

A Day in Washington.

It was the pleasure of the writer, in company with a friend recently to spend a day in Washington City. We boarded an early morning train at Hagerstown, on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and after a ride of eighty miles we found ourselves in the Capital city. The grandeur and beauty of the scenery along the way is world-renowned and has gained for this route the sobriquet of picturesque B. & O.

This being our first visit to the seat of our government we were, naturally, interested in the public buildings and proceeded at once upon our arrival to see them. Taking a cable car we soon reached the United States Treasury on the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. This is a magnificent building in the Ionic style, erected at a cost of \$6,000,000. This structure contains two hundred rooms and is modeled after that of the Temple of Minerva at Athens. We were shown through the various departments by an efficient guide and were impressed with the rapidity of the persons handling the money. The counting of the currency is done entirely by lady clerks, and the facility and accuracy with which they accomplish their work is marvellous. In this building is the redemption division, in which, the currency unfit for circulation is received from all parts of country. After being counted and cancelled it is put through a machine run by a turbine wheel. It comes out in the shape of pulp and is sold as souvenirs. It is estimated that an article costing twenty-five cents represents \$5000 in destroyed paper money.

The next point of interest we visited was the Washington Monument, the loftiest in the world, it being 555 feet high. The shaft at the base is 55 feet square and at the top it is about 30 feet square. The cost is reckoned at \$200,000. It has a nice elevator, which carries thirty persons, and makes trips every half hour. There is also an iron spiral staircase used for ascent and descent, and is illumined by electricity. The view from the top well repays making the ascent.

It now being nearly time, twelve o'clock, for Congress to open we made a hurried visit to the Smithsonian Institution and Museum and other buildings along the Mall, and were much pleased with our short visit to these institutions. We reached the Capitol just in time to see Speaker Crisp take the gavel in his hand and call the House to order. We spent forty minutes with our Representatives, during which time we heard Senator Breckenridge, from Kentucky, Cannon, from California, Robison, from Pennsylvania and many other speak on the Pension Act. We next proceeded to look over the building and found that it, like Rome, was not built in a day. It has gradually grown with the country, and like the country, it was modeled upon a grand scale, and with an eye to future enlargements. The entire length is 751 feet and it is 396 feet above the level of the grounds, and the area covered is over there and one-half acres. The grounds surrounding the Capitol embrace about fifty acres and is a noble and commanding situation. The beautiful white dome of this structure springing so airily into the sky is visible for miles around, while from it a magnificent view of the surrounding country may be obtained; amply rewarding the exertion of climbing the 376 steps to the top of dome. The entire amount appropriated by Congress from 1800 to date for the construction and preservation of the Capitol, is over \$15,000,000. The architecture is Corinthian, and style of finish exterior and interior, elaborate. This is said to be one of the finest buildings in the world.

Our next visit was to the Executive Mansion, or White House, just next to the Treasury Department. The grounds comprise about eighty acres, of which twenty are enclosed as the President's private grounds, these are laid out and contain fountains and extensive conservatories. Just West of the White House is the War, State and Navy building. It is one of the most beautiful structures in Washington and is 560 feet long by 342 feet wide. There are four facades and four entrances reached by broad flights of stone steps. The building is constructed of stone and iron, so that it is entirely fire-proof, and

all its parts are in perfect harmony. The interior is richly frescoed and adorned, and it is probably more handsomely and expensively finished than any other building in the country. We were told by a guide that 4500 persons were employed here.

Our guide led us to the Art Gallery directly opposite the State, War and Navy Department. It contains nearly two hundred paintings, most of them masterpieces, and the finest collection of cast and marble statuary in the country. After feasting our eyes on the grand display, we boarded a street car and soon found ourselves at the Navy Yards. Here are located two ship houses, foundries, and shops for the manufacture of almost everything necessary for fitting out a vessel. Many other points of interest were visited, the last being the Statue of Martin Luther. This ended our sight-seeing for the day and we bade good-by to our friends, and took a night train for Hagerstown, feeling tired, but knowing that the day had been well spent in Washington. C. R. S.

Fashion Notes.

Silk is, and will continue to be the favorite material for the light-colored waists.

Sealskin saques are modernized by putting in enormous sleeves of other material.

At afternoon teas it is the fashion to have as many different colored cups as possible.

Empire fans have the popularity at present. They are too expensive to be "common."

Too profuse floral decoration at dinner parties is declared to be "questionable taste."

An enormous bow, with a spray of jets, does duty for one of the fashionable "bonnets."

Velveteen is a very popular material for gowns, long coats and capes. It is more durable than velvet and far less expensive.

Women who have slender, graceful figures will be quite willing to adopt the revived fashion of lacing the bodices as the back.

Mousquetaire sleeves are in high favor for soft clinging material, and are as graceful as possible. May their reign be a long one.

A short-wristed, one button glove is the most desirable and certainly the most comfortable to be worn with the sleeves now in vogue.

New bodices continue to reach the waist only, and most elaborate belt-adornings are the natural outcome of these shortened corsages.

Short and flowered satin ribbons are largely used for rosettes, frills, streamers, sashes; and bretelles on pretty gowns for semi-dress wear.

Novelty goods showing a mixture of fuschia and shaded green are effectively associated with fuschia silk and dark green velvet; a golden-drawn cashmere is trimmed with silk and velvet ribbon to match.



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