

19th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

[Doc. No. 123.]

HO. OF REPS.

MEMORIAL

OF

The Columbian Institute.

MARCH 6, 1826.

Referred to the Committee on the Public Buildings.

WASHINGTON:

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1st CONGRESS
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MEMORIAL

The Columbia River



MADE AT
AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PUBLISHED BY

WASHINGTON
1800

MEMORIAL.

To the *Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:*

The subscribers, citizens of Washington, and in behalf of the Columbian Institute, of which they are members, beg leave, most respectfully, to represent:

That, with a view to promote the public good, and to ornament and improve the public grounds, they would recommend that the water of Tiber Creek be brought to the Capitol Square; and, after forming a reservoir,* be carried in pipes to the Botanic Garden, and thrown up in a jet d'eau of 30 or 40 feet high, and then be used in watering the surrounding grounds. That a wall five feet high, with a stone coping, be put round the ground appropriated for a Botanic Garden; and that suitable buildings be erected, and the Garden be properly laid out, and cultivated as a National Garden; to effect which important national objects, a sum not exceeding 30,000 dollars will be required.

That your petitioners have ascertained, from the observations of Mr. Ellicott, who first laid out the City, and from subsequent observations made for the purpose, that the source of the N. E. branch of Tiber Creek is about 236 feet above the tide water at the mouth of said Creek; and that the ground at the base of the Capitol is 78 feet, also above said tide water; of course the source of Tiber Creek is 158 feet higher than the base of the Capitol, at two miles distant. By taking the level of said Creek at 1½ mile distant, it is found as high as the windows of the second story of the Capitol.

That your petitioners have ascertained, from the information of practical men, that cast iron pipe of 6 inches bore, can be purchased and laid for about 5 dollars per yard. They have also ascertained that a wall five feet high, with a stone coping, would not cost more than 4,000 dollars to enclose the whole of the ground appropriated by Congress for the Botanic Garden. The whole expense would therefore be:

* A reservoir of living water would rather purify or benefit than injure the air—while a reservoir of stagnant water would be injurious; but, if objected to, it may be executed without a reservoir, and thus would not only water the whole of the Capitol Gardens, but command the whole of the highest buildings round the Capitol square.

For the cast iron pipe, laying, and tunnel	-	-	\$16,200
Wall round the garden and stone coping	-	-	4,000
Houses, laying out, and cultivating the garden	-	-	9,800
			<hr/>
			\$30,000
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The important national advantages to be obtained, are:

1st. The water of Tiber Creek being thus conducted into the Capitol square, will afford ample security against the progress of fire, in case of such accident taking place either in the Capitol or in any of the adjacent buildings. After leaving the Capitol, this water may be carried in pipes into the Botanic Garden, and there thrown up in a jet d'eau, 30 or 40 feet high, and thence water the surrounding grounds.

2d. This National Botanic Garden may be used to raise all kinds of indigenous and exotic trees, shrubs, roots, grasses, &c. to be distributed to every part of the Union.

3d. Cool and shady walks will be formed in the neighborhood of the Capitol; the science of Botany encouraged; and a delightful scene from the Capitol created to please the eye of the stranger and citizen.

Your petitioners, therefore, most respectfully solicit, that public lots in the City of Washington be sold to the amount of 30,000 dollars, and the proceeds be applied, under the direction of the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, and a Committee of the Columbian Institute, for the above purposes. The lots to be designated by said Commissioner, or the money to be raised in any other way thought proper by Congress.

For which, as in duty, &c. they will ever pray, &c.

HENRY HUNTT,
WM. ELLIOT,
WILLIAM THORNTON,

Committee.