

**AMERICAN COURT
GOSSIP; OR, LIFE AT THE
NATIONAL CAPITOL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649046317

American Court Gossip; Or, Life at the National Capitol by Mrs. E. N. Chapin

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MRS. E. N. CHAPIN

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GOSSIP; OR, LIFE AT THE
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AMERICAN COURT GOSSIP

—OR—

LIFE AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL,

—BY—

MRS. E. N. CHAPIN,

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

MARSHALLTOWN, IA.:
CHAPIN & HARTWELL BROS.,
1887.

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DEDICATED

TO THAT LOVELY WOMAN,

MRS. GENERAL LOGAN,

Who adorns her sex with great charity, intelligence
and grace, and who is to the National Capital
what Madam Recamier was to France.

PREFACE.

These Washington sketches were mostly published in the Iowa State Register, and were written in a hasty manner. They are a *resume* of a seven years' diary, and imperfect as they are, may interest some of my young friends who have never seen even glimpses of the American Court at the National Capitol. As an ex Secretary of the Ladies' Press Association at Washington, I beg the indulgence of the Guild everywhere. This work has been very much abridged, and apparent discrepancies have occurred in consequence of this cutting down of the original matter,

AMERICAN COURT GOSSIP
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CHAPTER I.

LOCATION OF THE CITY—"B" STREET MARKET HOUSE—CONGRESS
OF 1879-80—OLD SLAVE PEN.

Hamilton, under the great Washington, as Secretary of the Treasury, had a national debt of over eighty millions to provide for, after the war of the Revolution, and this debt was divided up among the states.

Hamilton's scheme for the government to assume these war debts and a promise to pay in the future, was opposed by Jefferson and the anti-federalists, many of whom lived in Virginia.

Another part of Hamilton's scheme was to establish a bank of the United States, and levy customs on imported articles. The Virginians opposed him bitterly at first, but knowing they were anxious to have the National Capitol on Virginia soil, he gave his influence to have the Federal Congress remove the capitol from Philadelphia, dating ten years from 1790. Washington selected the site himself, although it was sanctioned formally by three commissioners. L. Enfant, a French engineer, laid out the city in the year mentioned above, and the corner stone of the beautiful building called the Capitol was laid September
