

# Hand-Book of Washington.

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## THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

THE object of this little volume is simply to supply Strangers, who may visit the National Metropolis on business or pleasure, with all the information of a local character, calculated to be of service to them. But before proceeding with details, it will be proper to give the leading facts connected with the establishment of the present Seat of the General Government. The idea of locating it on the Potomac was originally suggested by General George Washington, after long and mature deliberation, and the Act of Congress, which created the territory of the District of Columbia, was passed on the 16th of July, 1790;— in the Senate by a vote of 14 to 12; and in the House of Representatives of 32 to 29. The law provided, however, that the Government should not be removed from Philadelphia to Washington until the year 1800, and that the intervening