The Washington Post.

PART SECOND: PAGES 11 TO 14

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1900—FOURTEEN PAGES.

LOCATING THE CAPITAL

How District Was Set Apart to Nation 100 Years Ago.

WASHINGTON DREW THE PLANS

Story of Original Grant Made by Maryland and Virginia, and Proclamations of the First President Ordering Surveys for What Is Now the Most Beautiful Capital of the World—How Congress Accepted Gift—Recession of Strip South of Potomac.

Although the question of the establishment of a permanent seat of government had been discussed in Congress for a number of years, it was not until 1788 that any legislation looking toward that end was enacted. The initiative was taken by the general assembly of Maryland, the lead being followed by Virginia and the national Congress. It was more than two years, however, before the legislation was completed.

On December 23, 1788, the general assembly of the State of Maryland passed the act of cession, the wording of the law being as follows:

An act to cede to Congress a district of ten miles square in this State (Maryland) for the seat of the government of the United States.

Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, that the representatives of this State, in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States appointed to assemble at New York, on the first Wednesday of March next, be and they are hereby authorized and required, on behalf of this State, to cede to the Congress of the United States any district in this State, not exceeding ten miles square, which the Congress may fix upon and accept for the seat of government of the United States.

The act of cession passed by Virginia December 3, 1789, was as follows:

An act for the cession of ten miles square, or any lesser quantity of territory within this State, to the United States, in Congress assembled, for the permanent seat of the general government.

I. Whereas the equal and common benefits resulting from the administration of the general government will be best diffused, and its operations become more prompt and certain by establishing such a situation for the seat of the said government as will be most central and convenient to the citizens of the United States at large, having regard as well to population, extent of territory, and a free navigation to the Atlantic Ocean, through the Chesapeake Bay, as to the most direct and ready communication with our fellow-citizens in the western frontier. And, whereas, it appears to this assembly that a situation combining all the considerations and advantages before recited may be had on the banks of the River Potomac, above tide water, in a country rich and fertile in soil, healthy and salubrious in climate, and abounding in all the necessaries and conveniences of life, where, in a location of ten miles square, if the wisdom of Congress shall so direct, the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia may participate in such location.

II. Be it, therefore, enacted by the general assembly that a tract of country, not exceeding ten miles square, or any lesser quantity, to be located within the limits of this State, and in any part thereof as Congress may by law direct, shall be, and the same is hereby forever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and government of the United States, in full and absolute right and exclusive jurisdiction, as well of soil as of persons residing or to reside thereon, pursuant to the tenor and effect of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the government of the United States.

III. Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil, or to affect the rights of individuals therein, otherwise than the same shall or may be transferred by such individuals to the United States.

IV. And provided, also, that the jurisdiction of the laws of this commonwealth over the persons and property of individuals residing within the limits of the cession aforesaid, shall not cease or determine until Congress, having accepted the said cession, shall, by law, provide for the government thereof, under their jurisdiction, in the manner provided by the article of the Constitution before recited.

Congress Accepted in 1790.

It was not until eighteen months after the passage of the Maryland act of cession that Congress finally accepted the grants of Maryland and Virginia. The act of Congress was signed by President Washington, and became a law on July 16, 1790. The bill originated in the Senate and passed the House with slight amendment. The law, as finally enacted, was worded as follows:

An act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States.

Sec. 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That a district of territory not exceeding ten miles square, to be located as hereafter directed, on the River Potomac, at some space between the Eastern Branch and Conogocheague, be, and the same is hereby, accepted for the permanent seat of government of the United States. Provided, nevertheless, that the operation of the laws of the State within such district shall not be affected by this acceptance until the time fixed for the removal of the government thereto, and until Congress shall otherwise by law provide.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint, and by supplying vacancies happening from refusals to act or other causes, to keep in appointment as long as may be necessary, three Commissioners, who, or any two of whom, shall, under the direction of the President, survey, and by proper metes and bounds define and limit a district of territory under the limitations above mentioned; and the district so defined, limited and located, shall be deemed the district accepted by this act, for the permanent seat of government of the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, shall have power to purchase or accept, such quantity of land on the eastern side of the said river, within the said district, as the President shall deem proper for the use of the United States, and according to such plans as the President shall approve, the said commissioners, or any two of them, shall, prior to the first Monday in December, in the year 1800, provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress and of the President, and for the public offices of the government of the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That for defraying the expense of such purchases and buildings the President of the United States shall be authorized and requested to accept grants of money.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That prior to the first Monday in December next all offices attached to the seat of the government of the United States shall be removed to, and until the said first Monday in December, in the year 1800, shall remain in, the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, at which place the session of Congress next ensuing the present shall be held.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That on the said first Monday in December, in the year 1800, the seat of the government of the United States shall, by virtue of this act, be transferred to the district and place aforesaid. And all offices attached to the seat of government shall accordingly be removed thereto by their respective holders, and shall, after the said day, cease to be exercised elsewhere; and that the necessary expense of such removal shall be defrayed out of the duties on imposts and tonnage, of which a sufficient sum is hereby appropriated.

July 16, 1790. Approved.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,
President of the United States.

George Washington's Proclamation.

The machinery of government moved slowly in those days, and it was not until six months later, or on January 24, 1791, that President Washington issued a proclamation establishing the seat of government within the present limits of the District of Columbia. The proclamation was as follows:

"By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation:

"Whereas the general assembly of the State of Maryland, by an act passed on the 23d day of December, 1788, entitled, 'an act to cede to Congress a district of ten miles square in this State, for the seat of the government of the United States,' did enact that the representatives of the said State in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, appointed to assemble at New York, on the first Wednesday of March then next ensuing, should be, and they were hereby authorized and required, on behalf of the said State, to cede to the Congress of the United States any district in the said State not exceeding ten miles square which the Congress might fix upon and accept for the seat of government of the United States.

"And the general assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, by an act passed on the 3d day of December, 1789, and entitled, 'an act for the cession of ten miles square, or any lesser quantity of territory within this State, to the United States, in Congress assembled, for the permanent seat of the general government,' did enact that a tract of country not exceeding ten miles square, or any lesser quantity, to be located within the limits of the said State, and in any part thereof, as Congress might by law direct, should be, and the same was thereby forever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and government of the United States, in full and absolute right and exclusive jurisdiction, as well of soil as of persons residing or to reside thereon, pursuant to the tenor and effect of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of government of the Unied States.

"And the Congress of the United States, by their act passed on the 16th day of July, 1790, and entitled, 'An act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the government of the United States,' authorized the President of the United States to appoint three commissioners to survey under his direction and by proper metes and bounds, to limit a district of territory, not exceeding ten miles square on the River Potomac, at some place between the mouth of the Eastern Branch and Conococheague, which district, so to be located and limited, was accepted by the said act of Congress as the district for the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

"Now, therefore, in pursuance of the powers to me confided, and after duly examining and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the several situations within the limits aforesaid, I do hereby declare and make known that the location of one part of the said district of ten miles square shall be found by running four lines of experiment in the following manner; that is to say, running from the courthouse in Alexandria, Va., due southwest half a mile, and thence a due southeast course till it shall strike Hunting Creek, to fix the beginning of the said four lines of experiment.

How the Boundaries Were Fixed.

"Then beginning the first of the said four lines of experiment at the point on Hunting Creek where the said southeast course shall have struck the same, and running the said first line due northwest ten miles; thence the second line into Maryland due northeast ten miles; thence the third line due southeast ten miles; and thence the fourth line due southwest ten miles, to the beginning on Hunting Creek.

"And the said four lines of experiment being so run, I do hereby declare and make known that part within the said four lines of experiment which shall be within the State of Maryland and above the Eastern Branch, and all that part within the same four lines of experiment which shall be within the Commonwealth of Virginia, and above a line to be run from the point of land forming the upper cape of the mouth of the Eastern Branch, due southwest, and no more, is now fixed upon and directed to be surveyed, defined, limited, and located for a part of the said district accepted by the said act of Congress for the permanent seat of the government of the United States; hereby expressly reserving the direction of the survey and location of the remaining part of the said district, to be made hereafter contiguous to such part or parts of the present location as is or shall be agreeably to law.

"And I do accordingly direct the said commissioners, appointed agreeably to the tenor of the said act, to proceed forthwith to run the said lines of experiment, and the same being run, to survey, and by proper metes and bounds to define and limit the part within the same, which is hereinbefore directed for immediate location and acceptance; and thereof to make due report to me, under their hands and seals.

"In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the city of Philadelphia, the 24th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1791, and of the independence of the United States, the fifteenth. "GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"By the President.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

Amendatory Proclamation.

On March 30, following, President Washington issued an amendatory proclamation, as follows:

"Whereas by a proclamation, bearing date the 24th day of January, of this present year, and in pursuance of certain acts of the States of Maryland and Virginia, and of the Congress of the United States therein mentioned, certain lines of experiment were directed to be run in the neighborhood of Georgetown, in Maryland, for the purpose of determining the location of a part of the territory of ten miles square for the permanent seat of the government of the United States; and a certain part was directed to be located within the said lines of experiment on both sides of the Potomac, and above the limit of the Eastern Branch prescribed by the said act of Congress.

"And Congress, by an amendatory act, passed on the 3d day of this present month of March, have given further authority to the President of the United States 'to make any part of the said territory, below the said limit, and above the mouth of Hunting Creek, a part of the said District, so as to include a convenient part of the Eastern Branch, and of the lands lying of the lower side thereof, and also the town of Alexandria.'

"Now, therefore, for the purpose of amending and completing the location of the whole of the said territory of ten miles square, in conformity with the said amendatory act of Congress, I do hereby declare and make known that the whole of the said territory shall be located and included within the four lines following: That is to say, beginning at Jones' Point, being the upper cape of Hunting Creek, in Virginia, and at an angle in the outset of forty-five degrees west of the north, and running in a direct line ten miles for the first line; then beginning again at the same Jones' Point, and running another direct line at a right angle with the first, across the Potomac, ten miles for the second line; then, from the terminations of the said first and second lines, running two other direct lines of ten miles each, the one crossing the Eastern Branch aforesaid and the other the Potomac, and meeting each other in a point.

"And I do accordingly direct the commissioners named under the authority of the said first mentioned act of Congress to proceed forthwith to have the said four lines run, and by proper metes and bounds defined and limited; and, thereof, to make due report under their hands and seals, and the territory so to be located, defined, and limited, shall be the whole territory accepted by the said act of Congress as the District for the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

"In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at Georgetown aforesaid, the 30th day of March, in the year of our Lord, 1791, and of the Independence of the United States the fifteenth. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By the President:

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Maryland's Ratification of Cession.

The cession of territory had been made complete by Virginia, but an act of ratification on the part of the Maryland general assembly was necessary. Accordingly, shortly after the issuance of President Washington's final proclamation, an act was passed "acknowledging and forever ceding and relinquishing to the Congress of the United States all that part of the said territory called Columbia, which lies within the limits of this State, in full and absolute right and complete jurisdiction, as well of soil as of persons residing, or to reside, thereon, pursuant to the tenor and effect of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of government of the United States."

This ended the legislation directly bearing on the establishment of the seat of government in the District of Columbia, so far as the original lines of the District were concerned.

Virginia Resolution in 1846.

In 1846, however, that part of the District lying west of the Potomac was ceded back to Virginia, Congress surrendering the territory chiefly in compliance with the wishes of the people of Alexandria. "The motives of the people of Alexandria in desiring to be relegated to a union with Virginia were obvious enough," says Dr. Ainsworth R. Spofford, in his work, "The Founding of Washington City." "In the half century of their attachment to the District of Columbia, the sanguine hopes which a former generation had built upon the fostering hand of the national government had not been realized. Congress had done little or nothing for the improvement of that side of the river. Washington had grown from a settlement of 500 souls to a population of nearly 10,000, but Alexandria had not shared this rapid increase, and found her commerce, instead of the vast extension which had been predicted, growing even smaller year by year. Her people, deprived of the privileges of citizenship in Virginia, had acquired no rights under the United States; on the contrary, they were deprived even of the privilege of voting for President or Congress, while at the same time, without a voice in any of the laws that governed them. In the forcible language of one of their spokesmen, they were 'political orphans, who had been abandoned by their legitimate parents, and were uncared for by the parents who had adopted them.' Mr. Reverdy Johnson said that the people of Alexandria had been neglected by Congress, and they had probably good reason for desiring to be restored to their mother State, since it was natural that Congress should be more favorable to that part of the District which was the immediate scene of its labors."

"Mr. Calhoun, replying to the constitutional objection to retrocession, that it proposed to cede a part of the permanent seat of the government, said the act of Congress so providing possessed no perpetuity of obligation, but was repealable. Besides, the giving up of the strip of land on the other side of the river in no manner affected the permanency of the seat of government in what remained. Here the government had been wisely located, and here, in his opinion, it would continue, so long as the institutions of the republic endured."

The proposition to recede the territory to Virginia was made an excuse of the part of a small minority in Congress to advocate the removal of the Capital to a more Western location, but those in favor of the project were not sufficient in number to carry serious weight. The act of retrocession was carried by large majorities in both branches of Congress, and when the question was submitted to a vote of the people concerned, was ratified by what closely approximated a unanimous vote.

Read the advertisements in The Post next Saturday and secure the $100 cash prize. Twenty-two other prizes.

AN INARTISTIC SOUVENIR.

Lack of Taste Shown in the Centennial Programme.

Editor Post: Without the least desire to criticise anybody in particular, and only in the interest of art, I call your attention to the vulgar and inartistic quality of the souvenir programme for the Centennial. Any clever patent medicine advertisement is certainly more meritorious. The time has come when on committees of that kind, artists, connoisseurs, or critics ought to be placed, who have judgment and qualities of discernment to enable them to decide as to the fitness and dignity of such a souvenir, otherwise a simple, white, engraved card would not only be preferable, but cheaper.

I distinctly want it understood that this is not criticising the committees who unselfishly devote their time and money to such affairs, but to suggest that we have progressed far enough to prevent such performances. The engraved dinner invitation of George Washington, of more than a century ago, was, compared with it, a work of art indeed.

I still want to add I shall not enter into a controversy with anybody in regard to this matter, as they are welcome to their opinion, but I am frank to say that the people best able to judge, who have seen this souvenir, and have been consulted in regard to this publication, have fully agreed with me.

VICTOR G. FISCHER.

Washington, Nov. 11.

G. O. Taylor Whiskies, never sold in bulk.

THE CAPITAL IN 1800

Birth of Wilderness City Was Without a Precedent.

ALL THE WORLD JEERED OR CARPED

First Congress to Meet in New Capital Found Little Except Mud and "Magnificent Distances"—Coming of President Adams and the Departments—Public and Private Accommodations Alike Wanting—Moore's Satire on "Modern Rome."

The same spirit of independence which prompted the fathers of the republic to sever the political ties binding them to the mother country prompted them, no doubt, to go out into the wilderness to build a capital. The deeds which made the early history of our nation were not in the pursuance of precedent, but were precedent-making. When it was proposed, therefore, that in a virgin city the seat of government should be established, no one stopped to inquire if there was precedent for doing so. There was opposition to the project, it is true, but the opposition sprang from cities already established, aspired to be the capital, and was in no wise due to the daring nature of the project itself.

When the bands of the British troops marched out of Yorktown playing "The World Turned Upside Down," their music truthfully portrayed the spirit of the times. They were not great battles, as our ideas of battles go to-day, that were fought by Washington and his ragged and oft-times hungry, but dauntless and patriotic followers, but in their revolutionary and far-reaching consequences they were the most stupendous in the history of the world. It was a time when old customs, old modes of thought, old institutions, and old ideals were falling shattered on every side, and it was taken as a matter of course, when no existing city seemed suitable for a capital, that the young republic should build a city to its liking.

Europe Jeered and Critics Carped.

Europe was ready with her jibe and sneer, and there were carping ones at home, who whined and grumbled, but the men who had given the world its greatest bill of human rights, and with the sword had made the world receive it, were not apt to be swayed by such petty chiding. They knew that forests would give way to the ax of the forester; that swamps and morasses and other obstacles could be overcome, and they set themselves to the task. The Washington of to-day in their enduring monument. The Europe that sneered at the "wilderness capital" of the "bucolic republic" now comes to admire and marvel at its beauty; the city, for the founding of which the primeval forests were in places cut away, has, in a hundred years, grown in magnificence to be the pride and boast of Americans everywhere.

The Constitution had given Congress exclusive control over a district ten miles square, such as might be given to the nation by the States for the seat of Federal government. The next task was to locate this district. There was a squabble in the first Congress among advocates of many different sites, notably those along the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac. Once both House actually voted to locate the Capital at Germantown, Pa., but reconsidered. New England members denounced the Potomac region as an unhealthy swamp. The Southern members won out. The Potomas site was selected in 1790 by a majority of three votes in the House and two in the Senate. Pennsylvania was humored by a grant of the temporary capital for ten years. President Washington was allowed to choose any spot within about 100 miles above the junction of the Potomac and its eastern branch. The father of his country arrived in Georgetown March 28, 1791, and the next day, with the three commissioners he had appointed to govern the district, together with two surveyors selected to lay it out, began to mark the bounds of the new city.

Maj. L'Enfant's First Work.

One of these surveyors was Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French engineer. He drew a careful plan of the future city of Washington. This was accepted by the immortal George in 1791. Gen. Washington was not hampered by law in his government of the District of Columbia. He appointed his three commissioners, Messrs. Johnson, Stewart, and Carroll, without the advice or consent of the Senate.

Another squabble had arisen over the name to be given the new Capital City. Some wished to call it "Washingtonople." The commissioners christened it the "City of Washington." An English letter writer thereupon accused President Washington of vanity. "As soon as he is defunct," said this critic, "the city, which is to be the boasted monument of his greatness, will also be defunct."

The Sixth Congress adjourned in Philadelphia May 14, 1800, having directed that a second session begin in Washington November 17, of the same year. The executive and judicial departments thereupon began preparations for a general moving.

President Adams left the Executive Mansion at Seventh and High streets, Philadelphia, May 27, 1800, within two weeks after Congress adjourned, and made a temporary trip to the new Capital. He traveled in his private carriage by way of Lancaster, Pa., and Frederick, Md. A daily stage, leaving Philadelphia at 6 a. m., bumped and splashed over a more direct road by way of Baltimore and arrived in Washington the next evening at 5 o'clock—a journey of twenty-one hours, which the "iron horse" now covers in one-seventh that time. But President Adams preferred the more circuitous trip, because promised more opportunities of entertainment on that route.

President Adams' Arrival.

He arrived in Georgetown, of which Washington was then a scattered suburb, on June 3, one week after he had started. At the boundary line of the District of Columbia he was met by "a large crowd of respectable citizens on horseback" and escorted into town, "where he was received with pleasure and veneration."

"The military of the city of Washington and the marines stationed there manifested their respect by sixteen discharges of musketry and artillery," says an old chronicle.

The next day, at Union Tavern, Georgetown, he wrote a reply to a committee which had welcomed him. On June 5 he visited the unfinished House of Representatives. On June 11 he was given a reception in Alexandria, and on June 11 departed for Massachusetts. It was not until autumn that the President and Mrs. Adams came to the new White House to live. They traveled very slowly by carriage from Philadelphia by way of Baltimore, and thus into Washington Mrs. Abigail Adams, in November, 1800, made her informal entree as "first lady of the land." She found the White House unfinished, although its corner-stone had been laid eight years before, in the presence of George Washington. What there was of it stood on what was then called "F street ridge." The rain and snow falling upon this prominence divided, part running to the north, part to the south. The water thus drained formed a sort of creek, partly surrounding the President's grounds. The latter had no fence. The first floor of the mansion was unfinished. The principal stairs were not up.

White House "Housewarming."

Mrs. Adams' first "housewarming" in her new home was a practical rather than ceremonious function. What wood she could get she burned to dry the plaster, yet damp, on the walls. The first public reception in the new White House occurred New Year's Day, 1801, and had to be held in a room on the second floor, in which later Presidents have received their business callers. The home life of the Adamses while in the White House was very plain. The President's luncheons invariably consisted of oatcake and lemonade. The family dinners were simple. Adams was so unassuming in his manners that Mistress Abigail occasionally saw fit to remind him, when he was free and familiar with the common people, that his behavior ill-befitted his high rank and dignified office.

The moving of the executive departments from Philadelphia began in May, 1800. The office furnishings and records came by water, the officials and employes by stage line or private equipage. It is said that "a single packet sloop brought all the office furniture of the departments, besides seven large boxes and five small ones, containing the archives." The President's Cabinet then consisted of but five members. Working under these were but 132 employes. Uncle Sam paid all traveling expenses for these officials and clerks and their families.

Early Department Buildings.

These men, comprising the first civil service regime organized for the Washington departments, came hither imbued with the hope that the law authorizing their removal from the gay and bustling metropolis would, as was rumored, be repealed. They found only one department building erected. This was the old Treasury, on the site of the south front of the present edifice. It was a plain, two-story brick, of only thirty rooms. Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury, arrived June 2 to occupy it.

At the southwest corner of the White House grounds the "war office" was still in course of erection. This was similar to the Treasury office in size and appearance, but not being ready for occupancy upon the arrival of Secretary of War Dexter, June 12, he and his department went into temporary lodgings in a three-story house on Pennsylvania avenue, above Twenty-first street, and opposite the hotel of William O'Neal, father of that Peggy O'Neal who gained fame in Jackson's administration. But the War Department officials had barely settled down to work in these temporary headquarters when, in November, 1800, a fire broke out and destroyed a large part of their records. The following January a similar fire occurred in the Treasury Department. "The President was in line," recalled a citizen writing of this latter conflagration, "and was busy in aiding to pass the buckets to and from the burning building."

Rival politicians then, as now, were grasping at every straw. Adams' administration was accused of starting the two fires to destroy records of their alleged maladministration.

The first Post-Office Department was opened in "Mr. Cracker's house," near Blodget's Hotel, at what is now Seventh and E. When Abraham Bradley—acting for Postmaster General Habersham—opened his office there only one-half the floors were laid and only four rooms were plastered. The owner allowed Uncle Sam to expend half of the $600 annual rental to make the building tenantable. Attorney General Charles Lee, who left Philadelphia May 28, then had no organized Department of Justice. He took lodging somewhere near the White House, as did also Secretary of State John Marshall—with only eight clerks—and Secretary of the Navy Stoddart—with sixteen clerks. Both of these latter Cabinet members had arrived in June. This moving cost Uncle Sam, all told, less than $40,000.

The Capitol in November, 1800.

When Congress began its sessions in Washington, November 17, 1800, it found the Capitol Building anything but an inspiring spectacle. Only the northernmost of the old wings was finished, and that was badly constructed. The Senate chamber was mostly of wood and plaster. The rotunda had not been built, though its foundations had been previously laid.

The Representatives were at first crowded into a room intended for the Senate officials, but a temporary apartment, known as the "oven," was soon arranged for it in the south wing. The House in 1808 took possession of the chamber now known as "Statuary Hall." The Senate held its first deliberations in its originally designed quarters, now occupied by the Supreme Court of the United States. The complete plans for the then new Capitol did not, of course, anticipate the great iron dome and the two imposing marble wings which grace the great Capitol of to-day.

Congress' first deliberations in Washington were quite as uninspiring as the unfinished edifice in which they were held. When called together, November 17, the Senate and House had to adjourn until the next day for want of a quorum, and the Senate continued to adjourn from day to day until the 21st, when the necessary number appeared. Saturday, November 22, President Adams visited the Capitol and addressed the members of both houses gathered together in the Senate chamber. Representatives in those days wore their hats during sessions. Ladies were excluded from the galleries.

Queer Perquisites of Early Legislators.

Urns filled with Scotch snuff were placed in each house, and employes were charged with the duty of keeping them filled. In the Senate and House were employed official "pen-makers," who mended the goose quills then in common use. There were also official sealers, intrusted with the sealing of letters and packages with red wax. The "stationery" furnished in both houses included penknives, scissors, razors, pocket-books, kid gloves, perfumery, bears' grease, and an "innocent beverage called swichell," among whose ingredients were good French brandy and Jamaica rum. This was always charged in the "stationery" appropriation as "syrup."

The members of Congress were anything but pleased with their new abiding place. "The comparison they drew between this place and Philadelphia," wrote a pioneer resident, "was by no means complimentary to us. At this time there were but few places in the city suitable for members to board at. Some of them went to Georgetown and boarded at the Union Tavern, some stopped at the Six and Seven buildings, and others in parts of the city where they could find accommodations. The discontent which prevailed among them was so great that it was feared that the seat of government would be removed from Washington. In fact, I believe the attempt was made, but fortunately failed."

Salaries Low and Living Cheap.

The salary of a Member of Congress was then but $6 a day. Of the houses it was written in 1800: "The few that have been let are at rents none under $250 and $300. Provisions are plenty, good enough, and cheaper than in Philadelphia. You can buy a peck of field strawberries for a fivepenny bit; garden at 11 cents a quart."

The Supreme Court of the United States, seeing that no preparation had been made for it in Washington, continued to meet in its comfortable Philadelphia quarters until February 2, 1801. Its members, like those of Congress, were loath to begin their duties. Two adjournments had to be taken before there appeared, on February 4, a sufficient number to do business. The first meeting was held in the basement of the old Capitol, in rooms provided for one of the Senate committees.

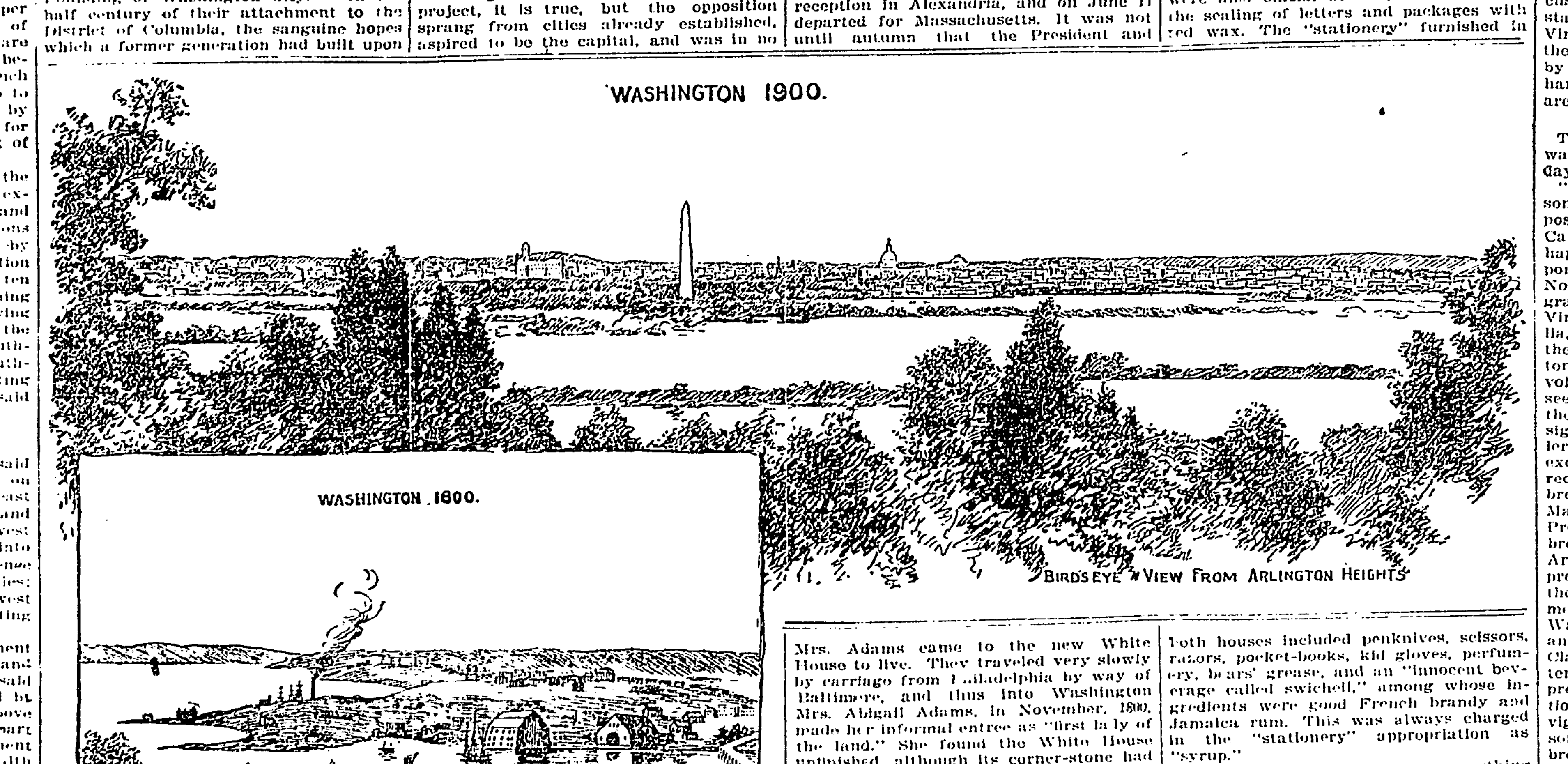
The faster the population of Washington grew during this first eventful year the more bitter and caustic became the invectives of her critics.

"City of Magnificent Distances."

Georgetown was called "a city of houses without streets;" Washington, "a city of streets without houses." The Abbe Correa de Serra, Portuguese Minister, was speaking in sarcasm when he called the new capital "a city of magnificent distances," now proudly applied. "Strangers, after visiting the offices of state, are apt to inquire for the city while in its very center," wrote C. W. Janson, an English visitor. "Quail and other birds," said he, "are constantly shot within a hundred yards of the Capitol during the sitting of the Houses of Congress." New York, Philadelphia, New England, and, indeed, even foreign newspapers, waxed facetious in their descriptions of the new seat of government. In fact, poor Washington was the laughing stock of the world. Tom Moore, just entering poetic fame, visited the city in 1804. Its spectacle provoked this satire from his pen:

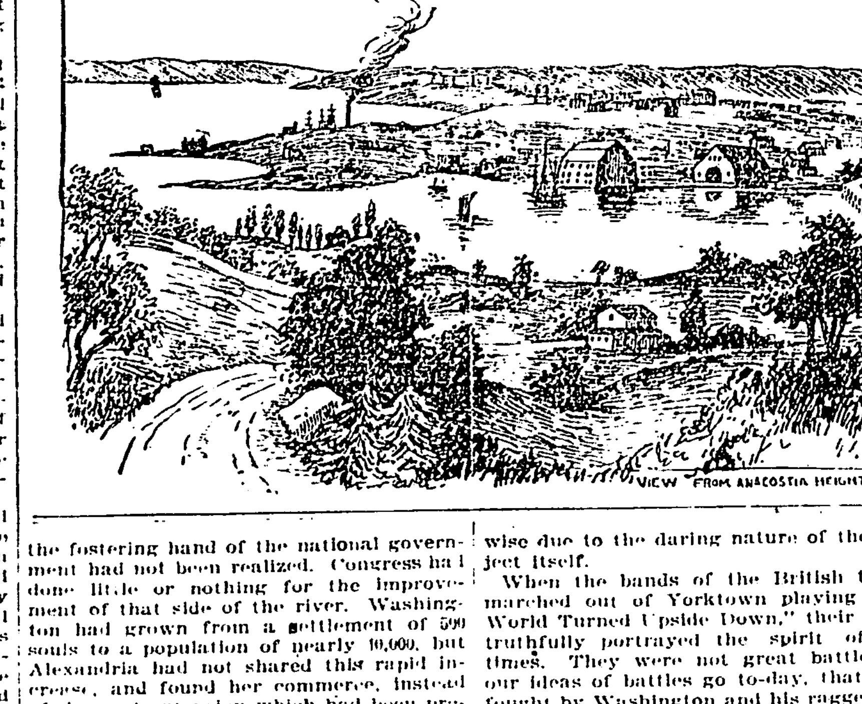
In fancy now beneath the twilight gloom,
Come, let me lead thee o'er this modern Rome,
Where tribunes rule, where dusky Davids bow,
And what was Goose Creek is Tiber now.

This fam'd metropolis, where fancy sees
Squares in morasses, obelisks in trees;
Which travelling fools and gazetteers adorn
With shrines unbuilt and heroes yet unborn.



'WASHINGTON 1900.

BIRDS'EYE VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



WASHINGTON 1800.

VIEW FROM ANACOSTIA HEIGHTS

Post-office Orders for To-day.

Postmaster Merritt has issued the following orders for the delivery and collection of mail to-day:

The money order and registry divisions will be closed.

Delivery by carriers from main office and Station G, 7 and 11:30 a. m. Carriers' window open for delivery of mail to clerks in the departments from 9 to 10:30 a. m., and for the general public from 6 to 7 p. m.

Collections at the main office and Station G, 9:30 a. m. and 5 and 11:30 p. m.

Collections at Station A, 9 a. m., and 5 and 11:30 p. m.; Station B, 7:30 a. m. and 5 and 11:30 p. m.; Stations D and F, 9:30 a. m.; and 5 and 11:30 p. m.; Station H, 11 a. m. and 4 p. m.

Deliveries at stations, 7:30 a. m. and 11:30 a. m.

County collections, 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. (and 9:30 p. m., Station F).

The following-named stations will be open to the public for the transaction of business: Stations A, F, G, and H, 6 to 12 a. m., and 5 to 7 p. m.; B, 6 to 12 a. m., and 5:30 to 7 p. m.; C, 7 to 12 a. m.; D, 6 to 12 a. m., and 5:30 to 7 p. m.; Brookland, 8 to 12 a. m., and 5 to 7 p. m.

Library of Congress Open To-day.

The Library of Congress will be open to-day from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m., for visitors, but none of the working divisions will be open, nor will there be any books served.

Twenty-three cash prizes to readers of The Post's advertising columns next Saturday.

CORNER-STONE RITUAL.

Quaint Account of Ceremonies at the Capitol in 1793.

The first corner-stone of the Capitol was laid on September 18, 1793, with impressive Masonic ceremonies, which were conducted by President Washington. A work entitled "The Lodge of Washington; a History of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, A. F. and A. M., of Alexandria, Va.," compiled from the original records of the lodge by Past Master F. L. Brockett and published in 1876, contains an excellent account of the exercises. The appended quotation credited to "the newspapers of that day" is substantially the report which was published in the Columbia Mirror and the Alexandria Gazette of September 25, 1793. After giving an account of previous events of historical interest, the author says:

"The next important event of this kind was the laying of the corner-stone of the United States Capitol, at the City of Washington, on the 18th day of September, 1793. The Masonic ceremonies were conducted by his excellency, Gen. Washington, President of the United States, a past master of this lodge, which was present and holding the post of honor. Dr. Dick, elected worshipful master in 1789, still in office, invited Washington to act as master on this occasion, in accordance with his own wishes and those of the public. The stone was deposited in the southeast corner of the building, instead of the northeast, as is now the custom. The inscription on the plate stated that Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia, was present and participated in the ceremonies. The apron and sash worn by Washington on this occasion were the handiwork of Mrs. Gen. Lafayette, and are now the property of this lodge."

Quaint Account of the Ceremonies.

The following account of the ceremonies was published in the newspapers of that day:

"On Wednesday one of the grandest Masonic processions took place, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States, which, perhaps, was ever exhibited on the like important occasion. About 10 o'clock Lodge No. 9 was visited by that congregation so graceful to the craft, Lodge No. 22, of Virginia, with all their officers and regalia, and directly afterward appeared on the southern bank of the grand River Potomack one of the finest companies of volunteer artillery that has been lately seen, parading to receive the President of the United States, who shortly came in sight with his suite, to whom the artillery paid their military honors, and his excellency crossed the Potomack and was received in Maryland by the officers and brethren of No. 22, Virginia, and No. 9, Maryland, whom the President headed. Preceded by a band of music, the rear brought up by the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery, with grand solemnity of march, proceeded to the President's Square, in the city of Washington, where they were met and saluted by No. 15, of the city of Washington, in all their elegant badges and clothing, headed by Brother Joseph Clark, right worshipful grand master pro tempore, and conducted to a large lodge, prepared for the purpose of their reception. After a short space of time, by the vigilance of Brother Clotworthy Stephenson, grand marshal pro tempore, the brotherhood and other bodies were disposed in a second order of procession, which took place amid a brilliant crowd of spectators of both sexes, according to the following arrangement, viz:

The First Capitol Parade.

Surveying Department of the City of Washington.
Mayor and Corporation of Georgetown.
Virginia Artillery.
Commissioners of the City of Washington and Their Attendants.
Stonecutters, Mechanics.
The Sword Bearers.
Masons of the First Degree.
Bible, &c., on Grand Cushions.
Deacons, with Staffs of Office.
Masons of the Second Degree.
Stewards, with Wands.
Masons of the Third Degree.
Wardens, with Truncheons.
Secretaries, with Tools of Office.
Past Masters, with Their Regalia.
Treasurers, with Their Jewels.
Band of Music.
Lodge No. 22, of Virginia, Disposed in Their Own Order.
Corn, Wine, and Oil.
Grand Master Pro Tempore Brother George Washington, and Worshipful Master of No. 20, of Virginia.
Grand Sword Bearer.

Marched in Solemn Dignity.

"The procession marched two abreast in the greatest solemn dignity, with music playing, drums beating, colors flying, and spectators rejoicing, from the President's square to the Capitol, in the city of Washington, where the grand master ordered a halt and directed each file in the procession to incline two steps, one to the right and one to the left, and face each other, which formed a hollow oblong square, through which the grand sword-bearer led the van, followed by the grand master pro tempore on the left, the President of the United States in the center, and the worshipful master of No. 22, Virginia, on the right. All the other orders that composed the procession advanced, in the reverse of their order of march, from the President's square to the southeast corner of the Capitol, and the artillery filed off to a destined ground, to display their maneuvers and discharge their cannon. The President of the United States, the grand master pro tempore, and the worshipful master of No. 22, taking their stand to the east of a large stone, and all the craft, forming a circle westward, stood a short time in solemn order. The artillery discharged a volley. The grand master delivered to the Commissioners a large silver plate, with an inscription thereon, which the Commissioners ordered to be read, and was as follows:

Inscription on Corner-stone Plate.

"'This southeast corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America, in the city of Washington, was laid on the 18th day of September, 1793, in the thirteenth year of American independence, in the first year of the second term of the Presidency of George Washington, whose virtues in the civil administration of his country have been as conspicuous and beneficial as his military valor and prudence have been useful in establishing her liberties, and in the year of Masonry 5793, by the President of the United States, in concert with the Grand Lodge of Maryland, several lodges under its jurisdiction, and Lodge No. 22, from Alexandria, Va.; Thomas Johnson, David Steuart, and Daniel Carroll, commissioners; Joseph Clark, right worshipful grand master pro tempore; James Hoban and Stephen Hallette, architects; Collin Williamson, master Mason.'

"The artillery discharged a volley. The plate was then delivered to the President, who, attended by the grand master pro tempore and three most worshipful masters, descended to the cavazion trench and deposited the plate and laid it on the corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America, on which were deposited corn, wine, and oil; when the whole congregation joined in reverential prayer, which was succeeded by Masonic chanting honors and a volley from the artillery.

"The President of the United States and his attendant brethren ascended from the cavazion to the east of the corner-stone, and there the grand master pro tempore, elevated on a triple rostrum, delivered an oration fitting the occasion, which was received with brotherly love and commendation. At intervals during the delivery of the oration several volleys were discharged by the artillery. The ceremony ended in prayer, Masonic chanting honors, and a fifteen-volley from the artillery. The whole company retired to an extensive booth, where an ox of 500 pounds' weight was barbecued, of which the company generally partook, with every abundance of other recreation. The festival concluded with fifteen successive volleys from the artillery, whose military discipline and maneuvers merit every commendation. Before dark, the whole company departed, with joyful hopes of the production of their labor."

THE WILDERNESS CITY

Primitive Conditions Found Here by Mrs. Adams.

WHITE HOUSE DAMP AND GLOOMY

First Lady of the New Mansion Unable to Keep Up Fires for Want of Wood—Lights a Heavy Tax—Lost in a Forest Journeying to the Capital—Used Audience Room to Dry Clothes—Graphic Picture of Contrasts Given by a Connecticut Man.

The primitive condition of the National Capital at the time the seat of government was established here has never been better depicted than in a letter written by Mrs. John Adams, the first lady of the White House, to her daughter, Mrs. Smith. The letter is dated Washington, November 21, 1800. In it Mrs. Adams says:

"My Dear Child: I arrived here on Sunday last, and without meeting with any accident worth noticing, except losing ourselves when we left Baltimore and going eight or nine miles on the Frederick road, by which means we were obliged to go the other eight through woods, where we wandered two hours without finding a guide or the path. Fortunately, a straggling black came up with us, and we engaged him as a guide to extricate us out of our difficulty. But woods are all you see from Baltimore until you reach the city—which is only so in name. Here and there is a small cot, without a glass window, interspersed among the forests, through which you travel miles without seeing any human being. In the city there are buildings enough, if they were compact and finished, to accommodate Congress and those attached to it, but as they are, and scattered as they are, I see no great comfort for them. The river, which runs up to Alexandria, is in full view of my window, and I see the vessels as they pass and repass.

Fires and Lights a Heavy Tax.

"The house is upon a grand and superb scale, requiring about thirty servants to attend and keep the apartments in proper order and perform the ordinary business of the house and stables; an establishment not very well proportioned to the President's salary. The lighting of the apartments, from the kitchen to parlors and chambers, is a tax, indeed, and the fires we are obliged to keep to secure us from daily agues is another very cheering comfort. To assist us in this great castle and render less attendance necessary, bells are wholly wanting, not one single one being hung through the whole house, and promises are all you can obtain. This is so great an inconvenience that I know not what to do, or how to do.

"The ladies from Georgetown and the city have many of them visited me. Yesterday I returned fifteen visits—but such a place as Georgetown appears; why our Milton is beautiful. But no comparisons. If they will put me up some bells and let me have wood enough to keep fires, I design to be pleased. I could content myself alomst anywhere three months; but surrounded with forests, can you believe that wood is not to be had, because people cannot be found to cut and cart it? Briesler entered into a contract with a man to supply him with wood; a small part, a few cords only, has he been able to get. Most of that was expended to dry the walls of the house before we came in, and yesterday the man told us it was impossible for him to procure it to be cut and carted. He has had recourse to coals, but we cannot get grates made and set. We have, indeed, come into a new country.

Cautioned Daughter to Secrecy.

"You must keep all this to yourself, and when asked how I like it, say that I write you the situation is beautiful, which is true. The house is made habitable, but there is not a single apartment finished, and all within side, except the plastering, has been done since Briesler came. We have not the least fence, yard, or other convenience without, and the great unfinished audience-room I make a drying room of, to hang up the clothes in. The principal stairs are not up, and will not be this winter. Six chambers are made comfortable; two are occupied by the President and Mr. Shaw; two lower rooms, one for a common parlor and one for a levee room. Upstairs there is the oval room, which is designed for the drawing-room, and has the crimson furniture in it. It is a very handsome room now, but when completed will be beautiful. If the twelve years in which this place has been considered as the future seat of government had been improved, as they would have been in New England, very many of the present inconveniences would have been removed. It is a beautiful spot, capable of every improvement, and the more I view it, the more I am delighted with it.

"Since I sat down to write I have been called down to see a servant from Mount Vernon, with a billet from Maj. Custis, and a haunch of venison, and a kind, congratulatory letter from Mrs. Lewis upon my arrival in the city, with Mrs. Washington's love, inviting me to Mount Vernon, where, health permitting, I will go before I leave this place.

All Washington Shivered.

"Two articles we are much distressed for; the one is bells, but the more important one is wood. Yet you cannot see wood for trees. No arrangement has been made, but by promise never performed, to supply the newcomers with fuel. Of the promises, Briesler had received his full share. He had procured nine cords of wood; between six and seven of that was kindly burnt up to dry the walls of the house, which ought to have been done by the commissioners, but which, if left to them, would have remained undone to this day. Congress poured in, but shiver, shiver. No woodcutters nor carters to be had at any rate. We are now indebted to a Pennsylvania wagon to bring us, through the first clerk in the treasury office, one cord and a half of wood, which is all we have for this house, where twelve fires are constantly required, and where, we are told, the roads will soon be so bad that it cannot be drawn. Briesler procured 200 bushels of coal, or we must have suffered. This is the situation of almost every person. The public officers have sent to Philadelphia for wood-cutters and wagons.

"The vessel which has my clothes and other matter is not arrived. The ladies are impatient for a drawing-room; I have no looking-glasses, but dwarfs, for this house; nor a twentieth part lamps enough to light it. Many things were stolen; many were broken by the removal; amongst the number my tea china is more than half missing. Georgetown affords nothing. My rooms are very pleasant and warm whilst the doors of the hall are closed.

"You can scarce believe that here in this wilderness I should find myself so occupied as it is. My visitors, some of them, come three and four miles. The return of one of them is the work of one day. Most of the ladies reside in Georgetown or in scattered parts of the city, at two and three miles distant. We have all been very well as yet; if we can by any means get wood, we shall not let our fires go out, but it is at a price indeed; from four dollars it has risen . . nine. Some say it will fall, but there must be more industry than is to be found here to bring half enough to the market for the consumption of the inhabitants."

The members of Congress, when they came to Washington for the first session

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