excited a very strong sensation throughout the metropolis; and his three latter productions, *Christ Healing the Sick in the Temple*, (which has since been presented by Mr. West to the Hospital of Philadelphia,) *Christ Rejected by the Jews*, and his daring and extraordinary picture of *Death on the Pale Horse*, produced no common sensation on the minds of the people of England. His demise, which took place after he had passed his eighty-first year, was considered and felt as a public loss, for the circumstance of his latter productions appearing, at his venerable age, amongst the most vigorous and sublime of his works, occasioned a very remarkable augmentation to his fame at the close of his life. His remains were honored by a public funeral, and were interred in the great Cathedral of St. Paul's, within the city of London, where all the members of the Royal Academy, many of the nobility, his relatives and select friends, attended, in token of their high estimation of his genius, and in respect for his excellent moral character and amiable disposition: but he had enemies, who occasioned him much anxiety and difficulty in his latter years.

The career he ran in the art, whilst residing in London, occupied a space of more than half a century. He left his native country in the year 1760, and became deceased, in the city of London, on the 10th of March, 1820. The number of the works that he has left behind him is indeed truly astonishing: his whole life was one scene of industry, perseverance, and endeavor to perfect himself in the art, and to dispense to others, (especially to

young and rising artists,) the knowledge that he had thus diligently acquired. It is, therefore, very generally considered, that, so long as science, or art, or virtue, shall exist, the name of Benjamin West will stand pre-eminent in honorable fame.

After giving this little outline of the life of Mr. West, his sons now beg of you to offer, in their names, to the Government of the United States, that portion of his works which has devolved to them. They hope that the offer will not be rejected, devoutly wishing that the name of their father may thus honorably be transmitted to the posterity of the country wherein he was born, and that the portion of his works, which they now offer, may form the foundation of a school for the growth of the fine arts in the rapidly advancing States of America. In Europe, almost everywhere is to be seen what is generally denominated a National Gallery, composed of pictures and statues by the old masters: the honor of having produced them belonging to Italy and Greece, no country ever yet had such an opportunity of commencing a truly National Gallery as now presents itself to the United States of America; for none of the nations of the old world, at such an early period of their histories, ever had an artist who stood so distinguished in the eyes of the world, or that had produced so numerous and so diversified a body of celebrated works as Benjamin West. They are the productions of American born genius, and let them be deposited in whatever quarter of the globe destiny may place them, the honor of having produced them belongs to the United States of America.

Hoping that, from your situation in the House of Representatives, you will not find it at variance with your duty and opinions to speak and use your influence in recommendation of our offer,

We remain, with the highest consideration and respect,

Your obedient servants,

RAPHAEL L. WEST,
BENJAMIN WEST.

NEWMAN STREET, LONDON, *April 12th, 1826.*

PORTRAITS OF LOUIS XVI. AND MARIE ANTOINETTE.

The minister plenipotentiary of France, having on the 6th transmitted to Congress a letter, dated 13th August, 1783, from his most christian majesty, in answer to their letter of the 14th June, 1779, and accompanied the same with a memorial informing Congress, that the portraits of the king and queen are arrived at Philadelphia; that he has orders to present them to this assembly, and has taken the measures necessary for their safe keeping until Congress shall be ready to receive them; the said letter and memorial were referred to the consideration of a committee.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. Gerry, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Read,

Resolved, That the following letter be signed by the President in behalf of the United States in Congress assembled, and transmitted to his most christian majesty, . . .

GREAT, FAITHFUL AND BELOVED FRIEND AND ALLY,

Your majesty's letter of the 13th of August last has been received by the United States in Congress assembled with a degree of satisfaction and pleasure which those only can conceive, who, to the highest sentiments of respect, unite feelings of the most affectionate friendship.

The portraits of your majesty and of your royal consort having arrived at Philadelphia, have been carefully preserved by your faithful minister, the chevalier de la Luzerne, whose attention on this, as on all other occasions, merits the acknowledgements of Congress.

These lively representations of our august and most beloved friends will be placed in our council chamber; and can never fail of exciting in the mind of every American, an admiration of the distinguished virtues and accomplishments of the royal originals.

We beseech the Supreme Ruler of the Universe constantly to keep your majesty and

your royal consort in his holy protection, and to render the blessings of your administration as extensive as the objects of your majesty's benevolent principles.

Done at Annapolis, in the state of Maryland, this 16th day of April, 1784, by the United States in Congress assembled.

Your faithful friends and allies.

Resolved, That the President inform the honourable the minister of France, that Congress have a due sense of the care which he has taken for preserving the portraits; and are desirous they may continue in his possession until proper places can be provided for them.

REPORTS OF ARCHITECTS UPON THE ACOUSTICS OF OLD HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Extract from Latrobe's Report of March 23, 1808.

Before I close my account of the south wing of the Capitol, I most respectfully beg permission to notice in this report the two objections to the Hall of Congress, which were discovered immediately on the opening of the session—the difficulty of hearing and speaking in it, and the unpleasant effect of the mode adopted to warm the House upon the air of the room.

In every large room the great average distance of the speaker from the hearer is a cause of difficulty of hearing and speaking which cannot be removed; but the effect of this cause bears no proportion to that indistinctness which arises from the innumerable echoes that are reverberated from the walls and arched ceiling of such a room as the Hall of Representatives. These surfaces give back to the ear echoes, not only of the voice of the speaker, at a perceptible distance of time from the original sound, but also distinct echoes of every accidental noise and separate conversation in the House and lobbies, and renders debate very laborious to the speaker and almost useless to the hearers. This defect was foreseen; and, in furnishing the House, the curtains and draperies of the windows were made as ample as propriety would admit; draperies were hung in other proper situations, and a large curtain closed the opening of the columns behind the Speaker's chair. But all this drapery bore a small proportion to the extent of uncovered surface, though it rendered those particular situations of the hearer, thus freed from echo, superior to all others.

If the dimensions of a room, erected for the purpose of debate, were so moderate that the echoes of the voice of the speaker could reach the ear of the hearer, without the intervention of a perceptible distance of time, then the echo would strengthen and support the voice; and we find that this is actually the case in small lecture-rooms, expressly constructed to produce innumerable echoes. But there is a circumstance attending halls of debate which distinguishes them from rooms intended for the lectures of one speaker; the impossibility of preserving perfect silence, and of confining persons to their seats, so as to prevent all sound but that of the speaker's voice; for it is evident that sounds from all quarters and of all kinds will be re-echoed with perfect impartiality.

The Hall of Representatives is one hundred and ten feet long from east to west, and fifty-five feet high; therefore, before the echo of a sound, issuing from the center of the floor, can return to its place, it must travel one hundred and ten feet, a distance very perceptible to the ear in the return of echo. The distance will be still greater if the speaker be placed at a distance from the hearer. And as the walls, in their various breaks, return each a separate echo, their confusion must necessarily render it almost impossible to understand what is spoken.

From these plain facts it is evident that the walls of every large hall of debate should be covered with tapestry, or other material which does not reverberate sound. On reference to the original drawing it will be seen that this was intended, but neither the time nor the extent of the appropriation for furniture, which proved sufficient for the indispensable articles of carpeting, tables, chairs, desks, and curtains, would admit.

It was proposed to suspend curtains between the columns round the whole internal area of the House, and others behind the seats of the galleries, and to paint the ceiling in flock. The proposal was approved, and has been executed, as far as it could be done, by hanging all the curtains; the painting of the ceiling must be postponed until the House

risers. The fullest success attended this measure ; and, although the echoes of the ceiling produce in the center of the House some confusion of sound, it is a small inconvenience, which will be removed. When the size of this room is considered, it may be safely asserted that it is now as little liable to objection as any other hall of debate in the United States : that it is in all respects superior to most others, and that, when the proposed improvements, which are of comparatively small import, are made, it will be second to none in every legislative convenience.

Extract from Latrobe's Report of November 18, 1817.

On this occasion a plan was submitted to and approved by the President by which the inconveniences experienced in the former House were endeavored to be obviated, and the areas both of the House and gallery considerably enlarged.

Extracts from the Memorial of Charles Bulfinch to the House of Representatives.

Referred to the Committee on the Public Buildings, January 25, 1830.

Upon Congress being reinstated at the Capitol, in 1820, it was found that a difficulty existed both in speaking and hearing, in the Representatives' Hall ; this was at first imputed to the resonances and echoes occasioned by the unfurnished state of the Hall, and to the freshness and dampness of the new work. To remedy this defect, draperies were ordered to be suspended in front of the galleries, and between the columns of the Prostyle of the Logia : and carpets were spread in the galleries. These measures produced some effect in lessening the reverberations, but did not entirely remedy the inconveniencies complained of. In the Session of 1821, a large Committee, of 24 Members, was raised, to " inquire into the practicability of making such alterations in the present structure of the Hall of the House of Representatives as shall better adapt it to the purposes of a deliberative assembly." This Committee attended to the subject fully, and consulted the Architect (and such scientific persons whose opinions could be readily obtained) when several very contradictory theories and projects were suggested. The Architect had the honor of presenting the following Report :

The plan of the Hall under consideration was chosen by the distinguished Artist who commenced the restoration of the Capitol, from the most approved remains of Antiquity : it was taken, apparently, from the designs of the Grecian and Roman Theatres, traces of which are still extant ; and no form could be devised better adapted to such buildings : the whole audience being arranged in concentric semi-circular rows, and facing the Proscenium or place of exhibition, where all that was spoken was delivered from the stage or space in front of the semi-circle. This form has also been adopted of late in the legislative halls at Paris : but it is not found altogether convenient for a deliberative assembly, where the speakers are seated indiscriminately, and frequently with a large portion of the members in their rear ; in consequence of which, it has become necessary there, to select particular spots for desks or tribunes, as stations for those who wish to address the assembly. If such a measure could be adopted here, it would in a great degree remove the present complaint : as it is found, when religious services are performed, that the voice of the preacher is well heard in every part of the hall, assisted as he is by the silence which the solemnity of worship enjoins, but which is too much interrupted on other occasions.

Several suggestions have been made for the improvement of the Hall : 1st. To raise the floor. 2d. To contract the space by a partition of glass, in place of the present bar. 3d. To form a level ceiling at the foot of the dome, resting on the stone entablatures, over the columns.

I cannot think that any great advantage could be derived from raising the floor, because it could not be done, more than three feet, without disfiguring the columns and destroying all the beauty of their proportions ; and the chief difficulty of hearing is occasioned by the reverberation and confusion of sounds, from the lofty and smooth ceiling, which would not be affected by this mode of alteration.

The second proposal, to reduce the space by a glass partition, is also objectionable, as,

in my opinion, it would produce no effect, unless carried very high to shut out the galleries : which the habits of our country have made indispensable : and this mode would not remove the difficulty of the dome.

The third proposal, of a flat ceiling, affords a prospect of greater advantage than any other. It would reduce the absolute height of the room in the centre, upwards of twenty feet, in which space much of the voice is lost : and would check, in a great measure, and perhaps wholly, the reverberation and echo complained of. Although it would be a subject of much regret, that the beauty of the form and decoration of the dome should be obscured, yet these considerations must yield to the convenience of the Legislative body. To impair the appearance of the room as little as possible, I propose that this ceiling be made of glass, and present a drawing, in which its form and construction are shown : the panes to be made as large as convenient, and the principal ribs to be gilded. This ceiling would be preferable to one of wood or plaster, because, in that case, it would hide entirely the present dome, excepting the opening of the sky-light, which must be retained, but which would lose much of its usefulness from the angle in which the light would be received, and which would hardly reach the outer rows of the circle.

I submit an estimate of the expense of a glass ceiling, amounting to five thousand dollars. If this plan is adopted by the honorable House of Representatives, the work could be executed in the recess.

Experience, I think, has proved, that the objections to the present Hall are not so forcible as they were last season, but that the members are better heard, as they become accustomed to the room, and to the pitch of voice required ; yet, if it should be considered so inconvenient that the necessity of improving it should be thought indispensable, and would justify the expense, I would recommend that the glass ceiling be built, and a trial made of its utility at the next session.

Respectfully presented by

CHARLES BULFINCH.

No decisive measures were taken in consequence of this examination and report, and the evil still being complained of, the Committee on Public Buildings was again directed, at the following session, to consider the subject anew, when the architect presented the following report to the Chairman of the Committee :

Every work on Natural Philosophy, in general, contains observations on *acoustics*, and endeavors to explain the principles of musical instruments, the vibrations of strings, and the nature and cause of echoes : but these principles have seldom been applied for useful and practical purposes, to the construction of the interior of large rooms for deliberative assemblies. Places of public worship and theatres have received a greater share of attention, and the result of experience on such apartments, has been to avoid lofty domes, and arched ceilings of great elevation. The manner in which sound operates on the air, has been the subject of much inquiry : the theory generally adopted, supposes that sound is projected in direct lines, and that it is governed by the same principles as rays of light ; and that it is reflected from the substances which it encounters, in angles, equal to the angles of incidence. Another theory supposes that sound is propagated by an undulatory motion of the air, and that resonances and echoes are produced by the sound being conducted along the surface of intervening walls or other bodies.

The most judicious and practical writer on this subject that I have had the opportunity to consult, is Saunders, on the construction of Theatres. I beg permission to quote from him a few observations. "The supposition of sound being reflected on the same principles as light, has been very generally admitted, and in order to support this theory, it is asserted that sound is propagated in direct rays. Accordingly, Kircher, and most of those who follow him, after explaining the progress of sound to be undulative, go on comparing its properties with those of light : which is clearly refuted by Sir Isaac Newton, who says, 'a pressure on a fluid medium cannot be propagated in right lines, but will be always inflecting and diffusing itself every way, beyond any obstacle that may be presented to it. Sounds are propagated with equal ease, through crooked tubes, and through straight lines ; but light was never known to move in any curve, nor to inflect itself.' The French Encyclopedists, who adopt the theory of the reflection of sound, are obliged to qualify it by acknowledging

that the theory is still vague and uncertain, and that the comparison of the laws of the reflection of sound with that of light, may be true to a certain point, but it is not without restrictions, because sound is propagated in every direction, and light in right lines only."

Mr. Saunders, after a course of experiments, comes to this conclusion, that sound is affected by vibration among the particles of air, and moves in a circular undulating form. That echo is produced by conduction, and not by reflection, as heretofore imagined. It depends on the conductor, and the nature and form of the substance it meets with. He asserts that, after a smooth surface of water, stone is the most powerful conductor of sound; experience proves that smooth walls of plaster are next in order, then surfaces of woods, and lastly, hangings of tapestry or woollen cloth.

These observations and results are important, when applied to the Hall of the House of Representatives. The difficulty of hearing and speaking arises, in the first place, from the great size of the room; and is an evil which must always be apprehended in any room constructed to afford such ample conveniences for so numerous a body, unless the speakers will consent to mount a tribune, situated in the most favorable position: and in the second place, from the resonances or echoes, occasioned by the dome of 60 feet elevation from the floor. If these echoes could be checked, the difficulty of speaking and hearing would be, in a great measure, removed. For this purpose, I ventured to propose, in 1821, a horizontal ceiling of glass; but this is liable to objections, from the great difficulty of keeping so large a surface clean, and from the bad effect to be apprehended on the air of the room, from reducing it so much in its dimensions.

Private individuals have no motive for making experiments on the principles of the expansion of sound, and companies of proprietors of buildings are deterred from doing it, by the uncertainty of the effect, and by the expense. An opportunity is at present offered to Congress, to authorize some experiments during the recess, which may be of good consequences, and would, at least, extend a knowledge of the true principles which govern the operations of sound. With this view, I take the liberty to mention the following:

The Grecian and Roman Theatres were constructed without roofs, and were entirely open above; but it was usual to stretch a covering of sail cloth over the circular seats, to protect the audience from the inclemency of the weather. I would take a hint from this practice, and propose, that cords should be strained, at the springing of the dome, to support a ceiling of light woollen cloth or flannel, projecting ten feet from the columns, within the semicircle. If the theory of conduction of sound be correct, this horizontal projection will prevent it reaching the dome, to occasion the echoes complained of. The experiment might be tried at moderate expense, and, if found effectual, the ceiling might be finished afterwards, in a more permanent manner.

Respectfully submitted

CHARLES BULFINCH.

March 11th, 1822.

In consequence of this last suggestion, orders were given to stretch a covering of canvass over the *whole Hall*; which was done, as speedily as possible, at the height of the blocking course above the columns. This ceiling, composed of an unelastic substance, checked the reverberation but too fully; it not only put a stop to the echoes, but seemed to absorb the volume of sound; and rendering the Hall dark, by obstructing the sky light, it was removed after a few days.

Another experiment was tried, at a following session, of reducing the dimensions of the Hall, by framing a wooden partition between the columns of the prostyle; but no good effects were experienced from this measure, to counterbalance the inconvenience from the loss of space and light, and the partition was removed after one week's trial.

No other attempt was made to remedy the evil complained of, until May 19, 1826; when the House resolved, "That the Clerk of this House be authorized to employ William Strickland, of Philadelphia, to act in conjunction with the architect now employed in completing the Capitol, in devising a plan for improving the Hall, so far as to render it better suited to the purposes of a deliberative assembly: That the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General, be requested to act as a Board of Inspection, on the aforesaid contemplated improvement, during the recess of Congress; and that, if the said architects can devise any plan for accomplishing the object, that shall receive the

sanction of the Board aforesaid, they be authorized to execute the same, under the direction of the said Board. *Resolved*, That the expense be defrayed out of the contingent fund."

In pursuance of this resolution, Mr. Strickland was invited to make the examination desired, and attended to this service in the Summer of 1826, after which the following statements were presented to the House in February, 1827.

* * * *

The undersigned, constituting the Board of Inspection appointed by the said resolution, have the honor to report: That, shortly after the termination of the last session of Congress, the Clerk of the House communicated to Mr. William Strickland the substance of the resolution, and requested his attendance at Washington, to co-operate in the accomplishment of its object: that it was not convenient to Mr. Strickland to attend until some time in July, when, in the absence of the undersigned and the Clerk, he visited the city, and examined the Hall of the House, in company with Mr. Bulfinch: That the Clerk, on the 28th August last, addressed a letter to Mr. Strickland, (of which a copy accompanies the report, marked A,) to which he received an answer, under date of the 12th September last, of which the paper marked B, is a copy: That the undersigned being desirous to be present in the Hall with Messrs. Strickland and Bulfinch, when they examined it, requested the Clerk to ask the attendance of the former again at Washington, and accordingly, he came here in October last, as early as he could consistently with other engagements: That the undersigned were present when those gentlemen inspected the Hall, and discussed various plans of improvement which were suggested: that Mr. Strickland's opinion as to the most effectual improvement will be seen in his report to the Board, under date the 31st of October last, hereto annexed, marked C, and that of Mr. Bulfinch in his report, under date the 1st November last, also hereto annexed, marked D: That, from the perusal of those reports it will appear that both the architects concur in opinion, that the only effectual remedies of the defects complained of in the Hall, are, 1st, to suspend a flat ceiling of lath and plaster over the whole arena of the Hall within the columns, and upon a level with the stone cornice or springing line of the same; or, 2dly, To break up the existing smooth surface of the dome, by deeply sunk caissons, in the manner of the ceiling of the Senate Chamber and the Rotundo. Both the architects agree that the first mentioned plan would materially impair the symmetry and proportions of the Hall, and Mr. Bulfinch thinks it might injuriously diminish the cubic volume of air in the Hall.

That it became altogether unnecessary for the undersigned to give their sanction to either of the two suggested plans, because the vacation between the last and the present session of the House was too short to admit of the execution of either, so as to have the Hall prepared in time for the accommodation of the House: that the long vacation which will ensue, after the termination of the present session of Congress, will be sufficient to allow of the execution of either of them to which the House may think proper to give its sanction.

That the undersigned suggested to the architects the propriety of testing the efficacy of the suspended ceiling, by stretching a covering of silk over the space which it was intended to occupy; but it was stated that the absorbent qualities of that, or of any cloth, are such as would prevent its being a fair experiment; and that it was also mentioned, that, in the year 1814, such a test, (though not with silken cloth) was applied, and that the inconveniences which it occasioned induced the House quickly to direct its removal.

All which is respectfully submitted.

H. CLAY,
JAMES BARBOUR,
WM. WIRT.

WASHINGTON, 8th February, 1827.

A.

WASHINGTON, 23th August, 1826.

WM. STRICKLAND Esq.

Philadelphia.

Sir: I was disappointed in not finding you in Washington when I arrived, on the 3d July, having heard, in Carlisle, of your intended visit to Washington. From the conversation I have had with Mr. Bulfinch, I am led to believe, that you think that no alteration can be

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made in the Hall, which would be beneficial, except a flat ceiling of plaster. I write now, to ascertain whether you have made up your mind definitively; or, if you could not come down again to Washington, immediately after the 6th September, as Mr. Clay will then be at home. I wish you, very much, to see the Committee, as several expedients have been suggested; such as a flat, plastered ceiling; a glass ceiling; a glass cover, at the height of say thirty feet, supported by brass pillars, and rather concave, (taking down the galleries, and having the auditory on a level with the Hall,) raising the floor to the level of the walk behind the speaker's chair, making it either level, or rising, in the usual form, from front to rear.

Of all these different suggestions, I am certain, the Committee would be pleased to have your opinion, and would rather converse and explain, than write.

Please to inform me how soon you could come down.

Yours, most respectfully,

M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE,

Clerk Ho. of Reps. U. S.

B.

PHILADELPHIA, *Sept. 12th*, 1826.

MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE, Esq.

Washington.

Sir: It will be out of my power to visit Washington during the present month. When I examined the Hall of Representatives, in July last, I came to the conclusion, that no alteration could be effectively made to correct the reverberation of the voice in that room, except by the removal of the dome. This may be properly done, by the construction of a flat ceiling, of lath and plaster, over the whole area, upon a level with the cornice of the room. For the sake of light, the glass lantern should be continued to the ceiling, and be made to occupy a much larger diameter than it now does. I am aware, however, that this plan would affect the proportions of the room; but these may be retained, in a great degree, by any skilful artist, who could, by painting the flat ceiling, represent a dome, nearly as perfect as the real one.

The expedients you mention, as having been suggested, are all objectionable, and would have but a very partial effect, in removing the great cause of the *resonance*. The glass cover would be difficult and expensive to construct; and, when done, would form a very unsightly object: To the eye, the glass and its supports would distort the compartments of the dome, and produce a very disagreeable effect. In a few years it would become opaque, and completely coated with dust.

To take down the galleries, and have the auditory on a level with the floor of the Hall, would have the effect of increasing the difficulty of hearing, by opening a greater space through which the voice would be spent and broken, by the intervention of the semicircular screen of columns, which support the dome.

To raise the floor to the level of the loggia behind the Speaker's chair, would be, in fact, simply equivalent to lowering the ceiling a few feet, which would only serve to make the echo, or return of the voice, more sudden upon the speaker or hearer. While the great cause of the reverberation exists, viz: the dome, nothing short of its removal can be relied on, as a corrective to the present difficulty of speaking and being heard.

Yours, very respectfully,

WILLIAM STRICKLAND,

Architect and Engineer.

C.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY.

*Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred
the alteration of the Hall of Representatives.*

Sir: Without attempting to trouble you with a general application of the laws or doctrines of sound to the various forms of rooms, or particularly to the one under consideration. I will simply state my opinion of the cause of echo in the Hall, to be principally owing to

the reflection of the voice from so large a portion of unbroken spherical surface contained in the ceiling of the dome. The effect has been invariably observed in all circular rooms having vaulted ceilings; and *were the side walls of the Hall formed with a plain circular surface, like the ceiling, and not intercepted by the present screen of columns, the reverberation would be proportionably increased.*

The remedy which, in my opinion, can be successfully resorted to in this instance, is, to *break up* the plain surface of the dome by the introduction of *numerous deeply sunken pannels bound by raised stiles or margins.* A practical illustration of the efficacy of this method, in preventing the echo of sounds, may be witnessed at any time in the Senate Chamber, a room which nearly corresponds in plan with the Hall of Representatives, except in the *painted pannels* of the dome, which in that of the Senate Chamber are real and profuse.

One other, and a more effectual plan, may be had by the suspension of a flat ceiling of lath and plaster over the whole arena of the Hall within the columns, and upon a level with the stone cornice, or springing line of the dome; but I hesitate in recommending its adoption, convinced as I am that the construction of a *level ceiling* would materially injure the symmetry and proportions of the room, and that no single item of supportable inconvenience should be redressed in this manner, by the expense of so much architectural harmony and beauty.

I would, however, beg leave, Sir, to suggest to you the propriety of trying the effect of *opening the dome by a series of large pannels*, with small, but proportionably raised margins or stiles, as the only resource left to render the room suitable for the purposes of legislation, without injury to its well proportioned features.

Very respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

WILLIAM STRICKLAND.

WASHINGTON, October 31, 1826.

D.

To the Honorable the Secretary of State, Secretary of War, and Attorney General.

The subscriber, present Architect of the Capitol of the United States, respectfully presents the following report:

Mr. Strickland visited the city on the 1st of July last, when, in company with the subscriber, he examined the plan and construction of the Hall, when the difficulties that had been complained of were pointed out to him. Not being able to remain in the city longer than one day at that time, Mr. Strickland promised to take the subject into consideration, and to communicate the result, which he did in his letter of September the 12th. He also, on a repetition of the invitation, again visited the city on the 21st October. At this time, the subscriber laid before Mr. Strickland the original plans and sections of the Hall, with copies of all the investigations of the various committees who, in different years, had been appointed to consider the subject, and the several reports of the Architect made to such committees, containing suggestions of alterations, and reasonings thereon; also various papers from other scientific men, whom the committees had been able to consult. Mr. Strickland remained several days, and examined all these papers fully,* and formed a report of his opinion, as given in his letter addressed to the Secretary of State. In this report Mr. Strickland agrees with the report of the Architect, made in 1822, that the only effectual remedy against the reverberation of sounds would be a flat ceiling; he expresses his preference that it should be made solid and permanent, with painted or stucco ornaments; but, as such a ceiling would reduce, perhaps injuriously, the cubic volume of air in the room, and impair the beauty of its form and proportion, he suggests the breaking of the present smooth painted surface of the dome into deeply sunk caissons, in the manner of the ceiling of the Senate Chamber and of the Rotundo. In addition to this report, it was agreed that it would be of advantage to fill solidly under the floor of the circular space outside of the bar of the Hall.

The proposals fully agree with the opinion of the Architect, as expressed in former reports. Any thing would be of use that would check the tendency of the smooth surface

* Particularly the communication of Mr. Mills, with his reasoning on the subject, and diagrams of proposed alterations.

of the dome to return sounds, either by reflecting or conducting them too suddenly, and thereby prevent the present resonances. In this way a beneficial effect may be expected from sinking deep coffers or caissons : but it is much to be feared that it would not be so material an assistance as to afford a complete remedy of the difficulty of hearing and speaking.

Respectfully presented, by your obedient servant.

CHARLES BULFINCH.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1, 1826.

This report of Mr. Strickland, seemed to put the subject at rest : for no further notice was taken of it, until late in the long session of 1828; when, from the warmth of the season, complaints were made of the want of ventilation in the Hall, and this, with the former difficulty of hearing, caused a short debate; but no order was taken thereon. The architect, however, conceiving it to be his duty to meet every suggestion for the improvement of the building under his care, applied himself, in the recess, to prepare drawings, which he laid before the Committee, in 1829; but they did not think proper to make any report thereon to the House.

These drawings make part of the present communication. By this design, it is proposed to bring the galleries down nearly to the floor of the Hall, of the extent of four intercolumniations on the East and West; by which means, two large windows on each side would be opened to view, and would afford a more equal diffusion of light, and secure complete ventilation. Should this plan be adopted, the objection to removing the dome would lose its force, on the score of reducing the cubic volume of air, and a flat ceiling might be substituted. I present two drawings of ceilings, one of glass, and another composed of glass and plaster; should either of them be approved by the Committee, estimates can be furnished of the expense, previous to presenting the report to the House. The whole alteration of both the galleries and ceiling, might be made during the recess of Congress.

Report of the Select Committee by Mr. Jarvis to the House. June 30, 1832.

That they have had the subject under consideration, and have agreed to recommend the following alterations :

- 1st. The floor to be raised to the level of the foot of the columns which surround the Hall.
- 2d. The chair of the Speaker to be placed near where the principal entrance now is, and the seats of the members to be turned so as to preserve their relative position to the chair.
- 3d. A circular wall to be built back of the third seat in the gallery.

The committee offer, as a part of their report, a communication to the Committee on Public Buildings, from Robert Mills, an ingenious architect now in this city; and refer to it for the reasons of the alterations recommended, as well as for an explanation of the details of these and of other minor alterations therein proposed; and, for the purpose of carrying the same into effect, they offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Commissioner on Public Buildings cause the Hall of Representatives to be altered during the recess of Congress, according to the plan of Robert Mills herewith submitted, and under the superintendence of said Mills; and that the expense be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, February 4, 1832.

Gentlemen : The present plan of the Hall is manifestly defective as a hearing and speaking room for forensic or popular debate. The defect was discovered at an early day after its occupancy, and, with a view to remedying it, the *draperies* suspended between the columns (which now decorate the room) were introduced. These curtains had some effect in lessening the reverberations of sound, but the inconvenience complained of still existed.

In the session of 1821, so important was the subject considered, that a committee of 24 members was appointed to "*inquire into the practicability of making such alterations in the present structure of the Hall of the House of Representatives as shall better adapt it to*

the purposes of a deliberative assembly." The result of the investigation of this committee is contained in a report submitted by the architect of the Capitol, Mr. Bulfinch, who recommended the suspension of a *glass ceiling* at the foot of the dome; but nothing was done towards testing the merits of this plan; and the evil still being complained of at the following session, the Committee on the Public Buildings was instructed to investigate the subject anew, when the architect again reported his views; and, at his suggestion, a *cloth covering* was stretched across the Hall at the foot of the dome. The effect of this covering was not only to check completely the reflections or echoes from the ceiling, but to darken the Hall so seriously as to induce its immediate removal.

Another experiment was tried at the following session, which went to reduce the dimensions of the Hall. A partition was made between the columns, back of the Speaker's chair, so as to exclude the prostyle, but no good effect was experienced from this measure, "and the partition was removed after a week's trial."

In 1826, the subject of grievance in the Hall was renewed, and "*the Secretaries of State and War, and Attorney General,*" were requested to act as a board of inspection on the contemplated improvement during the recess of Congress; and should any plan be approved, that the same should be carried into execution. A professional gentleman of Philadelphia (Mr. Strickland,) was called in to the aid of the architect of the Capitol, to devise plans of improvement, who, after a consultation, recommended "*the suspension of a flat ceiling of lath and plaster over the whole area of the Hall, within the columns, and upon a level with the stone cornice.*" Nothing, however, was done towards carrying this plan into execution, and it was not until 1828 that the subject was again agitated; but no satisfactory solution of the difficulty in question being given to warrant the committee to recommend the construction of a flat ceiling, and thereby destroy the beauty of the Hall, no report was made to the House.

Passing through Washington in 1821, I was requested by the architect of the Capitol, and subsequently (1827) by the Secretary of State, to give an opinion on the causes of the difficulty of hearing in the Hall, and the means of remedying the defect. On these requisitions, I submitted two papers on the subject to these gentlemen, wherein was discussed the theory of acoustics, (as regards the laws of sound) and the application of its principles to the peculiar circumstances of the Hall of Representatives: explanatory diagrams accompanied these papers, showing the design of the room, and the practical effect of two modifications of plan. These papers were referred to by the architect of the Capitol in his last report; but, laying down a theory totally at variance with that he had assumed as the correct one, they were never brought forward.

On a visit which I made the Seat of Government in 1830, I took the liberty of calling the attention of the House to the substance of my communication to the Secretary of State in 1827, which was referred to a committee; who, after investigating the plan submitted, made a favorable report to the House. With a view, in part, to test the correctness of the principle upon which the proposed improvements were based, a temporary partition was directed to be constructed in the gallery, so as to form an unbroken line of wall behind the columns and parallel therewith. A very sensible difference, both in hearing and speaking, was experienced by the members and audience from the execution of this part of the plan, though of a temporary character. Another essential part of the design could not be tested during the sitting of the House, namely, *raising the floor*, but the committee was satisfied that it would be effective in its operations to answer the object in question. The House not making any appropriation for carrying the plan reported by the committee into execution, the partition which had been put up, was taken down in the recess, and the Hall restored to its original state as it now stands. This circumstance will enable those who were members of the House in the last Congress to judge of the difference in effect between the two modifications of plan.

Every day's experience satisfies me of the correctness of that theory I have advocated associated with the conveyance of sound, and upon which I have based all my plans of rooms intended for the accommodation of deliberative bodies. The opportunities which I have had of testing the principles of this theory by actual practice, in the construction of several rooms of large dimensions, (one of which is greater in area than the Hall of Representatives,) enables me to speak with confidence on this subject; and I therefore do not hesitate in saying that *it is practicable to give to the present Hall all the advantages in hearing and speaking of which it is susceptible.*

The plan of the Hall of Representatives was adopted as *the best form of room* to answer the demands of a deliberative assembly. This form was selected by the French Government for its Chamber of Deputies on the recommendation of the most eminent architects of France. The theatres both of Greece and Rome were all on the semi-circular plan: and, in the construction of our modern theatres, the same form is adopted. In the execution of the plan of the Hall of Representatives some *radical errors* were committed, which have almost defeated the object of its design. The first error was *the breaking of the circular line of wall* by running the colonnade above, and in addition to this, *breaking the circular line of wall back of these columns into irregular surfaces*. The second error consisted in *sinking the floor or raising the dome beyond their proper relative position to each other*. The third error lies in the *location of the Speaker's chair, and, consequently, the seats of the members*.

To remedy the *first error*, I have proposed to *construct a wall behind the third seat in the galleries, so as to keep up the circular line complete and parallel to that of the columns*.

By reference to my letter, printed by order of the House in 1830, accompanied by diagrams of explanation, the reasons upon which this part of the plan was based will be seen.

Sound being subject to the same *general laws* which govern *light*, viz. radiating from a centre every way from its original source, and subject to reflection and refraction, it follows, that, in the construction of a room for speaking or hearing to the best advantage, the form should be such as to give the greatest number of consonant echoes, or, in other words, that as few of the rays of sound (or reflections of the voice) should cross each other as practicable. Now the circular form is that best adapted to produce the fewest dissonant echoes, and to give the most distinct sound of what is spoken.

The *second error*, which consists in the *too great loftiness of the room*, I have proposed to remedy by *raising the floor* to the general level of that of the prostyle behind the Speaker's chair, or as high as would be consistent with propriety, having reference to the columns encompassing the Hall.

It is a fundamental principle in acoustics, that, where a room to speak in (to be distinctly heard) is covered with a domical or cylindrical ceiling, the *point* describing the *curve line* of the same must be *below the ear* of the speaker or hearer: and if this point is below the floor, the ear will be less sensible of the return of the voice. If this rule is not attended to, and the *point* describing the curve is *above the ear* of the speaker, the ring of echoes or reflected sounds from this ceiling, *will cross each other above the ear*, and produce a sensible *echo*. That the *point* describing the dome of the Hall is *above the floor*, is proved by standing in the axis and centre of the plan of the room, (just in front of the clerk's desk) and stamping the foot or clapping the hands: for a distinct repetition of the original sound will be heard.

The Rotunda of the Capitol exhibits a striking example of the truth of this position. Any attempt to speak in this room, results in the utter confusion of the voice, simply because the point which describes the dome is elevated so high, (being on the top of the great cornice, that the rays of sound striking the dome are reflected, and (as soon as they pass the cornice level) cross each other, and then are subject again to reflection from the *walls*, so that by the time they reach the ear, the original sound is broken and scattered in various directions, striking the ear at sensible moments of time.

Could we elevate ourselves so as to stand on a *level* with the cornice or spring of the dome, and there speak, the voice would be found distinct, strong, and clear. At this level, were a light enclosure constructed, this dome would be one of the most perfect whispering galleries in the world, equal to that of St. Paul's, London, famed in the annals of travellers.

It is to be regretted that we should be deprived of witnessing so great a curiosity as this splendid expanse of dome presents, and which is so well calculated to develop the theory of sound, when it is in our power to enjoy it by the construction of a simple balustrading, or enclosed walk, around the circle on the top of the great cornice, and opening a communication with it through one of the stair-ways above:—permit me to call the attention of the committee to this interesting subject.

I come now to the *third fundamental error* in the plan of the Hall, namely, the *location of the Speaker's chair*, and consequently those of the members.

From the facts and reasonings previously stated and referred to, it will readily be seen, by examining the plan, that the Speaker's chair is exactly in the *reversed position to where it ought to stand*. If it is true that a circular surface of wall is better adapted for the transmission of sound than the straight surface, which cannot be doubted, except we will not

receive the testimony of ancient and modern practice in the construction of rooms, expressly designed for public speaking, for these invariably are found to assume the circular form; therefore, if this circular line is *broken* in any way, a proportionate defect arises in the capacity of the room to support the voice and convey it distinctly to the ear; and it also follows, that, in speaking, the direction of the voice should be *towards the circular surface*, and *not the straight*. If we refer to the position of the speakers in theatres, we will find that they all *speak to the circle*; and if we examine the Legislative Hall of France, (which we have said was of a similar form to our Hall,) we will find that the orator *speaks to the circle*, the *tribune* from whence he speaks being located expressly to meet this necessity. The evidence of the fact that the speakers should speak to the circle, is to be found in our own Hall, for it is only when they do this that the voice is comparatively distinctly heard; and it is well known that little or no difficulty occurs in hearing what is said from the chair, or from the clerk's desk. These facts are sufficient to satisfy us of the propriety and advantage of *reversing* the present arrangement of the Speaker's chair and member's seat, so that the latter should front the circle. Independent of the benefit which would result to hearer and speaker by doing this, there would be other advantages gained, namely: getting rid of the disagreeable effect of the light shining into the eyes, and almost blinding the vision. Every one is sensible of this on entering the Hall, and must be satisfied that it is an evil. Again: The members will front the audience, which certainly is most agreeable to those who address the Chair: this House being the popular branch of the Legislature, the people would wish to hear what is said by their representatives.

The different *experiments* which have been made at different times to rectify the evils complained of in the Hall, go to prove the correctness of the principles herein advocated on the conveyance of sound, 1st. The introduction of *draperies* between the columns tended to shut out, in a great degree, the return of the voice from the walls behind, which was favorable, as the echoes from the surfaces are mostly what are termed *dissonant*, or reaching the ear at different periods of time. These curtains being of an unelastic substance, destroyed or deadened the sound.

Though this plan effected a partial remedy of the evil complained of, it was at a sacrifice of so much surface of wall, which, under a different form, would have tended to increase the strength and distinct utterance of the voice. 2d. The spreading of the *canvass cloth* over the whole Hall, so as to shut off the reflections of the voice from the *dome*, went to prove the importance of this form of ceiling to hearer and speaker; for as long as this cloth canopy existed, it so completely (as in the case of the draperies) absorbed the sound of the voice, that it could scarcely be heard; and, further, it went to prove that were a *flat ceiling* to take its place, the evil complained of, instead of being remedied, would be increased. To say nothing of the serious injury in point of beauty, which the Hall would sustain were a flat ceiling to supercede the present domical one, there would be a positive reduction in the powers of this ceiling to sustain the voice, for this simple reason, that, in the place of a *ring of consonant* echoes which the present ceiling can be made capable of giving, there would be but *one* reflected from the flat ceiling, and, consequently, the voice would lose its support in the ratio of the difference in the number of consonant echoes. It has been well, therefore, that the Hall has escaped being disfigured by such an useless canopy. The members, when in their seats, have, no doubt, sometimes been startled by the sudden sound of a voice as from one close by, and been astonished when they looked for the speaker to find him at the opposite end of the room. The secret of this phenomenon lies in the *domical ceiling*, and the mathematician would be able to trace the person speaking (among several speakers) by calling to mind that principle in acoustics which determines the angle of incidence to be equal to the angle of reflection. Now, this fact goes to confirm the truth of the doctrine we have endeavored to establish, namely, that sound is transmitted like light in *straight lines*, and not in *undulatory* lines. In further proof of this, certain points might be selected for both speaker and hearer in the Hall, where the *whole force* of the speaker's voice would fall on the ear of the hearer; and these points could be calculated with mathematical precision. Let any member, whilst another is addressing the House, walk along the inner side of the prostyle just behind the columns, and he will reach a point in that line where his ear will be arrested by a powerful impulse of the speaker's voice. Now, let him draw a line so as to strike the circular surface of the dome or wall at any point, and observe the angle, and then draw another line from thence to the speaker, and he will find that the *two angles* (the angle of incidence and reflection) will be equal.

The third experiment, which filled up the space between the columns of the prostyle, went to prove that not even *reducing the space* of the room, and giving a close flat surface to this portion of it, benefitted the hearing any. Sound travels with great rapidity, (1,142 feet in a second of time,) and it is not always the smallest rooms that are the best to hear and speak in. It must be recollected that it is not the *size* but the *form* of the room that constitutes it a good or bad speaking and hearing room. I could construct a room which should hold five or ten thousand persons, in which the voice in a common tone, would be distinctly heard at the most distant points in it. I have already had a room built which has held four thousand persons, where every word of the speaker was as well heard at the extreme distance as immediately near. I could take the Rotunda, which is now a perfect Babel of sounds, and make it as perfect a speaking room as there is in the world.

I shall now close by giving a brief description of the drawings herewith submitted.

Plan No. 1 exhibits the Hall as it *now is*, with the seats and desks of the members, and the Speaker's chair, in the position they now hold.

Plan No. 2 exhibits the Hall as *proposed* to be arranged, with a view to realize the benefits promised thereby, not only increasing the facilities of *hearing and speaking*, but adding to the comfortable accommodation of the House, providing ample space for any increase of members, even to the number 300, and retaining all the desks with the seats.

Associated with this plan, it is proposed, 1st, to make a change in the space *under the galleries*, taking in one portion of this space on each side of the Hall, for the *use of the House*, as private lobbies or conference rooms. Opening the space between the columns into these rooms, so as to get the benefit of the large windows here, and thus adding much to the comfort of the Hall both in respect to light and air.

It will be seen that, by a new arrangement of the remaining space, and making a stair way up into the angular spaces above, more useful accommodations will be afforded than are now had.

2d. For the better lighting of the Hall, it is proposed to open all the *attic windows to the south* under the prostyle, (now closed up).

3d. Some accommodations for lady visitors have been desired in galleries appropriated for their use, separated from the common galleries, and having private or distinct entrances to the same. This plan contemplates making such a provision, by dividing off a portion at each end of the present galleries, and either using the stair ways that now lead to these galleries, at the south end of the building, or constructing new stair-ways upon a more enlarged scale, which may be constituted the principal entrances into the Hall.

The present entrance into the Hall does not comport with the dignity of the room, as it is both dark and circuitous. The ample space within the projecting blocks against which the galleries terminate, allows two grand stair-cases to be constructed which would be well lighted, and, opening into the private lobbies of the House, would be a great convenience to the members.

All which is respectfully submitted by, gentlemen, yours, &c.

ROBERT MILLS.

The Hon. the Committee of Public Buildings.

Extracts from the Report of Architect Mills to the Committee on Public Buildings, May 1, 1850, respecting plans for Extensions never executed. Reported to the Senate by Mr. Hunter, May 28th.

Mr. L. [Latrobe] was fully justified in selecting the *horse-shoe* or semicircular form for the new hall, from the fact that when the *French Chamber of Deputies* resolved upon the erection of a new hall for debate, they appointed a committee composed of the *most celebrated architects* of France to inquire into the subject, and report upon the best form of a room for legislative business; and who after examining the largest rooms in Paris, and the most celebrated buildings of antiquity, unanimously recommended the *horse-shoe* or semicircular form, surmounted by a *very flat dome*; which was accordingly executed, and has given every satisfaction. As I have stated before, the hall of the Chamber of Deputies is said to be one of the finest speaking and hearing rooms known. But the Chamber of Deputies was so *plain* a room that Mr. L., no doubt, thought from the success of the last hall he

built, (the elliptical,) which was enriched by a splendid colonnade circling the room, that he might circle this new hall also with a similar colonnade; but at the result he must have been disappointed, if he ever saw the room after it was occupied by the House—for Mr. L. settled in New Orleans, where he deceased soon after, to the great loss of the profession.

I have given the *elliptical* form to the new hall of the House, which is that adopted for the hall erected for the *first Congress*, which sat in Washington in 1800. This room was found so favorable for the action of the voice in speaking and hearing, that, when the permanent hall (the first being but a temporary building) was ordered to be erected, Mr. Jefferson, who was charged with the selection of the plan, chose the *same* form for the new hall; and it was accordingly erected and finished in this *general form*.

ENTOMBMENT AND STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

On Motion of Mr. Mitchell of Md., the House resolved on February 22, 1830:

That the following resolutions of the Congress of the United States, unanimously adopted on the 23d December, 1799, and the message of President Adams, of the 8th January, 1800,* to Congress, respecting the entombment of the remains of General George Washington in this Capitol, be referred to a select committee, and that the said committee be authorized to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Mitchell, as Chairman of this Committee, made a report which said:

COMMITTEE ROOM, *March 2, 1830.*

The committee met, and after mature consideration it was *Resolved*, That the chairman appoint a sub-committee, to consider and report to the select committee . . .

Sub-committee, Mr. Burges, Mr. Drayton, Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, and Mr. Mitchell.

March 27th, 1830.

The Sub-Committee made to the Select Committee the following report: Committee Room of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads,

MARCH 13, 1830.

The Sub-committee met agreeable to appointment.

The Committee called on the Commissioner of the Public Buildings to give them information respecting the vault heretofore provided for the entombment of General George Washington, under the central dome of the Capitol. His report will be found hereunto annexed. The committee thereupon, after a free conversation, and a full interchange of ideas on this interesting subject, directed Mr. Burges to draw up a report of their deliberations thereon, to be laid before the whole committee appointed by the House of Representatives, on the 22d day of February, 1830; and thereupon adjourned until the 17th of March instant, to meet in this place, for the purpose of examining said report, preparatory to laying the same before said whole committee.

MARCH 17, 1830.

The Sub-committee met according to adjournment.

Mr. Burges submitted the following

REPORT:

Although our country itself, and the history of the age in which he lived, are filled with testimonials of the eminent services and high character of Washington, yet will it be found that the American People have ever cherished the intention of consecrating to him some peculiar monumental memorials, to the intent that after times may perceive that the nation which was established by his valor and guided by his counsels could never cease to cherish his memory and venerate his character. The Continental Congress,

* These papers are embodied in the report of the Committee.

Thursday, August 7, 1783.

On motion of Mr. A. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bland,

Resolved, (unanimously, ten States being present,) That an equestrian statue of General Washington be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. A. Lee, Mr. Ellsworth, and Mr. Mifflin, appointed to prepare a plan of an equestrian statue of the Commander-in-chief,

Resolved, That the statue be of bronze, the General to be represented in a Roman dress, holding a truncheon in his right hand, and his head encircled with a laurel wreath. The statue to be supported by a marble pedestal, on which are to be represented, in basso relievo, the following principal events of the war, in which General Washington commanded in person, viz: the evacuation of Boston; the capture of the Hessians at Trenton; the battle of Princeton; the action of Monmouth; and the surrender of York. On the upper part of the front of the pedestal to be engraved as follows: The United States, in Congress assembled, ordered this statue to be erected, in the year of our Lord 1783, in honor of George Washington, the illustrious Commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States of America during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty, and independence.

Resolved, That a statue conformable to the above plan be executed by the best artist in Europe, under the superintendence of the Minister of the United States at the court of Versailles; and that money to defray the expense of the same be furnished from the Treasury of the United States.

Resolved, That the Secretary of Congress transmit to the Minister of the United States at the Court of Versailles the best resemblance of General Washington that can be procured, for the purpose of having the above statue erected; together with the fittest description of the events which are to be the subject of the basso relievo.

It will not be expected that the committee shall make any inquiry concerning the causes which may have prevented carrying these resolutions into effect. While the illustrious object of them lived, and, as a citizen or statesman, was disclosing to the nation and the world a character, if possible, more endeared and illustrious than that achieved by him as the first captain of the age, it would not have been singular if public opinion had changed, and the whole nation should question the appropriateness of consecrating to Washington such monumental honors as belong exclusively to the distinguished soldier.

When that event which finishes the formation of human character arrived, and the death of Washington made every dwelling-place in the land a house of mourning, the Senators and Representatives of these United States, in Congress assembled, did, in accordance with national feelings, and in honor of the mighty dead, pass the following, among other resolutions:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1799.

It was resolved, That the House do unanimously agree to the following resolutions, to wit:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Capitol at the city of Washington; and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it; and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

And be it further resolved, That there be a funeral procession from Congress hall to the German Lutheran church, in honor of the memory of General George Washington, on Thursday, the 26th instant; and that an oration be prepared at the request of Congress, to be delivered before both Houses on that day; and that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives be desired to request one of the members of Congress to prepare and deliver the same.

And be it further resolved, That it be recommended to the people of the United States to wear crape on the left arm as mourning for thirty days.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to direct a copy of these resolutions to be transmitted to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her person and character, of their condolence

on the late afflicting dispensation of Providence, and entreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General George Washington in the manner expressed in the first resolution.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to issue a proclamation, notifying to the people throughout the United States the recommendation contained in the third resolution.

[The foregoing resolutions were sent to the Senate, and received their concurrence the same day.]

On the 8th of January, 1800, the following message was received from the President by both Houses of Congress :

Gentlemen of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives :

In compliance with the request in one of the resolutions of Congress of the 21st of December last, I transmitted a copy of those resolutions, by my Secretary, Mr. Shaw, to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her person and character, of their condolence in the late afflicting dispensation of Providence, and entreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General George Washington in the manner expressed in the first resolution. As the sentiments of that virtuous lady, not less beloved by this nation than she is at present greatly afflicted, can never be so well expressed as in her own words, I transmit to Congress her original letter.

It would be an attempt of too much delicacy to make any comments upon it ; but there can be no doubt that the nation at large, as well as all the branches of the Government, will be highly gratified by any arrangement which may diminish the sacrifice she makes of her individual feelings.

JOHN ADAMS.

The letter referred to in the above message is as follows:

MOUNT VERNON, Dec. 31, 1799.

SIR: While I feel, with keenest anguish, the late dispensation of Divine Providence, I cannot be insensible to the mournful tributes of respect and veneration which are paid to the memory of my dear deceased husband; and as his best services and most anxious wishes were always devoted to the welfare and happiness of his country, to know that they were truly appreciated and gratefully remembered, affords no inconsiderable consolation.

Taught by that great example which I have so long had before me never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I must consent to the request made by Congress, which you have had the goodness to transmit to me ; and, in doing this, I need not, I cannot say, what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty.

With grateful acknowledgments, and unfeigned thanks for the personal respect and evidences of condolence expressed by Congress and yourself,

I remain, very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

THURSDAY, 8th MAY, 1800.

Mr. Henry Lee made a further report ; which was read, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-day.

The House, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House on the report* of the committee ; and, after some time spent therein, Mr.

This report recommended the adoption of the following resolutions:

* Resolved, That the resolution of Congress passed in the year 1783, respecting an equestrian statue of General Washington, be carried into immediate execution, and that the statue be placed in the centre of an area to be formed in front of the Capitol.

Resolved, That a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Capitol at the City of Washington, in honor of General Washington to commemorate his services, and to express the regrets of the American people for their irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to give such directions as may appear to him proper to carry the preceding resolutions into effect ; and that for the present the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for these purposes.

Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Parker reported that the committee had, according to order, had the said report under consideration, and come to a resolution thereupon, which he delivered in at the Clerk's table : where the same was twice read, amended, and agreed to by the House, as follows :

"Resolved, That a mausoleum be erected for George Washington in the City of Washington." *

The committee have, in discharge of the important duties devolved on them by the House, been furnished with the following letters :

No. 1.

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 27th February, 1830.

SIR : I perceive with the most sincere gratification, that the House of Representatives have appointed a committee to report upon a *national interment* of the venerated remains of Washington.

Permit me to offer to your notice, and through you, sir, to that of the honorable committee charged with this interesting subject, certain facts touching the consent of Mrs. Washington to the removal of the remains of the Chief, in 1799.

Mrs. Washington yielded to the request of Government only in the firm and fond belief, that, upon her decease, her remains would be permitted to rest by the side of those of her beloved husband ; and, in a correspondence, strictly private and confidential, which occurred between Colonel Lear, on the part of the bereaved lady, and the first President Adams, touching this subject, the venerable and afflicted relict was given to understand that Government could do no other than comply with her just and honored expectations.

In this belief, Mrs. Washington directed that, upon her decease, her remains should be enclosed in a leaden coffin, precisely similar to the one containing the ashes of her illustrious consort, which command has been obeyed to the letter.

I beg leave, sir, to submit to the honorable committee the copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. John Quincy Adams, Ex-President of the United States, with its answer : also, a copy of a letter from Major Lawrence Lewis, the nephew of General Washington, and sole acting executor of his will.

In making these communications, permit me to observe, sir, that I have done no more than filial duty required at my hands. It is left for Government to determine whether the

* The bill itself, providing "That a mausoleum of American granite and marble, in a pyramidal form, one hundred feet square at the base, and of a proportionate height, shall be erected, in testimony of the love and gratitude of the citizens of the United States, to George Washington," was considered by the Committee of the Whole in the House on December 5, 1800. Mr. Alston moved that the monument be of marble and erected in the Capitol. During the debate, Mr. Macon remarked: "We are told that the best mode of perpetuating the memory of Washington is to erect a mausoleum. I have heard of Aristides, I have heard of Hampden, but I have never heard of monuments raised to their memories. Yet their virtues shine as bright now as they did when they lived. I have heard of a place called Westminster Abbey, full of the monuments of Kings ; yet, notwithstanding these grand memorials, I have heard very little of them after they left this world."

The bill was further considered on the 10th, when Mr. Claiborne said that he preferred "a plain but neat tomb-stone of American marble, and prepared by an American artist" ; and wished to see engraved upon it the addresses of each House to the President, and his reply, when first they received the announcement of the loss of their patriot, sage and hero. On the 19th, Mr. Lee made the following report :

The Committee to whom was committed the bill, directing the erection of a mausoleum to George Washington, together with the resolve of Congress, passed the 7th, of August, 1783, ordering an equestrian statue of bronze to be erected to George Washington ; and also a resolution of Congress, of the 24th, day of December, 1799, directing that a marble monument be erected in the Capitol, in the city of Washington, have had the same under consideration ; and while they recognize with entire co-operation the highly gratifying testimonial of the national estimation of their commander-in-chief, cannot but consider it as an incomplete exemplification of the national feeling at this day, it having in view only the celebration of his military services. To connect with this the erection of an appropriate monument in the dome of the Capitol, on a scale commensurate with the virtue and ability of the character thus held up as a model to all future generations, would fulfil the general expectation and complete the professions of Congress. But from the most accurate inquiry they have been able to make, your committee are of opinion, the expense attending the accomplishment of the two resolutions would exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

They cannot, therefore, but recommend an adherence to the plan heretofore adopted by the House, combining as it does every object, and that, too, at an expense not exceeding the sum necessary for an equestrian statue and marble monument, and to be erected by American artists out of American materials.

The bill passed the House on January 1, 1801 ; but, when it finally came to the Senate, after various amendments, its consideration was postponed, on March 3d, by a vote of 14 to 13.

remains of those who were endeared to each other by forty years of happy and eventful life, shall become separate in the lasting repose of the tomb.

I have the honor to be.

With perfect respect.

Your obedient humble servant.

GEORGE W. P. CUSTIS.

To the Hon. GEORGE E. MITCHELL, Esq.

Chairman of Committee, &c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 25th Feb. 1820.

DEAR SIR: I perceive with much pleasure, and truly much surprise, that Government, after the lapse of thirty years, has at last determined to give *national* rites of sepulture to the venerated remains of Washington, thus enabling his country to declare, in the words of the divine bard,

"Such honors Ilion to her Hero paid!

"And peaceful sleeps the mighty Hector's shade."

In 1799, when Mrs. Washington, yielding to the request of Congress, gave her consent for the removal of the remains of the Chief, a correspondence occurred between Col. Lear, on the part of the bereaved lady, and your venerable parent, the late President Adams, in which the Colonel urged that the consent of Mrs. Washington had only been obtained upon an understanding, that, on the decease of the afflicted relict, her remains should be consigned to the same sepulchre as should be provided by Government for those of her beloved husband. I always understood from Col. Lear, that the letters of President Adams assured Mrs. Washington that a request so just and honored as was hers, to be interred by the side of her illustrious consort, would meet with no objections from Government.

If, sir, in the course of your examinations of the papers of the late President Adams, you shall have met with any documents touching this interesting subject, will you have the kindness to forward copies of the same to the honorable committee charged with reporting on the national interment of the remains of Washington.

With great respect.

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Your obedient humble servant.

GEORGE W. P. CUSTIS.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

No. 3.

WASHINGTON, February 26, 1830.

G. W. P. CUSTIS, Esq., *Arlington House.*

DEAR SIR: I find among my father's manuscripts a copy of a letter from him to your venerated grandmother, dated 27th December, 1799, purporting to enclose, by William Smith Shaw, a copy of the resolutions of Congress, passed on the 24th of that month, and entreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General Washington under the marble monument to be erected in the Capitol, at the City of Washington, to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

The answer to this letter is not among my father's papers here. It was transmitted by him to Congress, with a message, dated 8th January, 1800, which is upon the Journals of both Houses on that day. There is in the message itself an intimation, expressing, as I understand it, my father's *opinion*, all that he could give, upon the subject to which your letter refers. I find no second letter from him, nor any paper showing that any thing further had passed between them on this occasion. I cannot imagine that there should be any question among those who incline to perform the promise of Congress at all, in what manner they ought to perform it.

The request of Congress was not that *one-half* of General Washington's remains should be transferred to the Capitol.

I am, dear sir, respectfully,

Your friend,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

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No. 4.

WOOD LAWN, *February 24, 1830.*

MY DEAR SIR : I observe the resolutions of Congress, of the 23d December, 1799, and the message of President Adams, of the 8th January, 1800, respecting the entombment in the Capitol of the remains of General Washington, are, by a resolution of Mr. Mitchell, again before Congress.

Mr. Hayner stated, that, in order to obviate any objection which might possibly arise, he would inform the House he was authorized to state, that the resolution, if adopted, could be carried into effect without any opposition on the part of the family of General Washington.

Nothing is said of the remains of Mrs. Washington : assuredly they do not mean to separate the bodies.

These resolutions will be submitted to a Select Committee of one member from each State in the Union. I think this committee ought to be informed that the family of Washington will not consent to a separation of the bodies. I am sure your venerable grand parent expressed her views and wishes on this subject to President Adams.

I am, my dear sir, truly and sincerely,

Yours,

LAWRENCE LEWIS.

To GEORGE W. P. CUSTIS, Esq. of Arlington.

It thus appears that the family of General George Washington have consented, and now expect, that his remains, united with those of his beloved consort, may be entombed in the city distinguished by his name : and that the American people do intend to erect and consecrate to his memory some monumental memorials, appropriate to the endeared and venerated character of the illustrious Father of his Country. The sub-committee do, therefore, after full advisement, and the most mature consideration, recommend that it be,

Resolved, That the leaden coffin, containing the remains of General George Washington, be removed from the family vault at Mount Vernon, and that the same be deposited in a marble sarcophagus, and entombed in the vault heretofore prepared for that purpose, under the central dome of the Capitol : that building, erected by the people for the accommodation of their Government, being the most appropriate mausoleum for the great founder of it. The remains of Mrs. Washington, now united with those of her illustrious consort in the repose of the tomb, shall at the same time be removed, and being deposited in another marble sarcophagus, shall be entombed by his side in the same national sepulchre. On the lid of each sarcophagus shall be inscribed the name, day of the birth, death, and entombment of each, respectively. Immediately over the centre of this tomb, and on the ground floor of the Capitol, shall be placed a marble cenotaph, in the form of a well proportioned sarcophagus, on the lid of which shall be sculptured, in large letters, the name, day of the birth, death, place and day of entombment, of that illustrious man. Immediately above this, in the centre of the Rotundo, a full length marble pedestrian statue of Washington, wrought by the best artist of the present time, shall be placed on a circular pedestal, formed from the same material, of such width and height, being not less than four feet, as will be proportionate to the dimensions of that apartment. This pedestal shall be finished in the most perfect style of workmanship, but without the ornament of any device, either of emblem or legend, other than the name of George Washington, to whose memory this monument is consecrated.

Your committee believe that these memorials, little costly and ostentatious as they may appear, will better accord with the feelings of this nation, and more appropriately commemorate the pure and elevated character of our Washington, than could any, the most expensive or splendid monument or mausoleum. When it is kept in mind that, although this age has produced the greatest statesman and captains known in all history, yet the high characters of those who have arisen in the world, either before or since his time, do but illustrate and render more eminent the distinguishing qualities of his worth and glory : so that the American people can never be deprived of the most revered and enduring monuments of this venerated man, so long as they shall continue to cherish and preserve their Independence, Government, and National Union, achieved by his toil, valor, and wisdom.

For the Sub-committee.

TRISTAM BURGESS.

The report of the sub-committee being read and considered, it was

Resolved, That the select committee do approve of and adopt the said report ; and that their Chairman be directed to report the same to the House of Representatives, with the following resolutions conformable thereto, viz :

Joint resolutions providing for the national entombment of the remains of General George Washington, and for a pedestrian statue of that General.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the remains of General George Washington be removed, with suitable funeral honors, from the family vault at Mount Vernon, conducted under the direction of a joint committee of both Houses of Congress, on the day of December next, and entombed in the national sepulchre to be prepared for that purpose under the centre dome of the Capitol in the city of Washington, according to a plan recommended by a report of a select committee, made to the House of Representatives on the day of March, 1830.

And be it further resolved, That the remains of Mrs. Martha Washington, consort of the late General George Washington, shall at the same time be removed, and entombed in the same sepulchre.

And be it further resolved, That a full length pedestrian statue of General George Washington be, and the same is hereby, ordered to be obtained, to be executed by some distinguished artist, and of the best materials ; and said statue, when executed, shall be placed in the centre of the rotundo of the Capitol, conformably to the plan recommended in the report of a committee herein before mentioned : and the President shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to direct the execution of the said statue, with a suitable pedestal of the same material, and to cause the same to be placed in the place herein designated.

And be it further resolved, That the sum of dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, for the purpose of carrying these resolutions into effect.

Copy Journal of House of Representatives February 24, 1832.

WASHINGTON, *Feb'y* 24th 1832

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States :

One of his associates not having arrived at Washington, and the other having declined to act ; in performance of the honorable trust confided to us by the Governor of Virginia, the undersigned takes upon himself the honor to transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, the envelope directed to him by the Governor of Virginia, covering the resolutions of the General Assembly, laying claim to the remains of our illustrious fellow-citizen, George Washington ; also, covering a letter from the Governor of Virginia accompanying the resolutions ; and, in the discharge of this duty, he takes leave to remark, that, whilst the people of Virginia are proud of the gratitude of their fellow-citizens of the United States for the eminent public services of the Father of his Country ; and, also, for their high admiration of his patriotic virtues manifested by the successive resolutions of Congress ; they also justly anticipate the frank acquiescence of their fellow-citizens of the United States in the paramount claim of his Native State to the sacred remains of her Washington.

FRANCIS T. BROOKE.

Virginia.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *February* 20, 1832.

TO ANDREW STEVENSON, Esq.,

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States :

Sir : The Honorable Francis T. Brooke, Chief Justice John Marshall, and Mayor James Gibbon, the friends and brother officers of Washington in the war of the revolution, are the bearers of this communication, and of the resolutions adopted by the General

Appendix

Assembly of this State expressive of their feelings, and those of the citizens of this Commonwealth, with regard to the contemplated removal of the remains of Washington from Mount Vernon by the Congress of the United States.

Agreeably to the wish of the General Assembly, I have the honor to request you to receive and lay the resolutions of that body before the House of Representatives of the United States.

I am, Sir, with consideration and respect,
Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN FLOYD.

The General Assembly of Virginia view, with anxious solicitude, the efforts now making by the Congress of the United States, to remove from Mount Vernon the remains of George Washington. Such removal is not necessary to perpetuate the fame of him who was "first in war and first in peace," nor can it be necessary to perpetuate and strengthen the national gratitude for him who was "first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The fact that Virginia has been the birth-place of the best and most illustrious man that ever lived, is naturally calculated to inspire her citizens with a strong desire to keep his remains enshrined in the land of his nativity; and this desire is increased by the consideration that the burial ground was designated by the dying patriot himself: Therefore,

Resolved Unanimously, That the proprietor be earnestly requested, in the name of the people of this State, not to consent to the removal of the remains of George Washington from Mount Vernon.

Resolved Unanimously, That the Governor of this Commonwealth forthwith make known the feelings and wishes of the General Assembly upon the subject, in the most appropriate manner, to the present proprietor of Mount Vernon, and the Congress of the United States.

Agreed to by both Houses, February 20, 1832.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD C. H. D.

Copy Journal of Senate February 16, 1832.

WASHINGTON, February 14, 1832.

Sir: The Senate and House of Representatives have passed a joint resolution to celebrate the centennial birth day of George Washington, which authorizes the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to make application to you for his remains, to be removed and deposited in the Capitol at Washington, in conformity with the resolution of Congress of the 24th December, 1799.

They have passed another joint resolution, authorizing us to make application to you and Mr. George Washington Parke Custis for the remains of Martha Washington, to be removed and deposited at the same time with those of her late consort, George Washington.

We herewith enclose copies of these resolutions, and, in the discharge of the duty imposed on us, have to request that you will give as early an answer to this application as may be practicable.

We have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your Obedient Servants,

J. C. CALHOUN,

Vice President, and President of the Senate.

A. STEVENSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MR. JOHN A. WASHINGTON,
MOUNT VERNON.

WASHINGTON, February 14th 1832.

Sir: The Senate and House of Representatives have passed a joint resolution authorizing the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to ask the consent of Mr. John A. Washington and yourself to remove the remains of Mrs. Martha

Washington to the City of Washington, on the 22^d instant to be there deposited with those of her consort, George Washington.

We herewith enclose copies of these resolutions, and, in the discharge of the duty imposed on us, have to request that you will give as early an answer to this application as may be practicable.

We have the honor to be,
With great respect,

Your Obedient Servants,

J. C. CALHOUN,

Vice President and President of the Senate,

A. STEVENSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MR. GEO. W. P. CUSTIS.

MOUNT VERNON, February 15, 1832.

To the Hon. The President of the Senate,

And the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U. S.

Gentlemen: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and the resolutions of Congress to carry into complete effect that which was adopted in December, 1799, for the removal of the remains of General Washington to the Seat of Government.

I have received with profound sensibility this expression of the desire of Congress, representing the whole nation, to have the custody and care of the remains of my revered relative; and the struggle which it has produced in my mind between a sense of duty to the highest authorities of my Country and private feelings, has been greatly embarrassing. But when I recollect that his will, in respect to the disposition of his remains, has been recently carried into full effect, and that they now repose in perfect tranquility surrounded by those of other endeared members of the family, I hope Congress will do justice to the motives which seem to me to require that I should not consent to their separation.

I pray you, gentlemen, to communicate these sentiments and feelings to Congress, with the grateful acknowledgments of the whole of the relatives of my grand-uncle for the distinguished honor which was intended to his memory, and to accept for yourselves assurances of my gratitude and esteem.

JOHN A. WASHINGTON.

ARLINGTON HOUSE, Tuesday Night, Feb. 14.

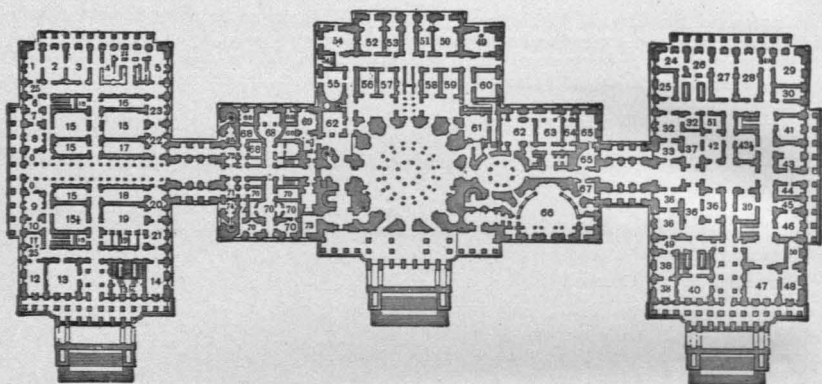
Gentlemen: The letter you have done me the honor to write to me, requesting my consent to the removal of the remains of my venerable grand parents from their present resting place to the Capitol, I have this moment received.

I give my most hearty consent to the removal of the remains, after the manner requested, and congratulate the Government upon the approaching consumation of a great act of National gratitude.

I have the honor to be,
With perfect respect, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

GEORGE WASHINGTON P. CUSTIS.

*To the Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,
Vice President, and
ANDREW STEVENSON,
Speaker H. R. U. S.*



THE BASEMENT OF THE CAPITOL.

HOUSE WING.

Room.

1. Committee on Invalid Pensions.
2. Committee on Insular Affairs.
3. Committee on Agriculture.
4. Stationery room.
5. Committee on War Claims.
6. Official stenographers to committees.
7. 8. Official Reporters of Debates.
9. Speaker's private rooms.
10. Committee on Library.
11. Office of Sergeant-at-Arms.
12. House Post-Office.
13. Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads.
14. Clerk's document room.
15. Barber shops.
16. Closets.
17. Box room.
- 18, 19, 20. Restaurant.
21. Merged in restaurant.
22. Committee on Indian Affairs.
23. Committee on Accounts.
24. Committee on War Claims.
25. Elevators.

HOUSE COMMITTEES, TERRACE, SOUTH SIDE.

1. Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic.
2. Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries.
3. Committee on Expenditures in the Agricultural Department.
5. Committee on Mines and Mining.
6. Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.
7. Committee on the Election of President, Vice-President and Representatives in Congress.
9. Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands in the United States.
11. Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings.
13. Committee on Manufactures.
15. Committee on Elections No. 3.
17. Committee on Expenditures in the Post-Office Department.

NOTE.—Rooms occupied by the House Committees on Reform in the Civil Service, Levees and Improvements of Mississippi River, Expenditures in the De-

partment of Justice, Expenditures in the Navy Department, Territories, also Office of Index Clerk, are not shown on the diagrams. They are located in the sub-basement, west front, on the house side of center of building.

MAIN BUILDING.

Room.

49. Senate Committee on the Census.
50. Senate Committee on the Library.
51. Senate Committee on Education and Labor.
52. House Committee on Labor.
53. House Committee on the Census.
54. House Committee on Rivers and Harbors.
55. House Committee on Education.
56. House Committee on Revision of the Laws.
57. House Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics.
59. Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads.
60. Senate Committee on Additional Accommodations for the Library of Congress.
61. Storeroom for Library.
62. Storeroom, Supreme Court.
63. Senate bathroom.
- 64, 65. The Supreme Court—consultation room.
66. Congressional Law Library, formerly the Supreme Court room.
67. Congressional Law Library.
68. Office of Doorkeeper of the House.
69. Office of superintendent of folding room.
70. House Committee on Private Land Claims.
71. Office of the Chief Clerk of the House.
72. Committee on Printing.
73. House Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department.
74. House Committee on Militia.
75. Committee room on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic merged in the Disbursing office.

SENATE WING.

24. Committee on Rules.
25. Committee on the Revision of the Laws.
26. Committee on Relations with Cuba.
27. Committee on Military Affairs.
28. Committee on the Philippines.
29. Committee on the Judiciary.
30. Committee on Indian Affairs.
32. Stationery room.

Room.

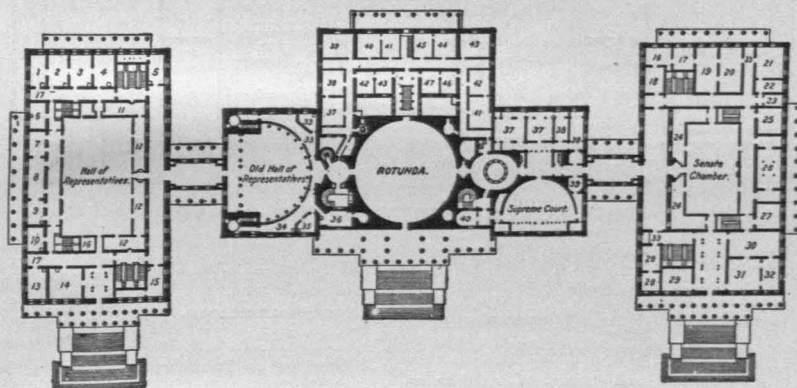
- 36. Restaurant.
- 37. Stationery room.
- 38. Committee on Public Lands.
- 39. Police Headquarters.
- 40. Committee on Immigration.
- 41. Committee on Territories.
- 42. Ladies' room.
- 42½. Janitor's room.
- 43. Committee on Agriculture.
- 44. Committee on Relations with Canada.
- 45. } Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.
- 46.
- 47. Senate Post-Office.
- 48. Committee on Printing.
- 49. Elevator.
- 51. Gentlemen's room.

SENATE COMMITTEES.
TERRACE, NORTH SIDE.

Room.

- 2. Mines and Mining.
- 3. On Potomac River Front.
- 4, 6. Irrigation and Reclamation of Arid Lands.
- 5. On Coast Defenses.
- 9. Industrial Expositions.
- 11. Indian Depredations.
- 13. To Examine the Several Branches of the Civil Service.

NOTE.—Rooms occupied by Senate Committees on Transportation and Sale of Meat Products, and Five Civilized Tribes of Indians are not shown on the diagrams. They are located in the sub-basement, west front, on the Senate side of center building.



THE PRINCIPAL FLOOR OF THE CAPITOL.

HOUSE WING.

Room.

- 1. } Appropriations.
- 2. }
- 3. Journal, printing and file clerks of the House.
- 4. Committee on Pensions.
- 5. Closets.
- 6. }
- 7. } Members' retiring room.
- 8. }
- 9. Speaker's room.
- 10. Cloakrooms.
- 13. } Committee on Ways and Means.
- 14. }
- 15. Committee on Military Affairs.
- 16. House Library.
- 17. Elevators.
- 37. } Committee on Naval Affairs.
- 38. }
- 39. Committee on the District of Columbia.
- 40. Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.
- 41. Committee on the Louisiana Purchase Centennial.
- 42. Committee on Patents.
- 43. Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department.

MAIN BUILDING.

- 33. House document room.
- 34. Engrossing and enrolling clerks of the House.

Room.

- 35. Committee on Enrolled Bills.
- 36. Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. It was in this room, then occupied by the Speaker of the House, that ex-President John Quincy Adams died, two days after he fell at his seat in the House, February 23, 1848.
- 37. Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
- 38. Robing room of the Judges of the Supreme Court.
- 39. Withdrawing room of the Supreme Court.
- 40. Office of the Marshal of the Supreme Court.
- 41. } Committee on Pensions.
- 42. }
- 43. Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 44. Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico.
- 45. Committee on Enrolled Bills.
- 46. Committee on InterOceanic Canals.
- 47. } The Supreme Court, formerly the Senate Chamber.
- 48. } The Old Hall of the House of Representatives is now used as a statutory hall, to which each State has been invited to contribute two statues of its most distinguished citizens.

SENATE WING.

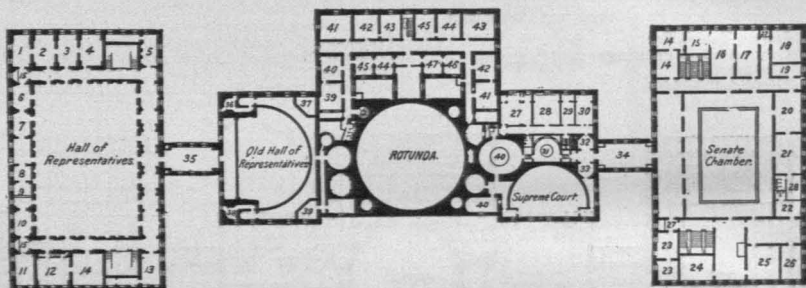
- 16. Office of the Secretary of the Senate.
- 17. Executive clerk of the Senate.
- 18. Financial clerk of the Senate.

Room.

19. Chief Clerk of the Senate.
20. Engrossing and enrolling clerks of the Senate.
21. } Committee on Appropriations.
22. }
23. Closets.
24. Cloakrooms.
25. Room of the President.
26. The Senators' reception room.

Room.

27. The Vice-President's room.
28. Committee on Finance.
29. Official Reporters of Debates.
30. Public reception room.
31. Committee on the District of Columbia.
32. Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.
33. Elevator.



THE GALLERY STORY OF THE CAPITOL.

HOUSE WING.

Room.

1. Committee on Elections No. 2.
2. Committee on Elections.
3. Committee on Banking and Currency.
4. Committee on Claims.
5. Committee on Railways and Canals.
6. Lobby.
7. Correspondents and journalists' withdrawing room.
8. } Water-closet.
9. }
10. Ladies' retiring room.
11. Committee on the Public Lands.
12. Committee on Commerce.
13. Committee on Foreign Affairs.
14. Committee on the Judiciary.
15. Elevators.
39. Committee on Mileage.
40. Committee on Pacific Railroads.
41. Minority room.
42. } Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures.
43. }
44. Committee on Exptd. in the State Department.
45. Committee on Exptd. in the War Department.

MAIN BUILDING.

27. Senate Library.
28. Senate Library—Librarian's room.
29. Senate Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine.
30. Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage.
31. } Senate document room.
32. }
33. }

Room.

34. Superintendent of the Senate documents.
35. House Library.
36. } House document room.
37. }
38. Clerk's office.
40. Senate document room.
41. Committee on Transportation Routes to Seaboard.
42. Committee on Improvement of the Mississippi River and its Tributaries.
43. Committee on Private Land Claims.
44. Committee on Geological Survey.
45. Committee on Railroads.
46. } Committee on Organization, Conduct and Expenditures of the Executive Departments.
47. }

SENATE WING.

14. Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.
15. } Committee on Interstate Commerce.
16. }
17. Committee on Privileges and Elections.
18. } Committee on Commerce.
19. }
20. Press associations: Western Union and Postal Telegraphs.
21. Newspaper Correspondents' room.
22. Ladies' room.
23. Committee on Naval Affairs.
24. Conference room of the minority.
25. Committee on Claims.
26. Committee on Engrossed Bills.
27. Elevator.
28. Correspondents' room.

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