

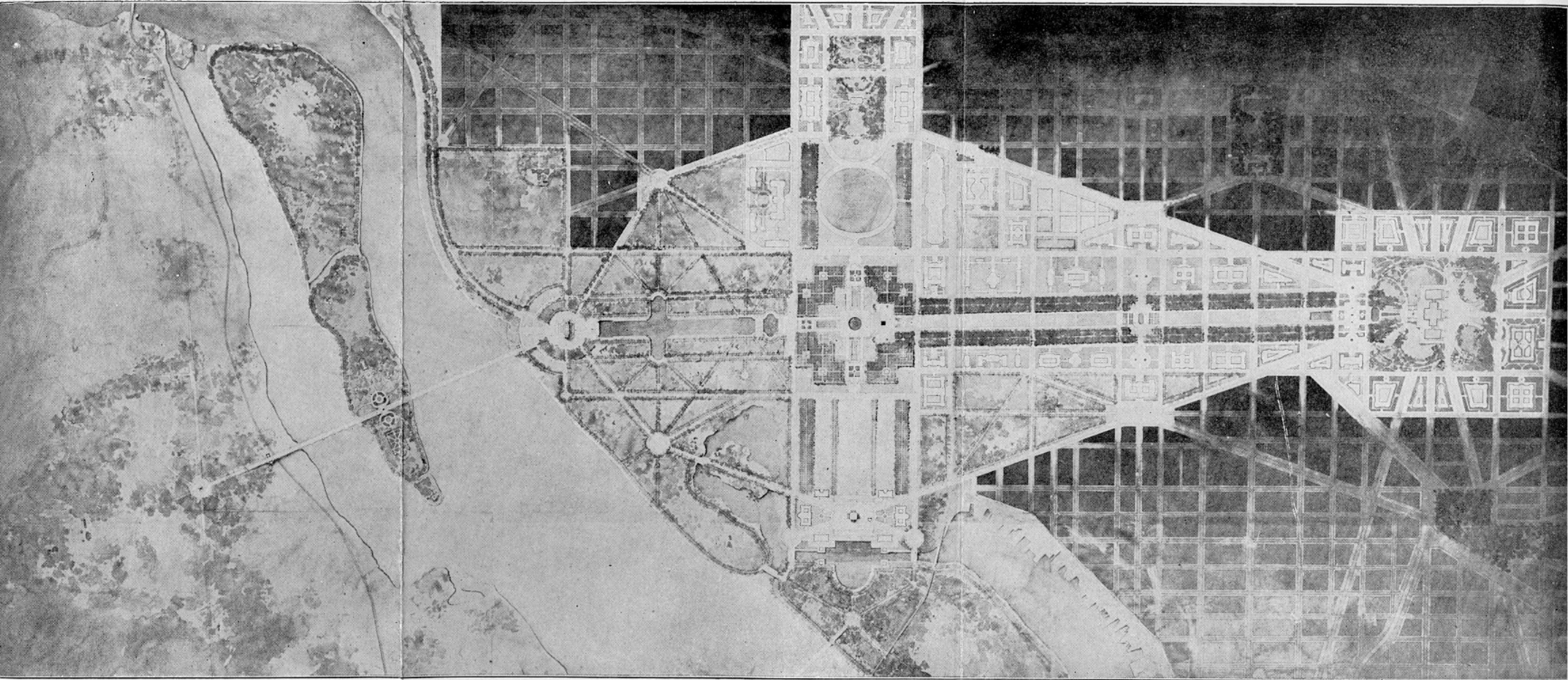
THE MALL SYSTEM.

Analostan Island.

Lincoln Memorial.

Executive group.

Legislative group.



Memorial Bridge.

Monument Garden.
Washington Common.

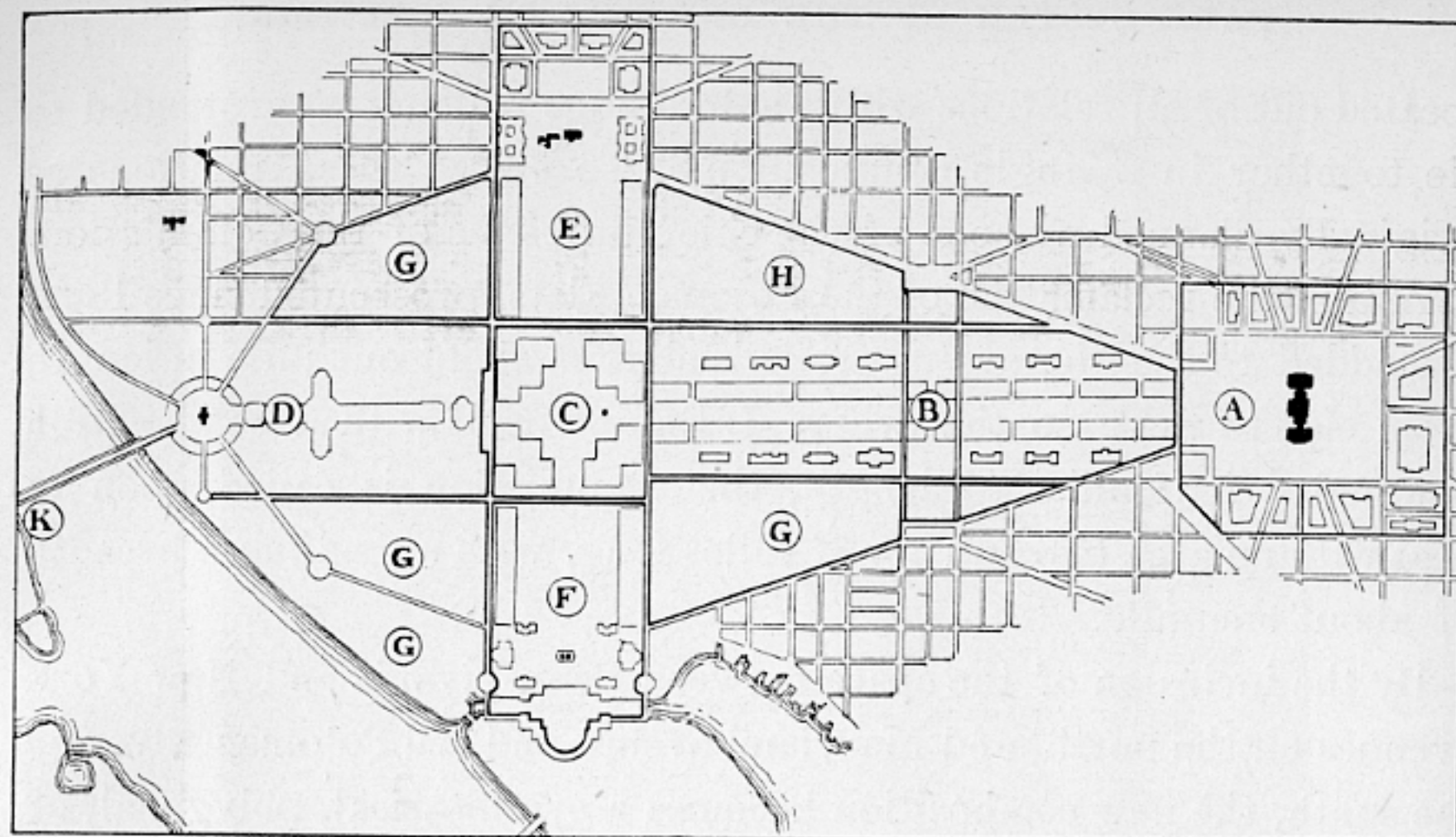
Union Square.

NO. 19.—GENERAL PLAN OF THE MALL SYSTEM.

Analostan Island.



Memorial Bridge.



KEY TO THE MALL SYSTEM.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| A—Capitol Division. | E—White House Division. |
| B—The Mall. | F—Washington Common |
| C—Monument Section. | GG—Park Spaces. |
| D—Lincoln Division. | H—Section south of Pennsylvania avenue |
| | K—Memorial Bridge. |

THE MALL SYSTEM.

THE City of Washington, during the century since its foundation, has been developed in the main according to the plan made in 1791 by Major Peter Charles L'Enfant and approved by President Washington. That plan the Commission has aimed to restore, develop, and supplement.

The "Congress house" and the "President's palace," as he termed them, were the cardinal features of L'Enfant's plan; and these edifices he connected "by a grand avenue four hundred feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered by gardens, ending in a slope from the houses on each side." At the point of intersection of two lines, one drawn through the center of the Capitol the other drawn through the center of the White House, L'Enfant fixed the site of an equestrian statue of General Washington, one of the numerous statues voted by the Continental Congress but never erected.

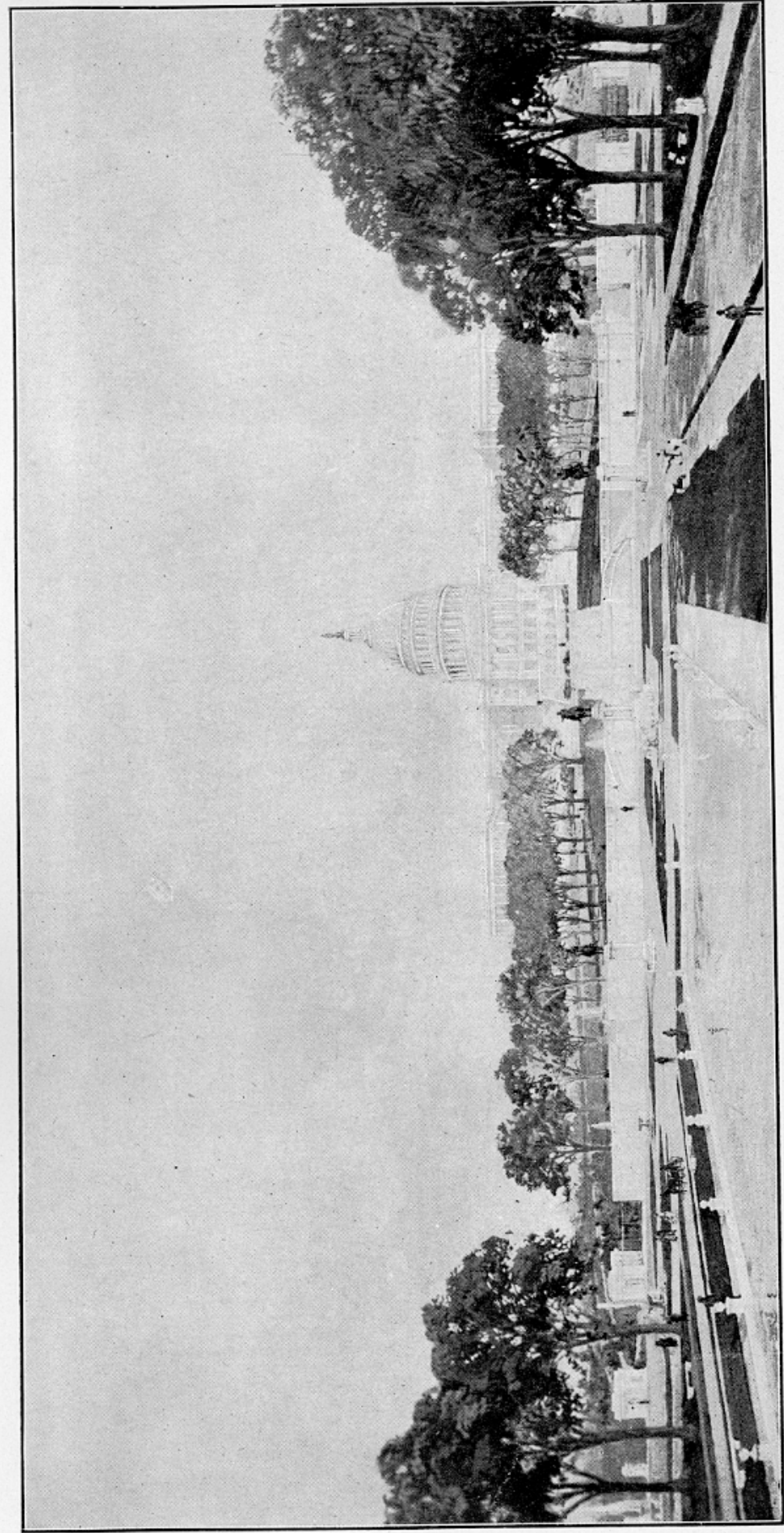
When, in 1848, the people began to build the Washington Monument, the engineers despaired of securing on the proper site a foundation sufficient for so great a structure; and consequently the Monument was

located out of all relations with the buildings which it was intended to tie together in a single composition. To create these relations as originally planned was one of the chief problems of the Commission.

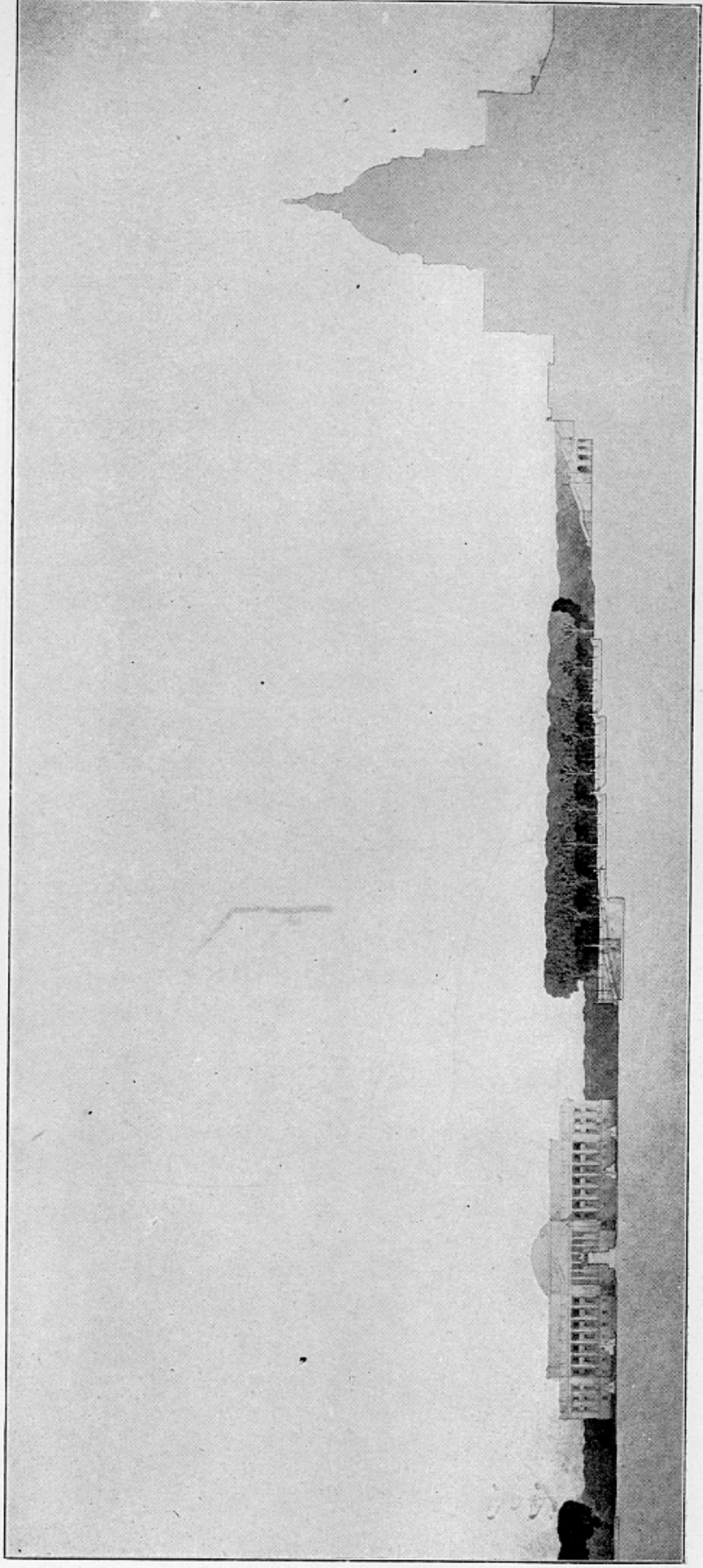
Again, the reclamation of the Potomac Flats, prosecuted since 1882, has added to the Monument grounds an area about one mile in length from east to west; so that where L'Enfant dealt with a composition one and a half miles in length, the Commission is called upon to deal with an area two and a half miles long, with a maximum breadth of about one mile.

By the inclusion of the space between Pennsylvania and New York avenues on the north, and Maryland avenue and the Potomac River on the south, the new composition becomes a symmetrical, polygonal, or kite-shaped, figure bisected from east to west by the axis of the Capitol and from north to south by the White House axis. Regarding the Monument as the center, the Capitol as the base, and the White House as the extremity of one arm of a Latin cross, we have at the head of the composition on the banks of the Potomac a memorial site of the greatest possible dignity, with a second and only less commanding site at the extremity of the second arm.

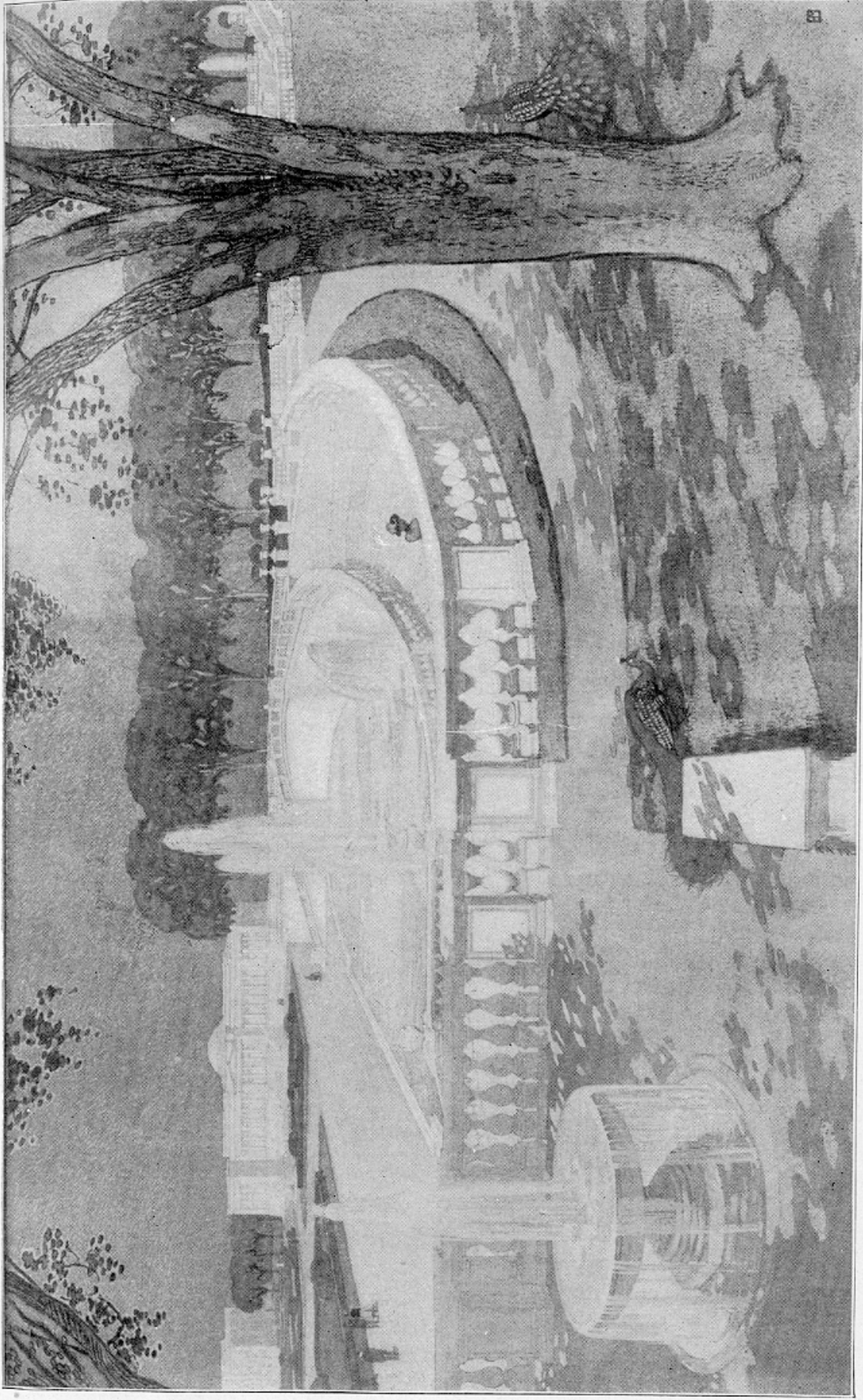
So extensive a composition, and one containing such important elements, does not exist elsewhere; and it is essential that the plan for its treatment shall combine simplicity with dignity.



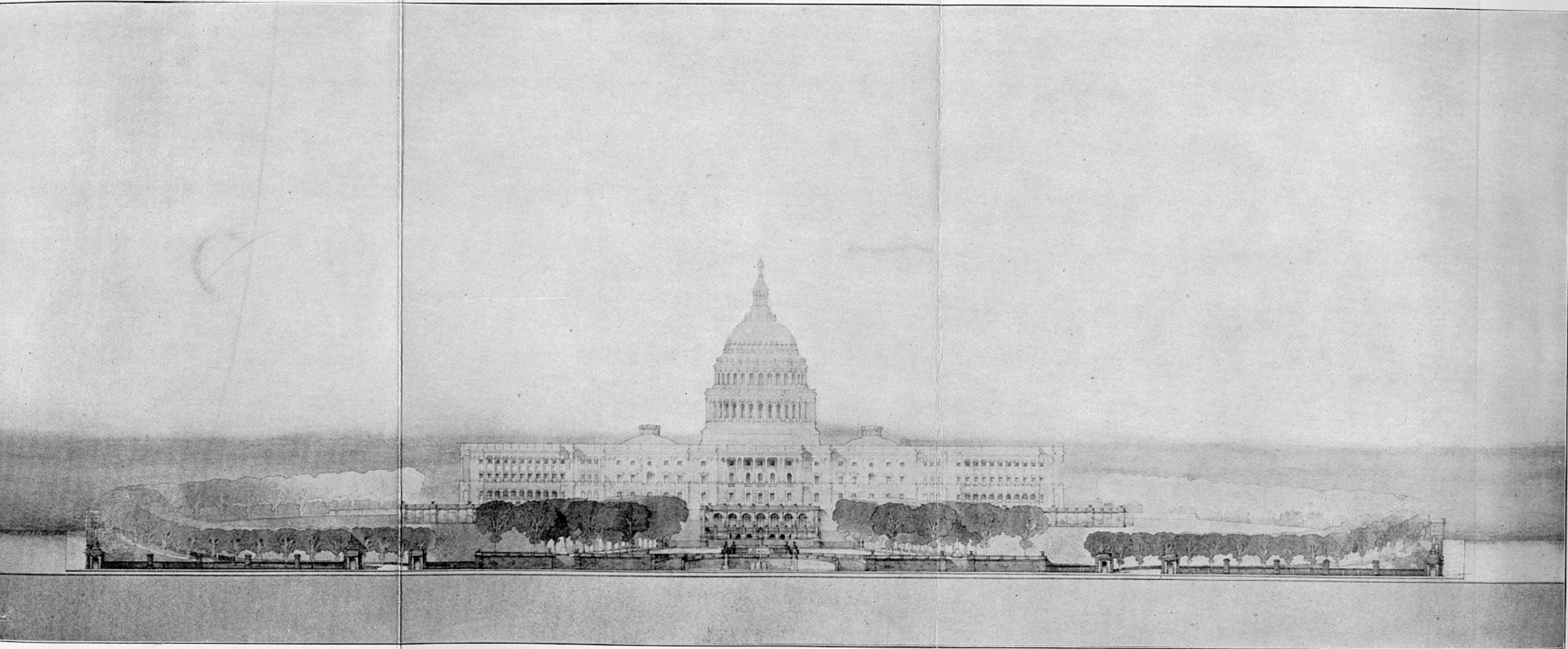
NO. 36.—VIEW OF THE CAPITOL, AS SEEN FROM THE MALL.



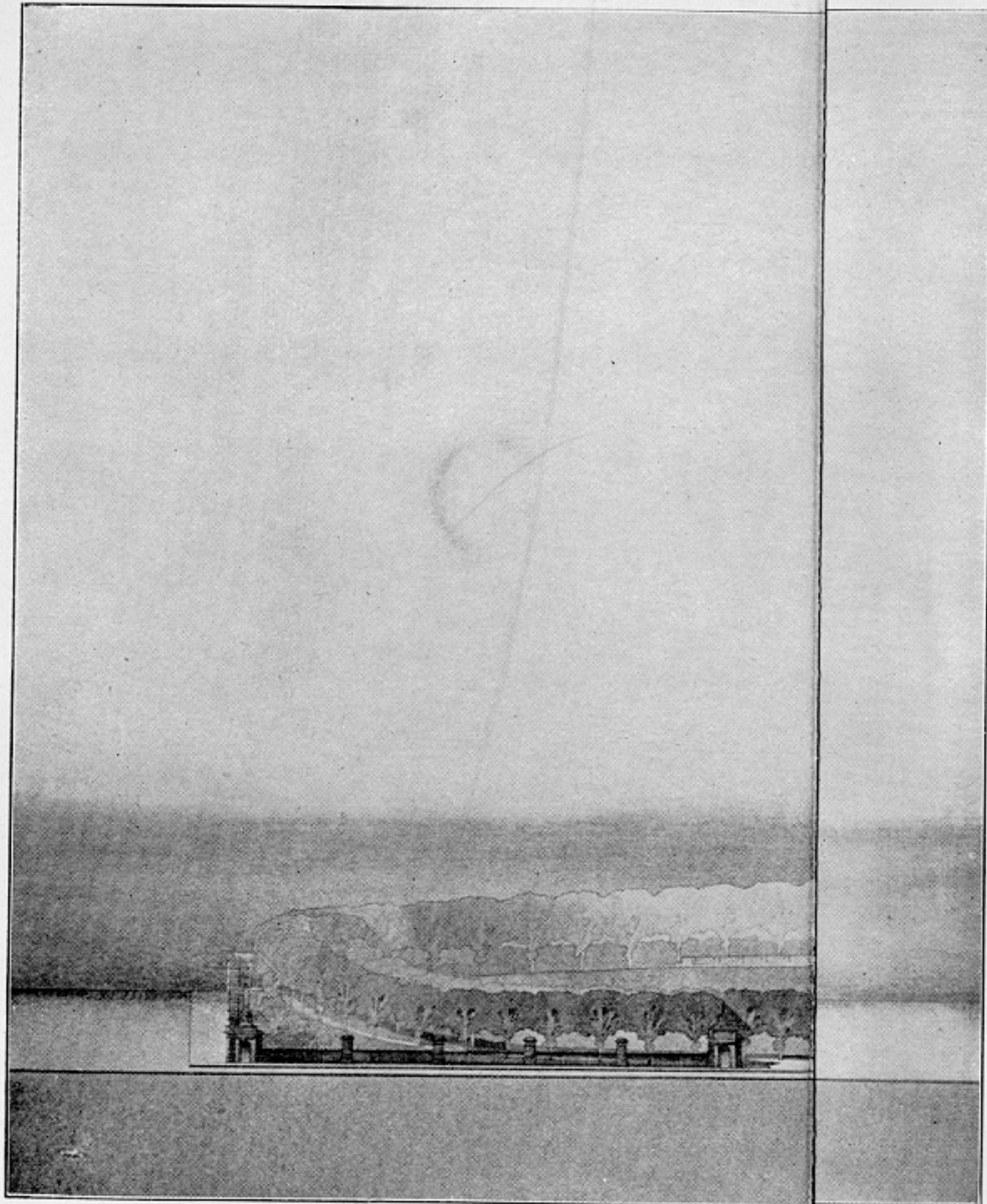
NO. 24.—SECTION THROUGH CAPITOL, EAST AND WEST.



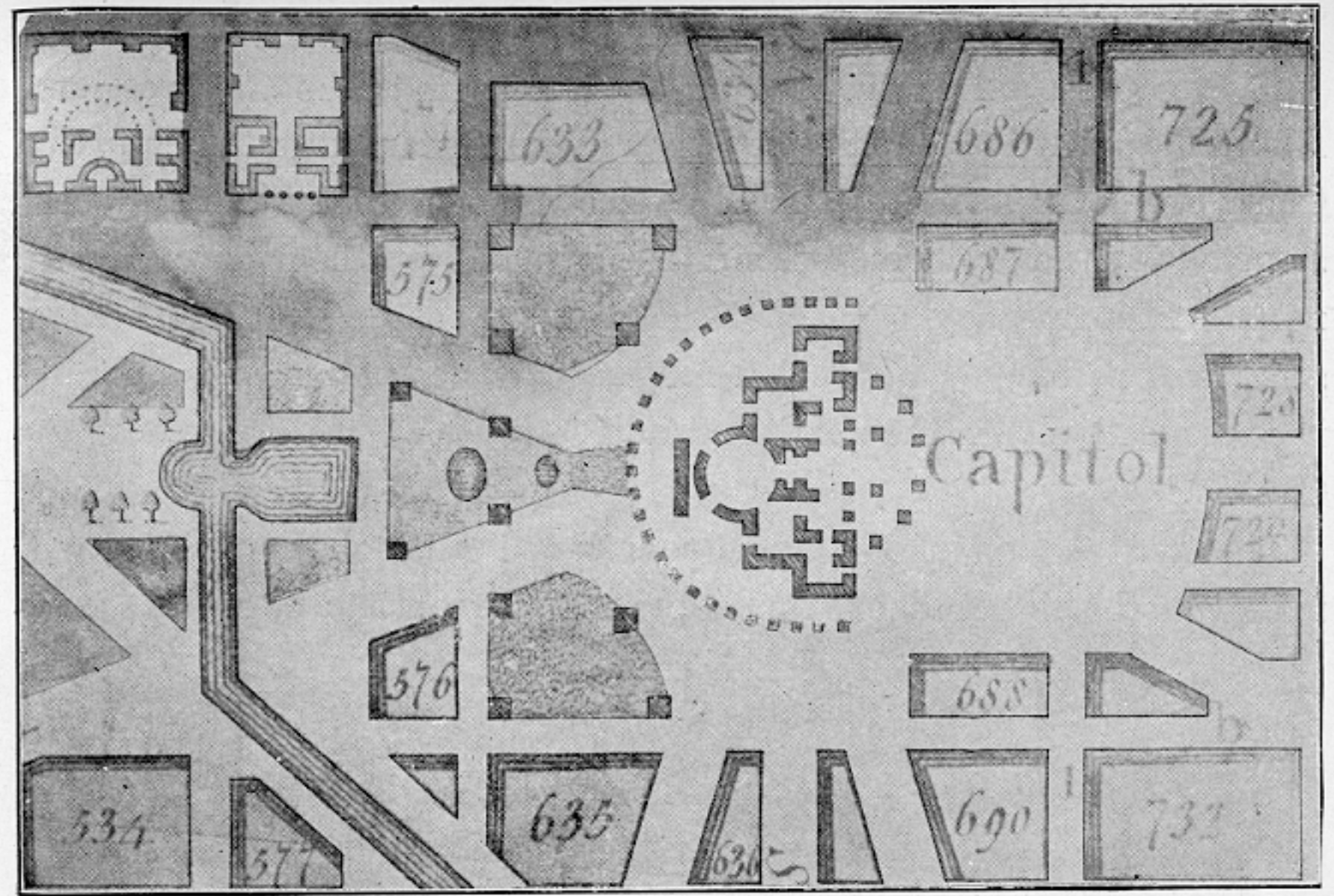
NO. 39.—VIEW SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF BASIN, TERRACES, AND CAPITOL APPROACHES, HEAD OF MALL.



NO. 23.—THE CAPITOL, WEST ELEVATION, SHOWING PROPOSED TERRACE, RESTORATION OF THE BULFINCH GATES AND BOUNDARY FENCE, FOUNTAINS AND APPROACHES.



NO. 23.—THE CAPITOL, W



No. 22.—Plan of the Capitol Grounds by L'Enfant (1791).

THE CAPITOL DIVISION.

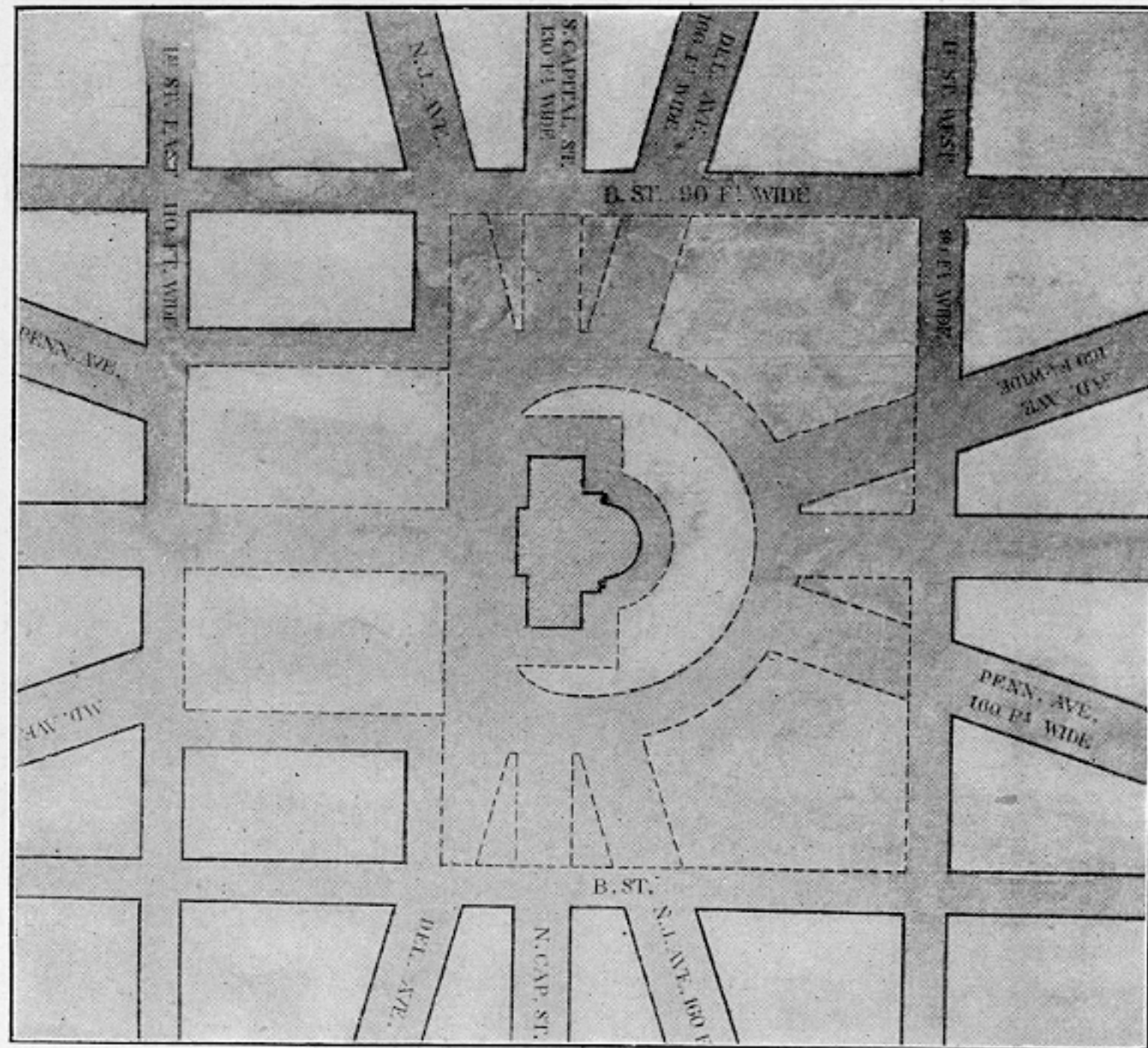
THE Capitol, located by Washington and L'Enfant on a site which seemed to the latter as "a pedestal waiting for a monument," was constructed in accordance with plans prepared by Thornton and selected by the first President and his Secretary of State, because among the number of designs submitted Thornton's alone displayed the dignified simplicity which should characterize the legislative halls of a nation. Under the personal direction of Presi-

The Capitol. dent Fillmore, the Capitol was extended by the addition of the Senate and the House wings, and the edifice was surmounted by a soaring dome, all designed by Thomas U. Walter.¹ Distinguished alike for its historic associations and for its architectural merits, the Capitol stands in the midst of ample grounds, indeed, but is surrounded in the main by private buildings, many of them of the most squalid character, or by neglected stretches of land used as dumping grounds. From the Mall system the grounds are cut off by the Botanic Garden, walled and fenced so as to block the way.

¹ History of the United States Capitol, by Glenn Brown.

Facing the Capitol grounds on the east stands the Congressional Library; and it is contemplated that at no distant day the Supreme Court of the United States shall be accommodated in a building constructed for the exclusive use of that tribunal, on the square directly north of the Library;¹ and that the Senate and the House of Representatives will have constructed for the uses of their members buildings respectively on the north and on the south of the grounds of the Capitol.²

The construction of the above-mentioned buildings as planned will make it in the highest degree appropriate that fronting the entire square



No. 22a.—Plan of the Capitol Grounds by Thornton, Architect of the Capitol (1803).

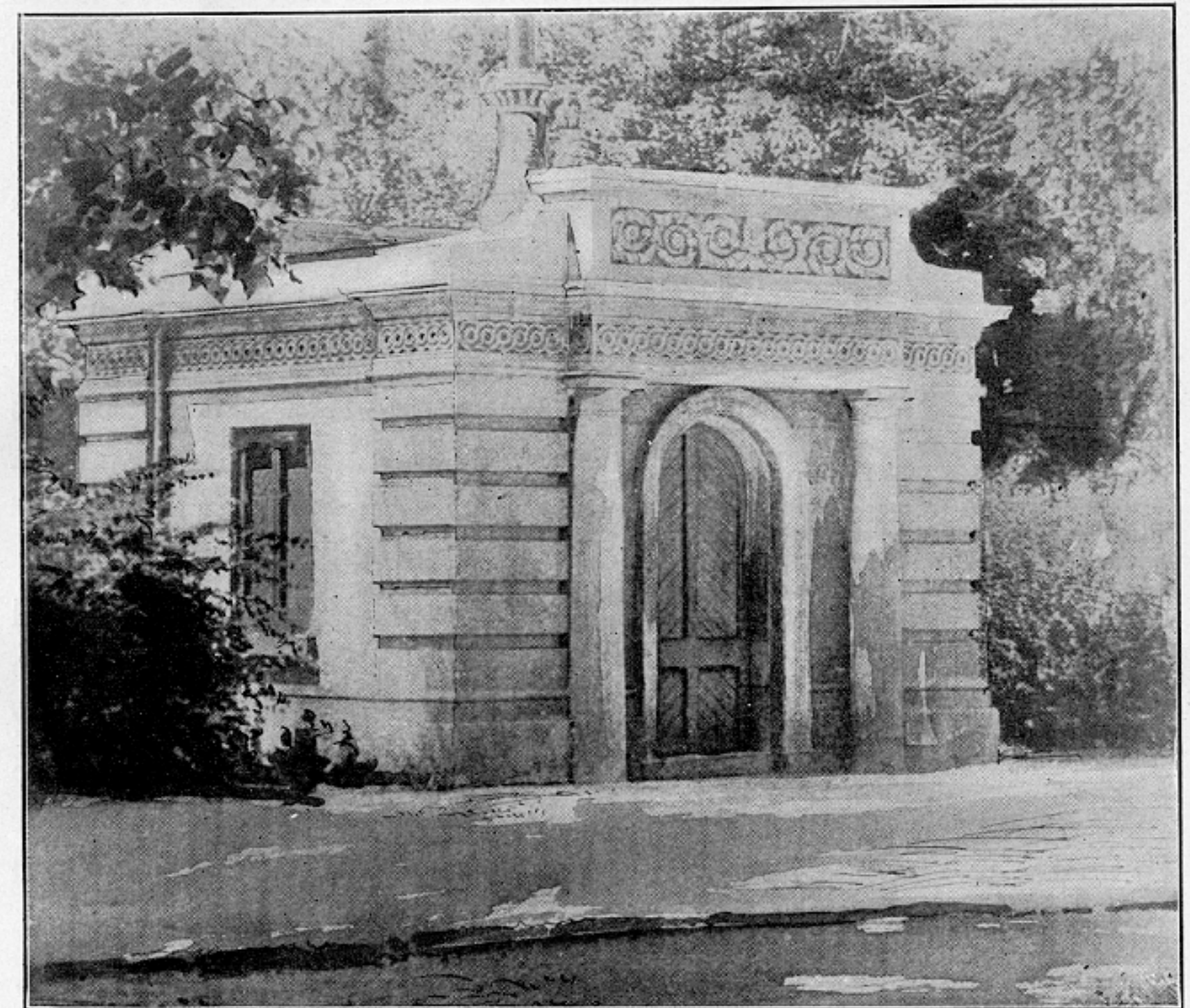
occupied by the Capitol grounds only public buildings bearing a common relation to legislative work shall be erected. If the reciprocal relations of the new buildings shall be studied carefully, so as

¹ Bills contemplating such a building are regularly introduced in Congress. See S. 4113, Fifty-seventh Congress.

² The sundry civil act of March 3, 1901, authorizes the preparation of plans for a structure to be erected "adjacent to the grounds of the Capitol building." Estimates have been prepared for the purchase of the lands on the south side of the Capitol grounds.

to produce harmony of design and uniformity of cornice line, the resulting architectural composition will be unequaled in magnitude and monumental character by any similar group of legislative buildings in the modern world.

The successful development of this proposed series of buildings inclosing the Capitol square is to be assured only by strict adherence to that system of radial avenues laid down by Washington and L'Enfant, upon which the Capitol depends for its dominating character. Any invasion of these historic arteries representing the original States and centering upon the Dome must be fatal,



No. 38.—Bulfinch Gatehouse, formerly on Capitol Grounds.

because inconsistent with the fundamental principles upon which the city is built. The location of the Library of Congress partly in Pennsylvania avenue is a perpetual mutilation of L'Enfant's plan, and inflicts incalculable injury to the Capitol, which the Library in part conceals. Other similar instances are the extension of the Treasury and the construction of the State, War, and Navy buildings so as to close forever carefully planned vistas of the White House. These

discordant notes should warn future generations that sites for public buildings are dearly purchased at the cost of those essential elements which give to Washington its unique advantage over all other American cities.

In 1803 Thornton marked the boundaries of the Capitol grounds to correspond with the rectilinear system of streets, and Treatment of the Capitol grounds. these lines were maintained until the latest addition to the grounds brought about innovations, resulting in various curved projections, especially on the western side. This complication of the early plans banished the Bulfinch gates and fence which so strongly emphasized the frontage of sixteen hundred feet that corresponds to the width of the Mall. The recovery of this original feature of the Capitol design, supplemented by the construction of a central terrace one thousand feet in width, will give the broadest possible support to the Capitol, which, resting upon this base as on a plinth, will gain an additional height of forty feet.

The western slope of the Capitol grounds should be relieved and enriched by basins and fountains in which the water, falling from one level to another, is poured finally into a great central pool at the level of First street. So L'Enfant intended in his plan for "a grand cascade formed of water from the sources of the Tiber," which was to mitigate the heat of the sun-baked hill.

Several of the great radial avenues extending from the Capitol and the White House climb the hills encircling the city, and on the The radial avenues. crests of these hills superb sites are found for shining memorials standing out against the sky. Often these vistas terminate on some far-off hill, where a simple white shelter will prove the most effective treatment. In other instances the hill crests are in the midst of a populous region, and in these cases the treatment should be on a more comprehensive scale. For example, at the head of North Capitol street a monumental entrance to the Soldiers' Home should be built; and the sharp rise of Sixteenth street should carry an imposing arch, such as the one projected as a memorial to William McKinley.



NO. 37.—VIEW SHOWING THE PROPOSED TREATMENT OF UNION SQUARE, AT THE HEAD OF THE MALL.



UNION SQUARE.

ON the western side of the Capitol grounds, where Pennsylvania and Maryland avenues converge, the L'Enfant plan shows "a public walk, through which carriages may ascend to the upper square of the Federal house." Having restored the true north and south line of the Capitol grounds, it is proposed to treat the space now occupied by the Botanic Garden as a broad thoroughfare, so enriched with parterres of green as to form an organic connection between the Capitol and the Mall.

The exceptional opportunities for monumental treatment offered by the commanding location of this area leads the Commission to suggest that the Grant memorial already provided for shall be the chief decoration of the square; and that associated with the Grant monument shall be the figures of his two great lieutenants, Sherman and Sheridan, standing independently, yet so as to form a single composition.¹

¹The location now fixed for the Sherman statue is directly south of the Treasury Department, where a granite pedestal has been constructed. This location suggests Secretary Sherman rather than General Sherman. A location for the Grant memorial was selected tentatively before the Park Commission made its report; and the competitors made designs for a site either south of the White House or south of the State, War, and Navy building. The commission on the Grant memorial (made up of Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, president of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, chairman; Senator George Peabody Wetmore, chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library; and Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War) appointed as a committee to judge the relative merits of the models submitted in the competition, Lieut. Gen. J. M. Schofield, Maj. Gen. Wesley M. Merritt, Daniel H. Burnham, Charles F. McKim, Augustus Saint Gaudens, and Daniel Chester French. This committee reported, on April 12, 1902, that it had selected unanimously the models of the following persons: Henry Merwin Shrady, Charles Henry Niehaus (associated with Henry Bacon, architect), J. Massey Rhind (with Bright & Bacon, architects), Charles A. Lopez and F. G. R. Roth (with Henry Hornbostel, architect), Waldo Story, and Burr C. Miller. Of the six the committee found the design submitted by Mr. Shrady the first in intrinsic merit and best adapted to the site indicated, on the axis

The placing of the defenders of the Union at this great point of convergence doubly justifies the name of "Union Square."

Brilliantly illuminated, embellished with fountains, and commanded by terraces, this square would compare favorably, in both extent and treatment, with the Place de la Concorde in Paris.

of the White House. They found the design submitted by Niehaus and Bacon second in intrinsic merit, and perfectly adapted to either site. They made further recommendations as follows: "The committee thinks it desirable, notwithstanding the brilliant character of Mr. Shrady's composition, to be assured of his powers to execute a figure of Grant with the nobility and reserve power that it should possess. On the other hand, the qualities of Mr. Niehaus's work were of such high order and were so close in merit to those of Mr. Shrady's that the committee feels it would be unfair to Mr. Niehaus to reject his work without another trial.

"Furthermore, in view of the fact that since the competition for the Grant monument was instituted the proposition to place three equestrian statues together at the head of the Mall, in the center of Union Square, has been urged in the plan of the Park Commission, and also in view of the possibility of this equestrian figure of Grant becoming the central feature of this portion of the plan of the Park Commission, the committee begs to suggest that, before finally making the award Messrs. Shrady and Niehaus be requested to execute another model of about four feet in height for the equestrian group of General Grant. As this enlarged model would involve a very serious expense to the sculptors, the committee suggests that an appropriate sum of money be offered in remuneration to the unsuccessful competitor.

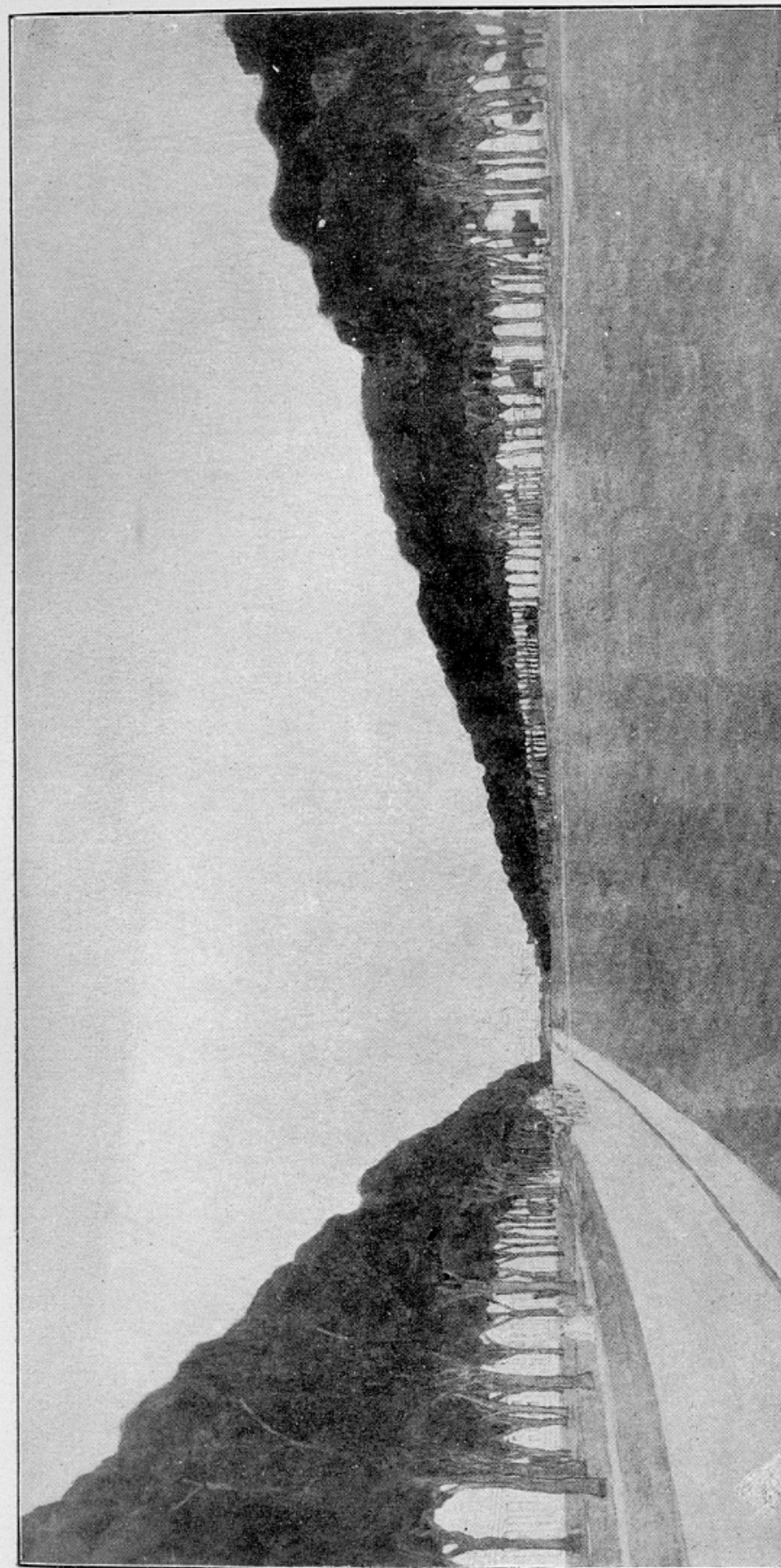
"Although outside of the instructions of your commission to this committee the committee begs leave to suggest that, while the central site, namely, the White Lot, is well adapted for the purpose of a monument to General Grant, the placing of any kind of a monument in the White Lot circle is extremely objectionable from an artistic standpoint and is an encroachment upon historic ground.

"The four corners of the White Lot square are deemed highly appropriate places for subordinate military monuments, but neither one is suited in dignity for a site for a monument to General Grant."

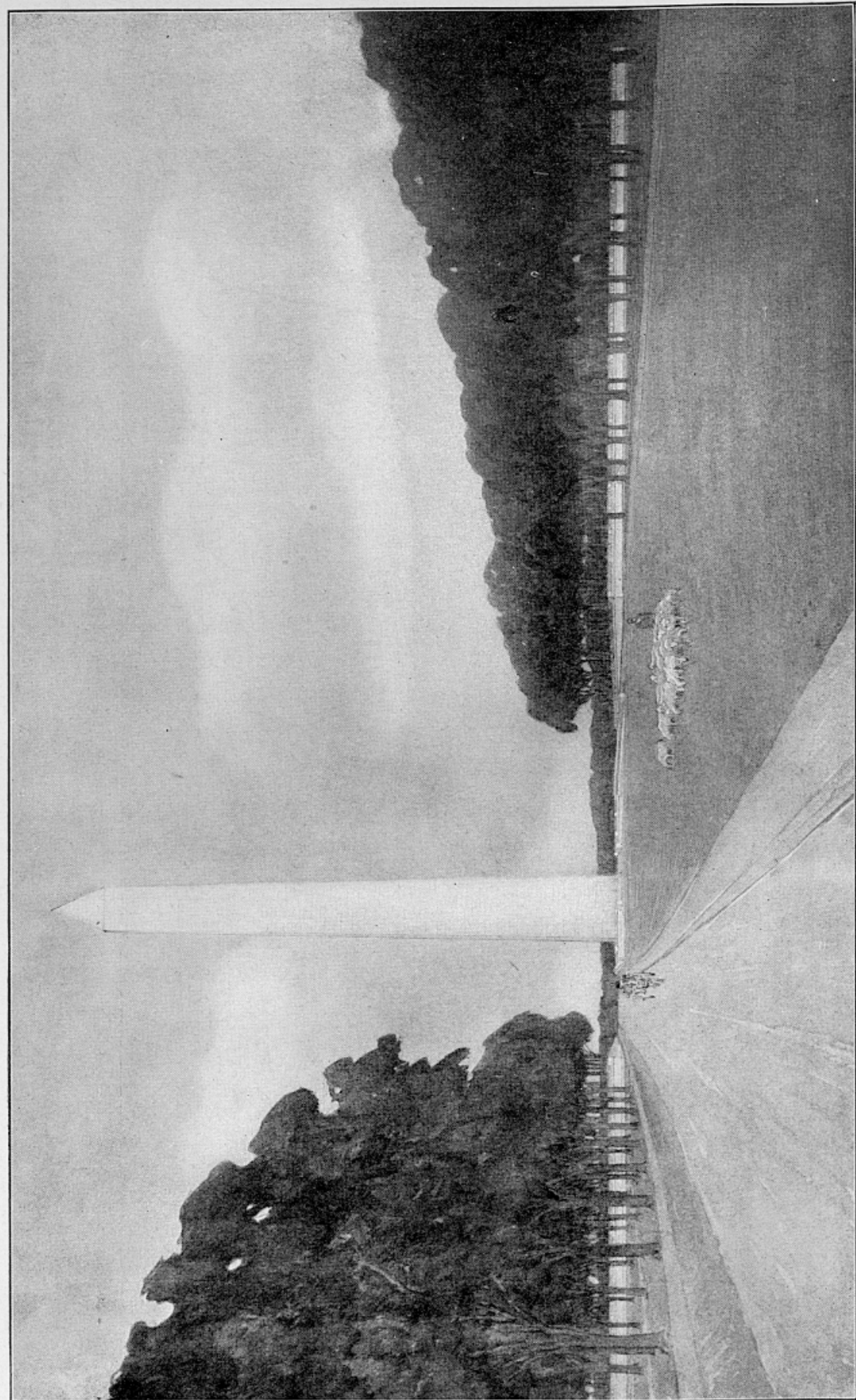
The report of the committee was adopted at the judgment of the commission. The following resolution was adopted as the sense of the commission:

"*Resolved*, That in pursuance of the recommendation of the advisory committee, Messrs. Shrady and Niehaus be requested each to execute another model of four feet in height for the equestrian group of General Grant, in order to enable the commission to make final selection between the designs submitted by those gentlemen.

Further resolved, That \$750 be paid to each of them upon the completion and submission of said models."



NO. 56.—VIEW OF THE MALL FROM SIXTH STREET.



NO. 59.—VIEW OF THE MONUMENT SEEN FROM THE MALL AT FOURTEENTH STREET. LOOKING WEST.

THE MALL.

HAVING considered the Capitol grounds and the areas related thereto we come now to that long stretch of territory designed to furnish the park-like means of communication between the legislative and the executive departments. It is interesting to note that although this space has been cut into pieces, some of which have been highly developed according to the landscape art of the day, as for example the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution and the Agriculture Department, and while other portions have been diverted from their original purposes, as in the case of the sections given up to the Botanic Garden and the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, still the L'Enfant idea of treating the entire space as a unit has never been entirely lost sight of. Indeed, during the very months of 1871, when the right of way across the Mall was bestowed upon a railroad, one branch of Congress agreed to a proposition to combine the scattered areas into a single park, but was deterred from so doing largely by the objection that such treatment would divide Washington into two parts.¹

The gradual development of the city and its growth toward the north, together with the location in the Mall of public buildings for scientific purposes, have resulted in a steady improvement in the character of the Mall, which during the past thirty years has been changed from a common pasture into a series of park spaces unequally developed, indeed, and in places broken in upon by being put to commercial or other extraneous uses, but nevertheless becoming more and more appreciated from year to year. With this gradual improvement has sprung up a general desire that the L'Enfant plans be reverted to, and that the entire space south of Pennsylvania avenue be set apart solely for public purposes.

In order to realize this natural and most laudable desire, two things are essential: First, the railroad must be removed from the Mall, and,

¹See editorials and articles in the Washington Star during February and March, 1871.

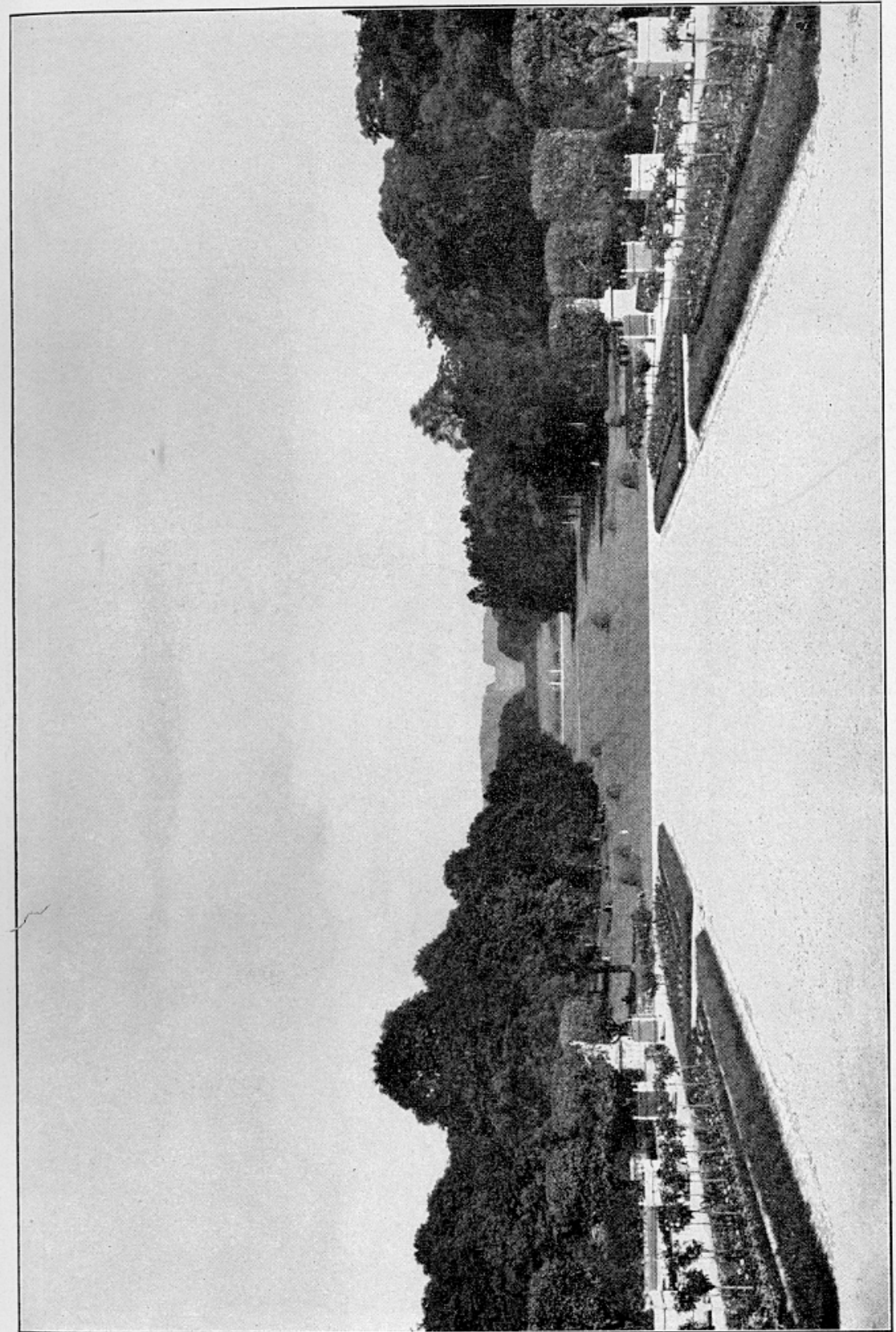
secondly, axial relations must be established between the Capitol, the Monument, and the White House. Happily, as has been explained elsewhere in these reports, the opportunity is presented to Congress to secure not only the exclusion of the railroad, but also the construction of a union station, a consummation which, long agitated, has heretofore seemed beyond the possibility of accomplishment.

Fortunately, also, the location of the Monument does not preclude the establishment of such relations as will bring that structure into organic connection with the monumental buildings above mentioned, so that Capitol, White House, and Monument shall become constituent parts of one composition. The plan of the Commission contemplates the extension of B street northeastward to Pennsylvania avenue, whence it continues on the north side of the Capitol grounds, thus securing for the Mall a uniform width of sixteen hundred feet throughout its entire extent. Within these boundaries it becomes possible to develop the Mall area in accordance with the general distribution of the L'Enfant plan, with such enlargements as the conditions of to-day have made possible and desirable.

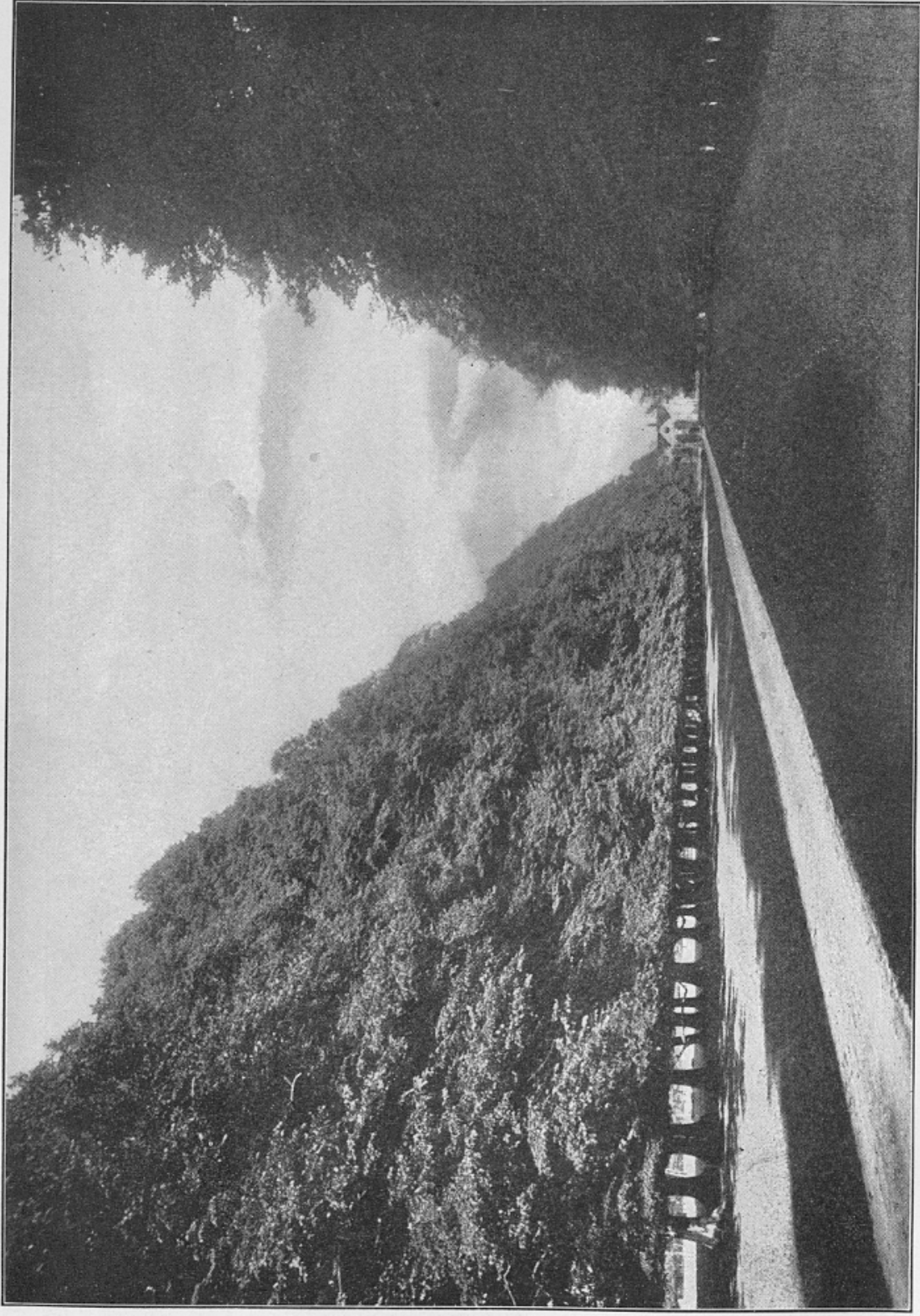
Thus areas adjoining B street north and south, averaging more than four hundred feet in width from the Capitol to the Monument, afford spacious sites for buildings devoted to scientific purposes and for the great museums. The structure to be erected for the Department of Agriculture on the site of the present building marks at once the building line and the type of architecture which should be adopted throughout the Mall system; while the buildings of the National Museum and the Fisheries Commission building, both of which are inadequate and unsuited for their respective purposes, serve to show the class of the service that may well be accommodated with new structures located within a park area.¹

The axis of the Capitol and Monument is clearly defined by an expanse of undulating green a mile and a half long and three hundred feet broad, walled on either side by elms, planted in formal procession four abreast. Bordering this green carpet, roads, park-like in character, stretch between Capitol

¹The sundry civil act as reported to the Senate in April, 1902, contains a provision for plans for a new building for the National Museum, to cost \$2,000,000. It is expected that the entire building, or group of buildings, will cost not less than \$4,000,000.



NO. 186.—AVENUE DE BEAUMONT, COMPIEGNE. THE TYPE OF VISTA WITHOUT A ROADWAY.



AVENUE AT CIRENCESTER, ENGLAND. A MALL DIVIDED BY A CENTRAL ROADWAY.



— UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM —
SCALE 1/32" = 1 FT.

Hornblower
Jan

TENTATIVE DESIGN FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. HORNBLOWER & MARSHALL, WASHINGTON, D. C., ARCHITECTS.

and Monument, while beneath the elms one may walk or drive, protected from the sun. Examples of this treatment abound in England and on the Continent of Europe, and also may be found in our own country in those towns, both North and South, which were laid out during the colonial era.¹ Moreover, these two plantations of elms traversed by paths are similar in character to the Mall in Central Park, New York, which is justly regarded as one of the most beautiful features of that park.

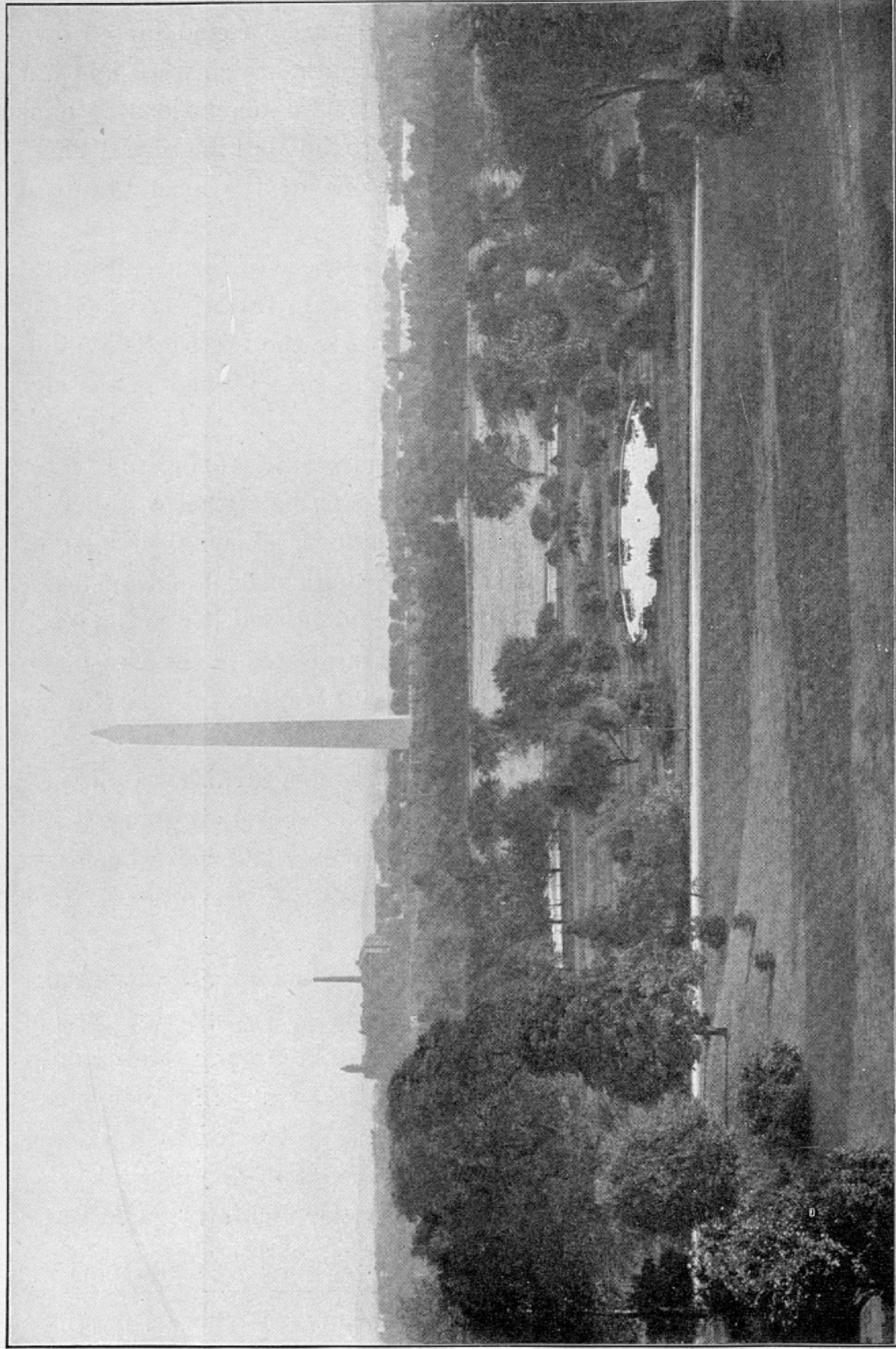
The American elm was chosen not only because of the architectural character of its columnar trunk and the delicate tracteries formed by its widespreading branches, but also because in the District of Columbia this tree is at its best, notable examples being found in the city parks and in the grounds of the Capitol.

The streets leading southward from Pennsylvania avenue are to cross the Mall at their present grades, no attempt being made either to exclude street car and other traffic or to hide it. Indeed, the play of light and shade where the streets break through the columns of trees, and the passage of street cars and teams give needed life to the Mall, while at the same time those persons most interested in the area maintained as a park will obtain the full enjoyment from it. As the Garden of the Tuilleries, besides performing its artistic function of uniting the palaces of the Louvre with the Arc de Triomphe, furnishes a pleasing passageway for tens of thousands of persons who cross it going to and from their work, so the Mall will afford variety and refreshment to those going and coming between the "Island" and the other sections of the city.

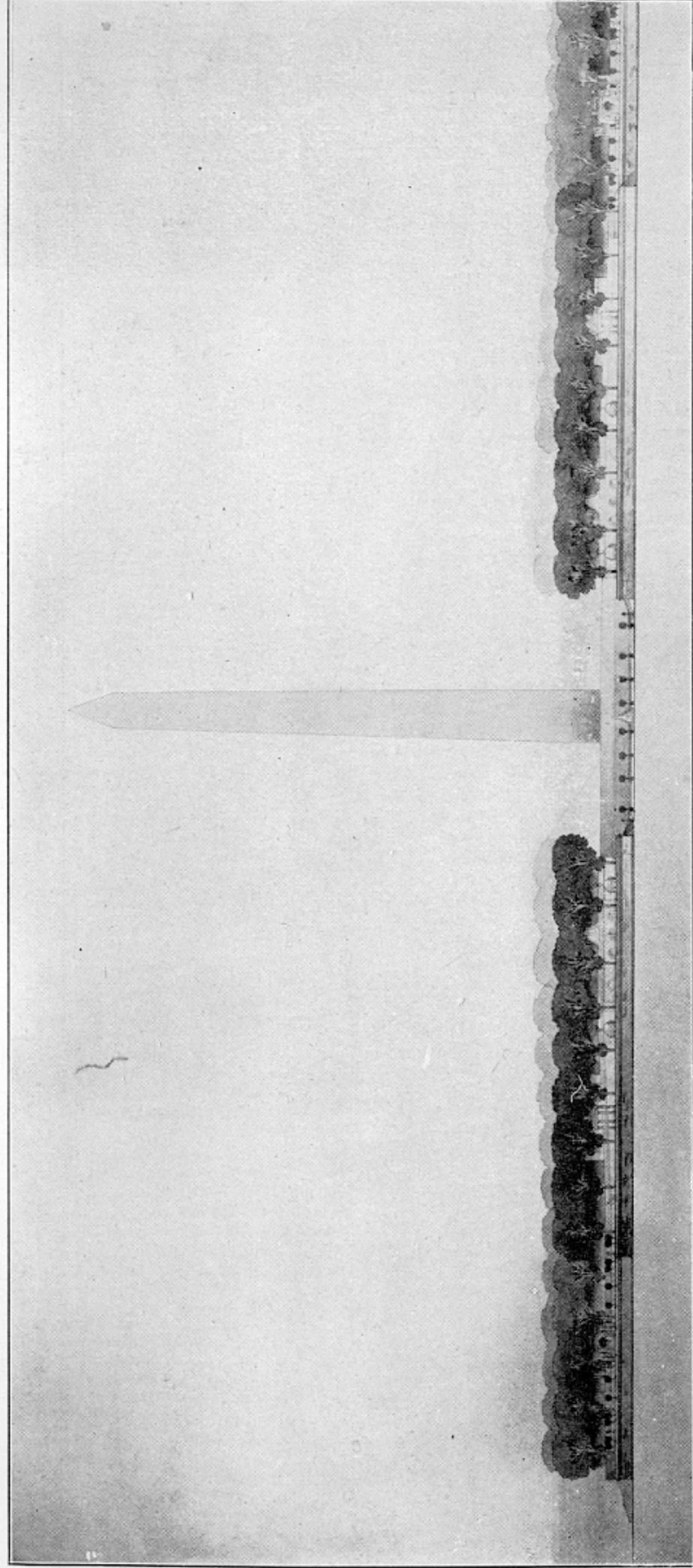
By extending Ninth street through the Mall, an opportunity occurs to emphasize these very necessary north and south connections, and at the same time to relieve from monotony the meadow-like stretch a mile and a half long. The entire space between Seventh and Ninth streets should be treated in a manner similar to the proposed Union Square in front of the Capitol, with parterres of green and large basins of water, with frequent seats tempting the passer-by to linger for rest.

¹ In France Versailles, Fontainebleau, Compiègne, Vaux-le-Vicomte; in Austria the royal palace of Schönbrunn, near Vienna; in England Bushy Park, Windsor Great Park, and Hatfield House; in America Old Hadley in Massachusetts and Williamsburg in Virginia are noteworthy instances.

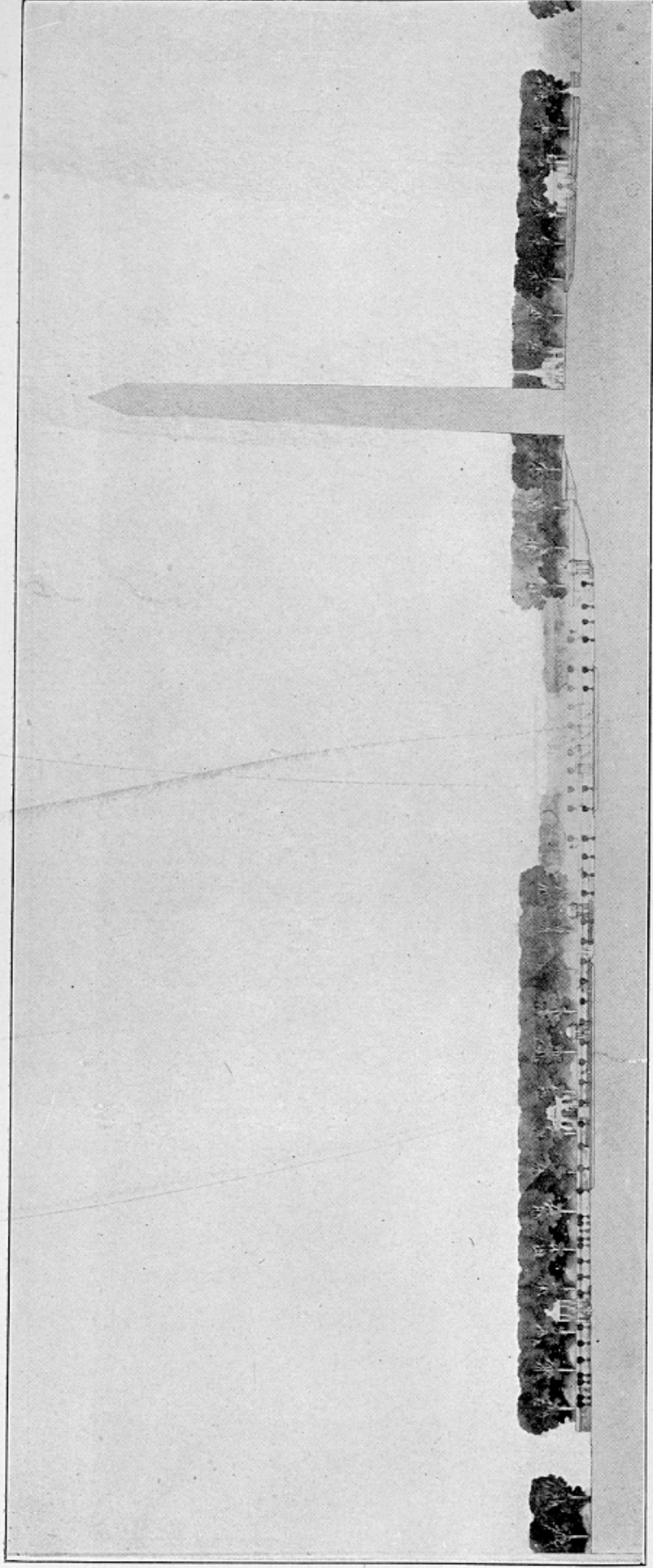




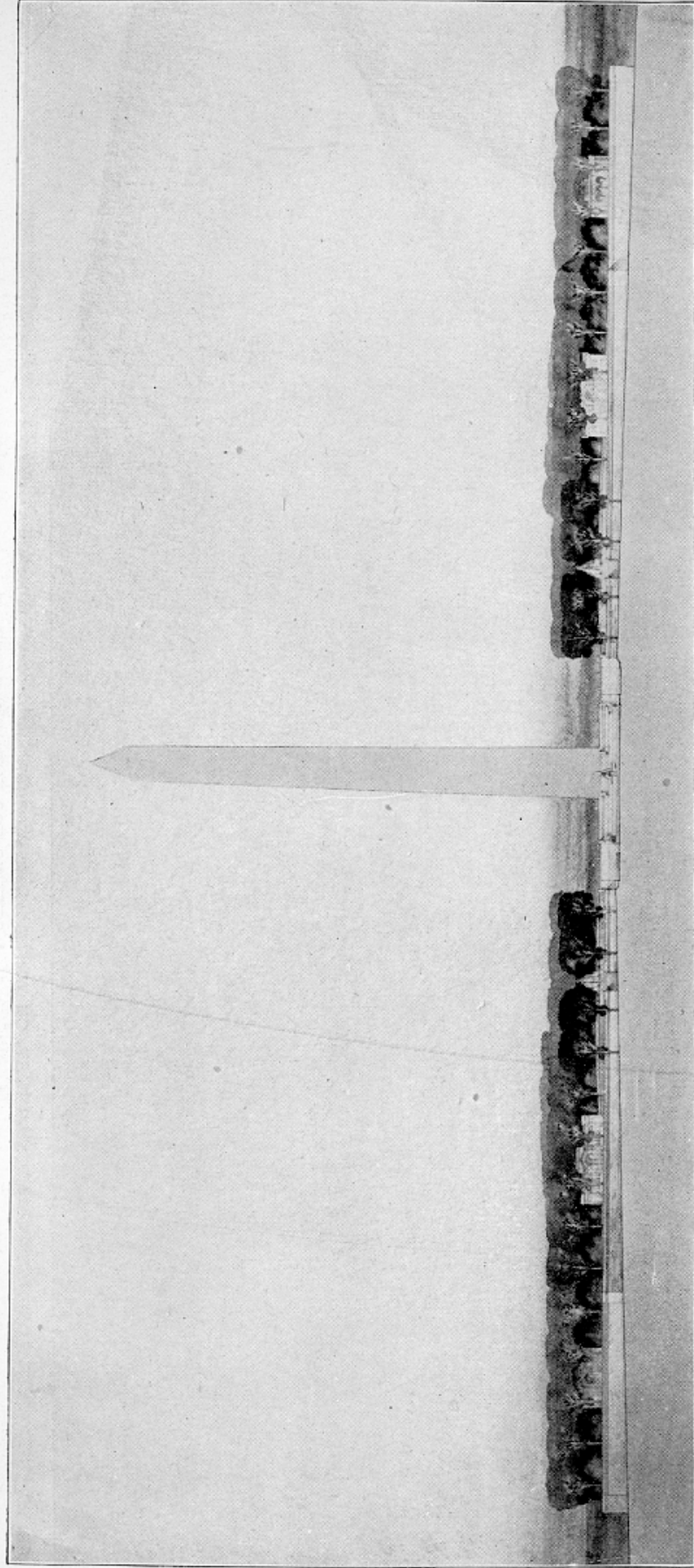
NO. 195.—WASHINGTON, LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.



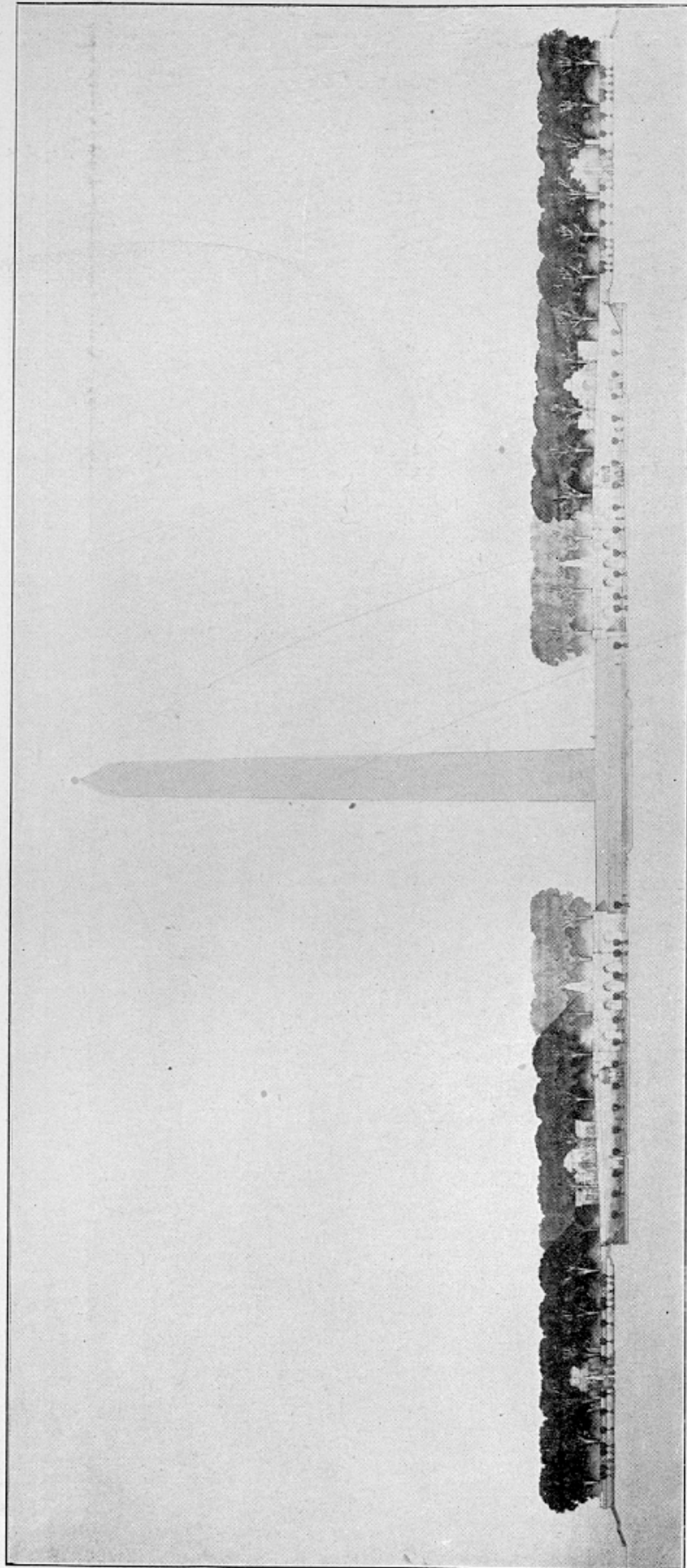
NO. 26.—SECTION THROUGH MONUMENT GARDENS, ON WHITE HOUSE AXIS, SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF APPROACHES AND TERRACES FORMING.
A SETTING FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.



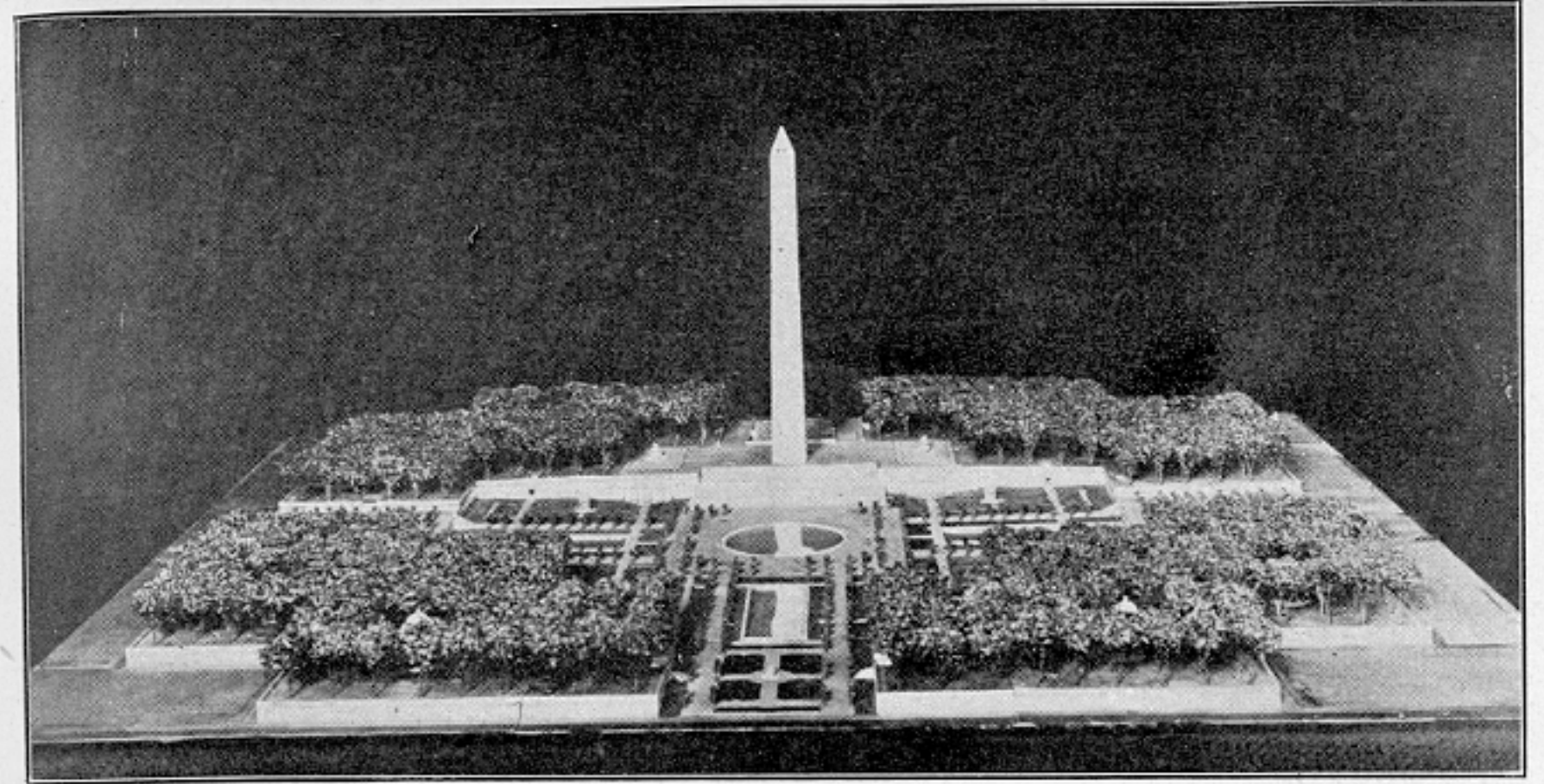
NO. 27.—SECTION THROUGH MONUMENT GARDEN, ON CAPITOL AXIS, LOOKING NORTH TOWARD THE WHITE HOUSE.



NO. 28.—SECTION THROUGH MALL AT FIFTEENTH STREET, LOOKING WEST, SHOWING MONUMENT APPROACHES AND TERRACES.



NO. 29.—SECTION THROUGH CANAL, LOOKING EAST, ON WHITE HOUSE AXIS, SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF APPROACHES AND TERRACES, FORMING A SETTING FOR THE MONUMENT.



No. 61a.—Model of the Monument Garden.

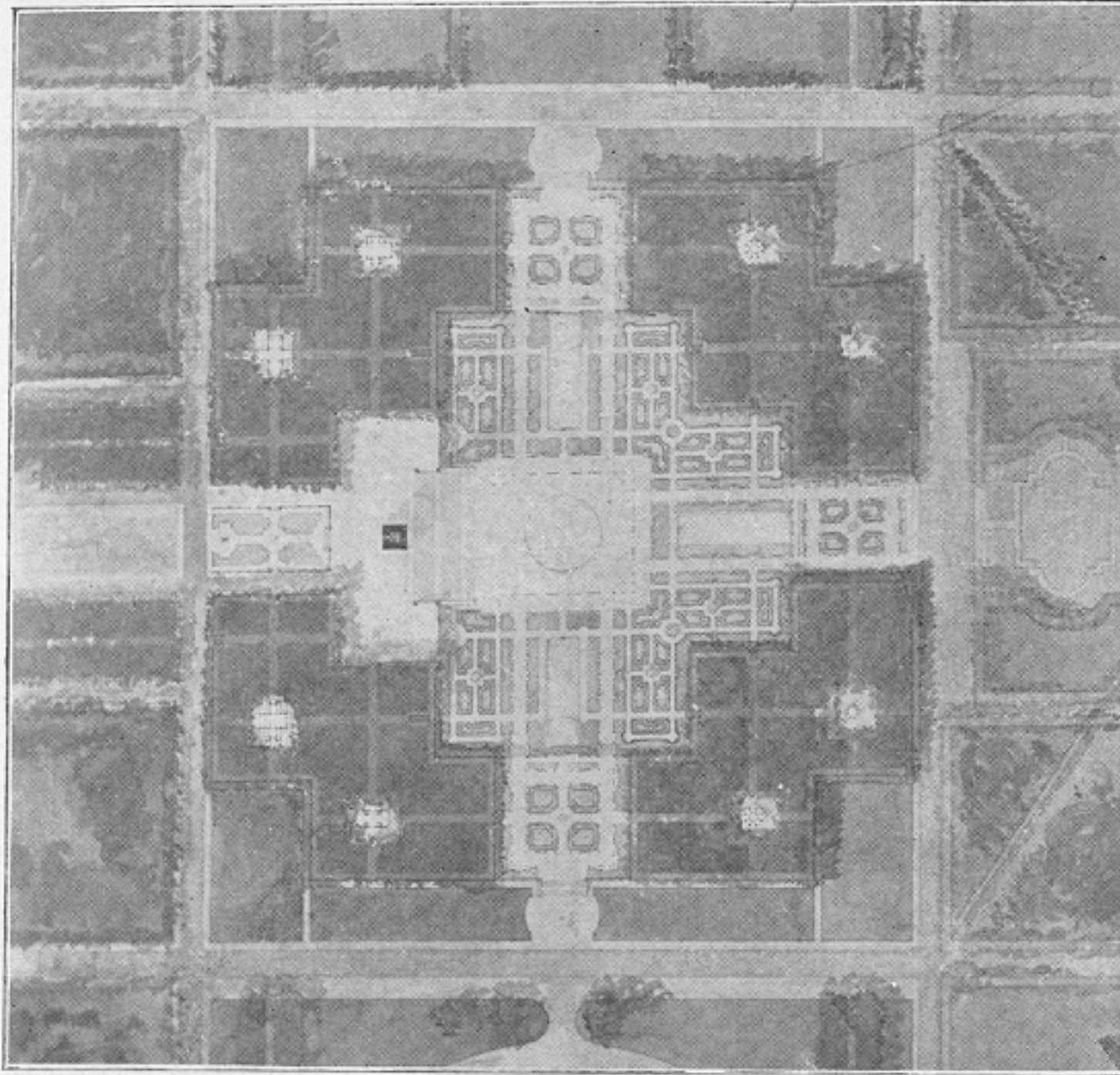
THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT DIVISION.

FROM this cross axis the carpet of greensward of the Mall stretches westward. The bordering columns of elms march to the Monument grounds, climb the slope, and, spreading themselves to right and left on extended terraces, form a great body of green, strengthening the broad platform from which the obelisk rises in majestic serenity. The groves on the terraces become places of rest, from which one gets wide views of the busy city; of the White House, surrounded by its ample grounds; of the Capitol, crowning the heights at the end of the broad vista; of sunny stretches of river winding at the foot of the Virginia hills.

Axial relations between the White House and the Monument are created by the construction of a sunken garden on the western side of

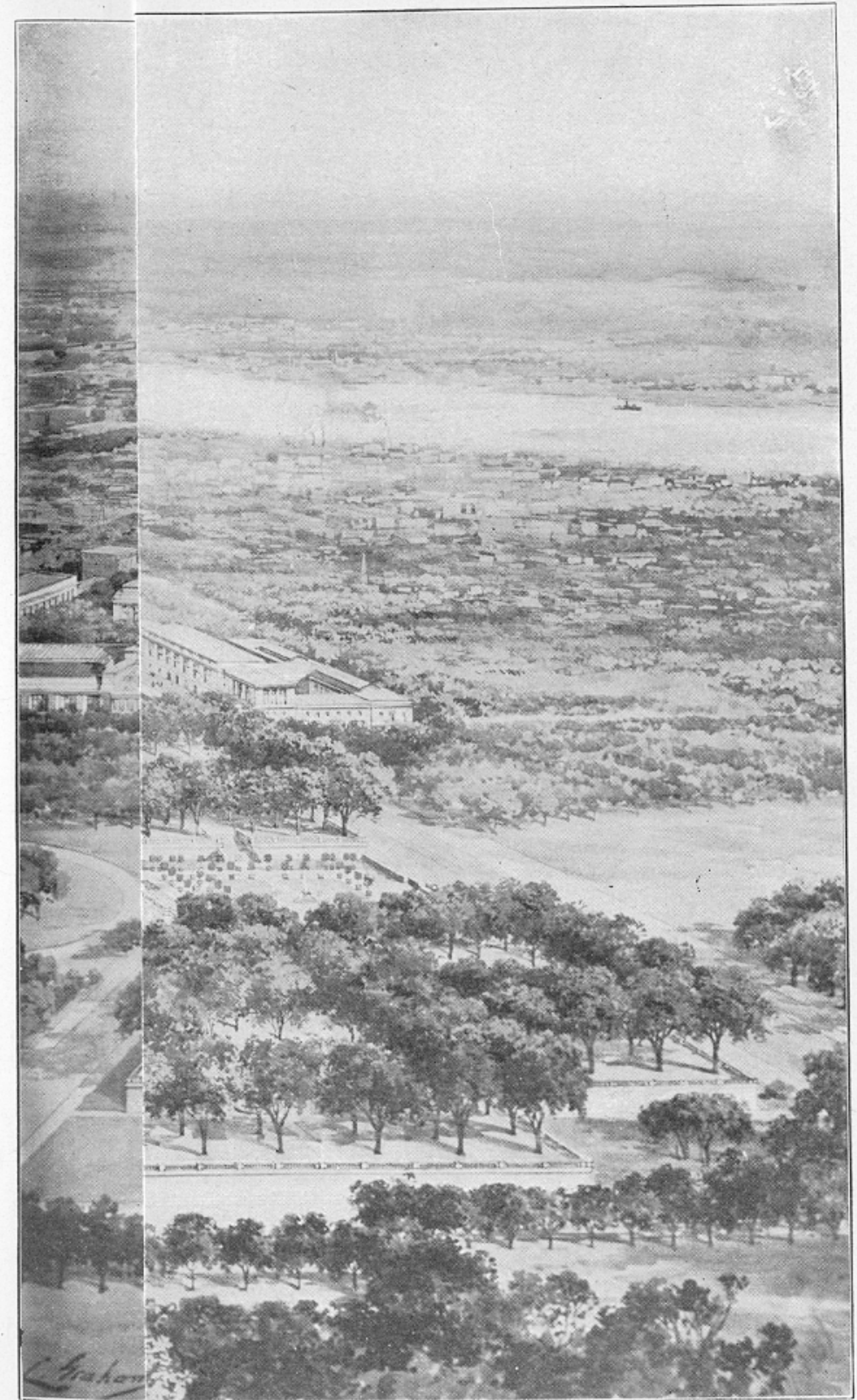
the great shaft, the true line passing through the center of a great round pool, to which marble steps three hundred feet in width lead down forty feet from the Monument platform. Surrounded by terraces bearing elms, laid out with formal paths lined by hedges and adorned with small trees, enriched by fountains and temple-like structures, this garden becomes the gem of the Mall system. Seen from the lower level, the Monument gains an additional height of nearly forty-five feet, while at the same time nothing is suffered to come so near as to disturb the isolation which the Monument demands.

At present the immediate surroundings of the Monument are so inadequate as to cause the beholder near at hand to lose that very sense of



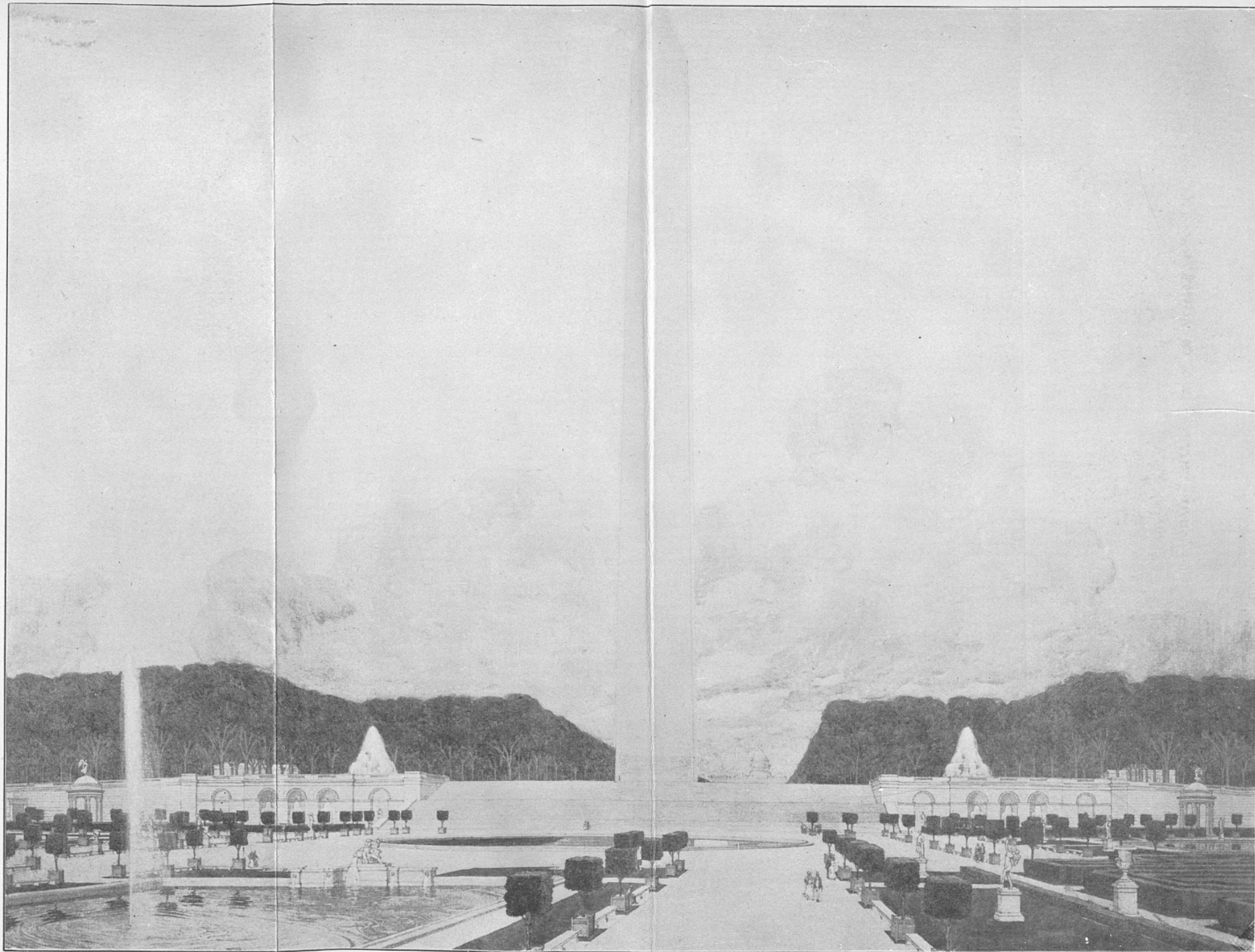
No. 25.—Plan showing proposed treatment of the Monument Garden.

grandeur which it inspires when seen from a distance; and the lack of harmonious relationship between it and the great structures with which it comes into juxtaposition disturbs one's sense of fitness. No portion of the task set before the Commission has required more study and extended consideration than has the solution of the problem of devising an appropriate setting for the Monument; and the treatment here proposed is the one which seems best adapted to enhance the value of the Monument itself. Taken by itself, the Washington Monument stands not only as one of the most stupendous works of man, but also as one of the most beautiful of human creations. Indeed, it is at once so great and so simple that it seems to be almost a work of nature. Dominating the entire District of Columbia, it has taken its place with the Capitol and the White House as one of the three foremost national structures.

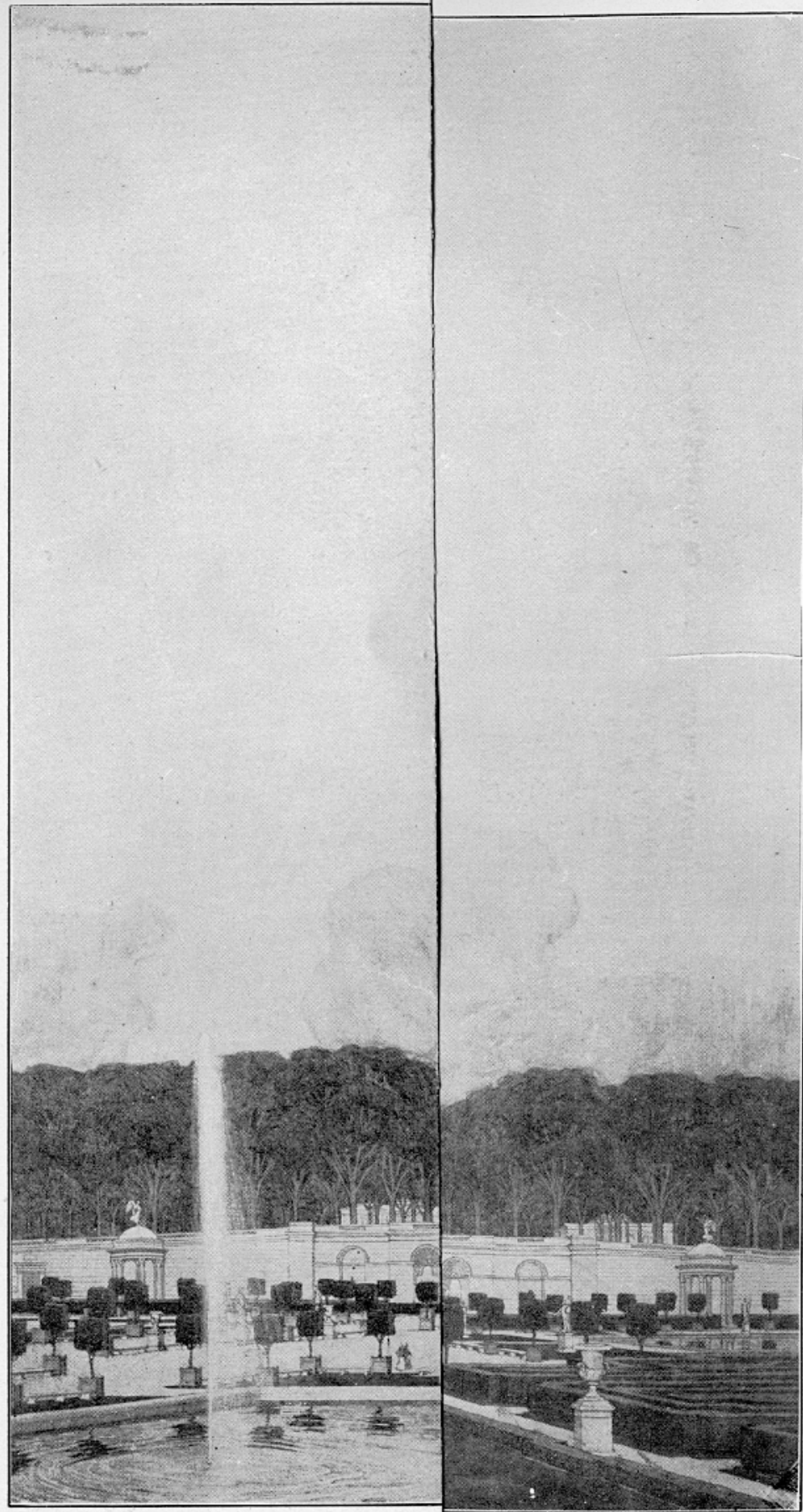




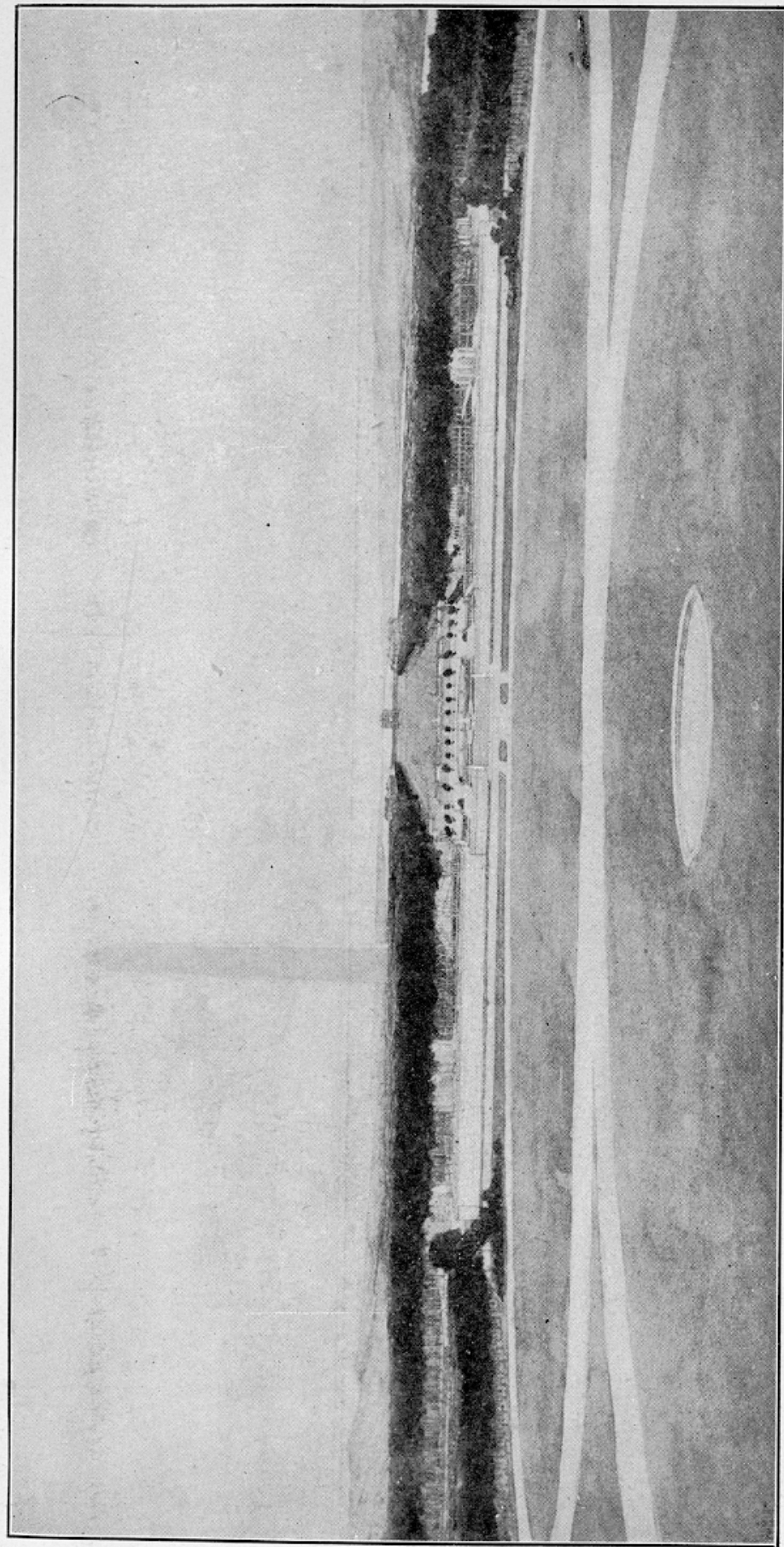
NO. 58.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE MONUMENT GARDEN AND MALL, LOOKING TOWARD THE CAPITOL.



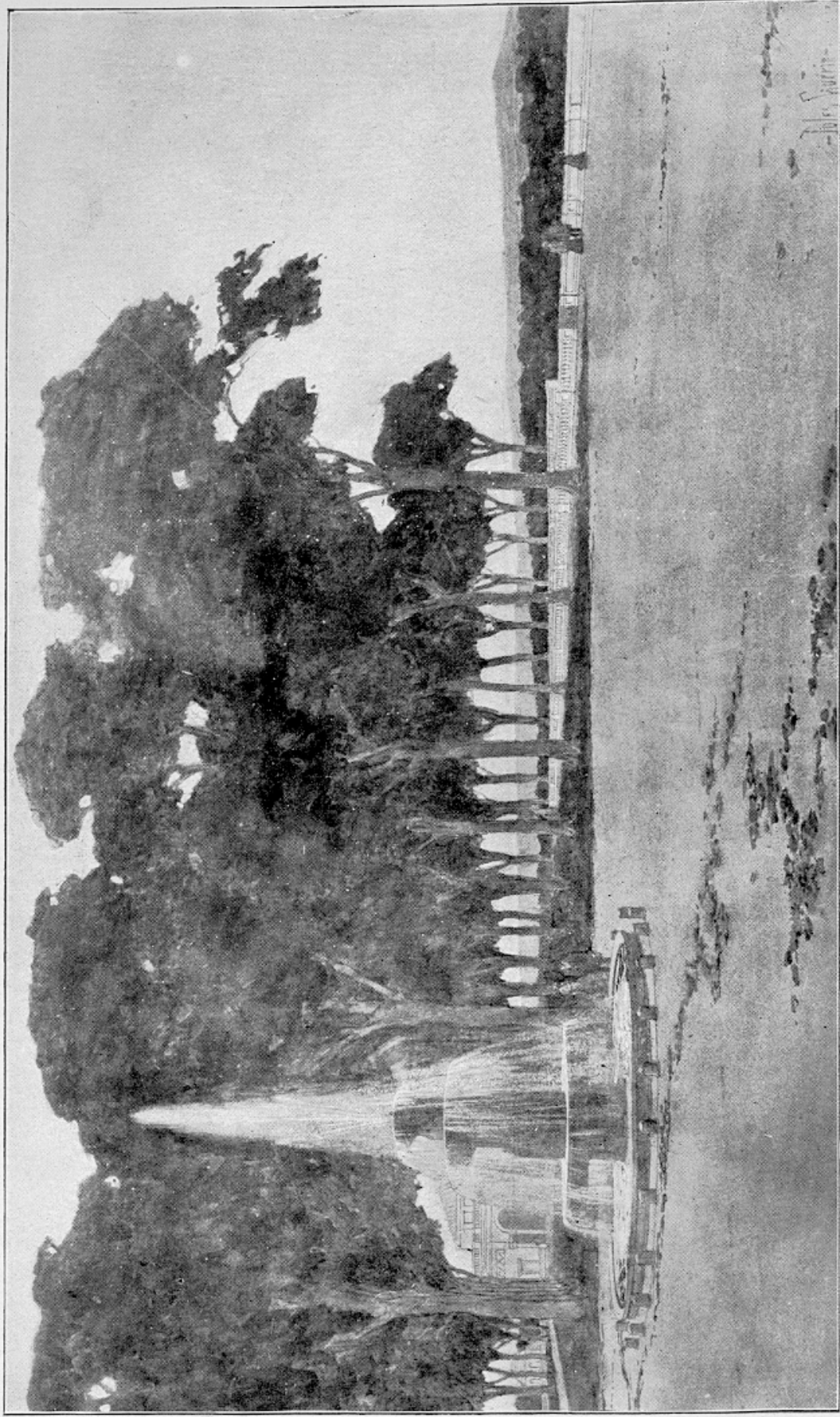
NO. 44.—VIEW IN THE MONUMENT GARDEN, MAIN AXIS, SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF APPROACHES AND TERRACES, FORMING A SETTING FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. LOOKING EAST.



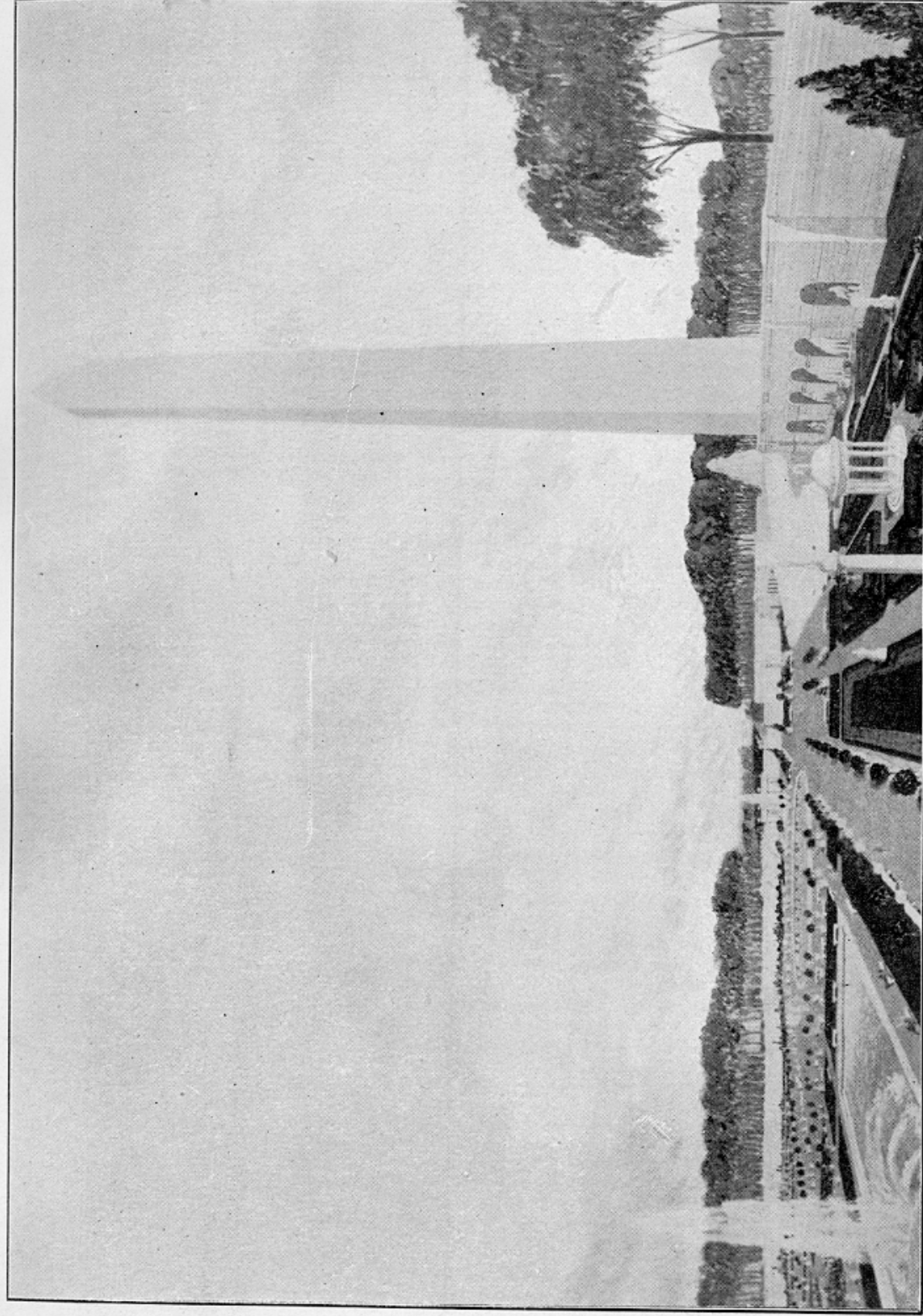
NO. 44.—VIEW IN THE MONUMENT GARDEN ON MONUMENT. LOOKING EAST.



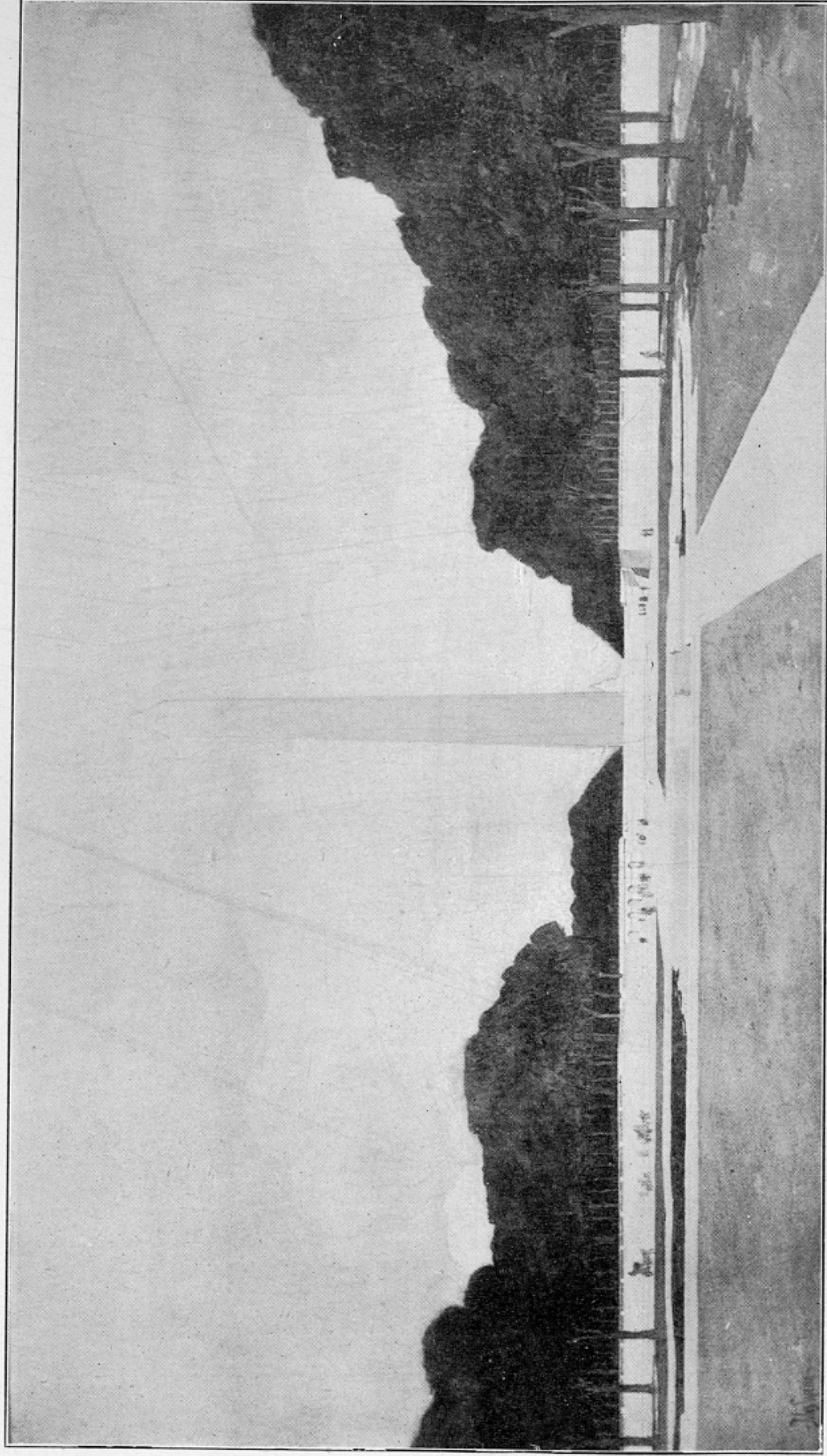
NO. 40.—VIEW OF THE MONUMENT AND TERRACES FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.



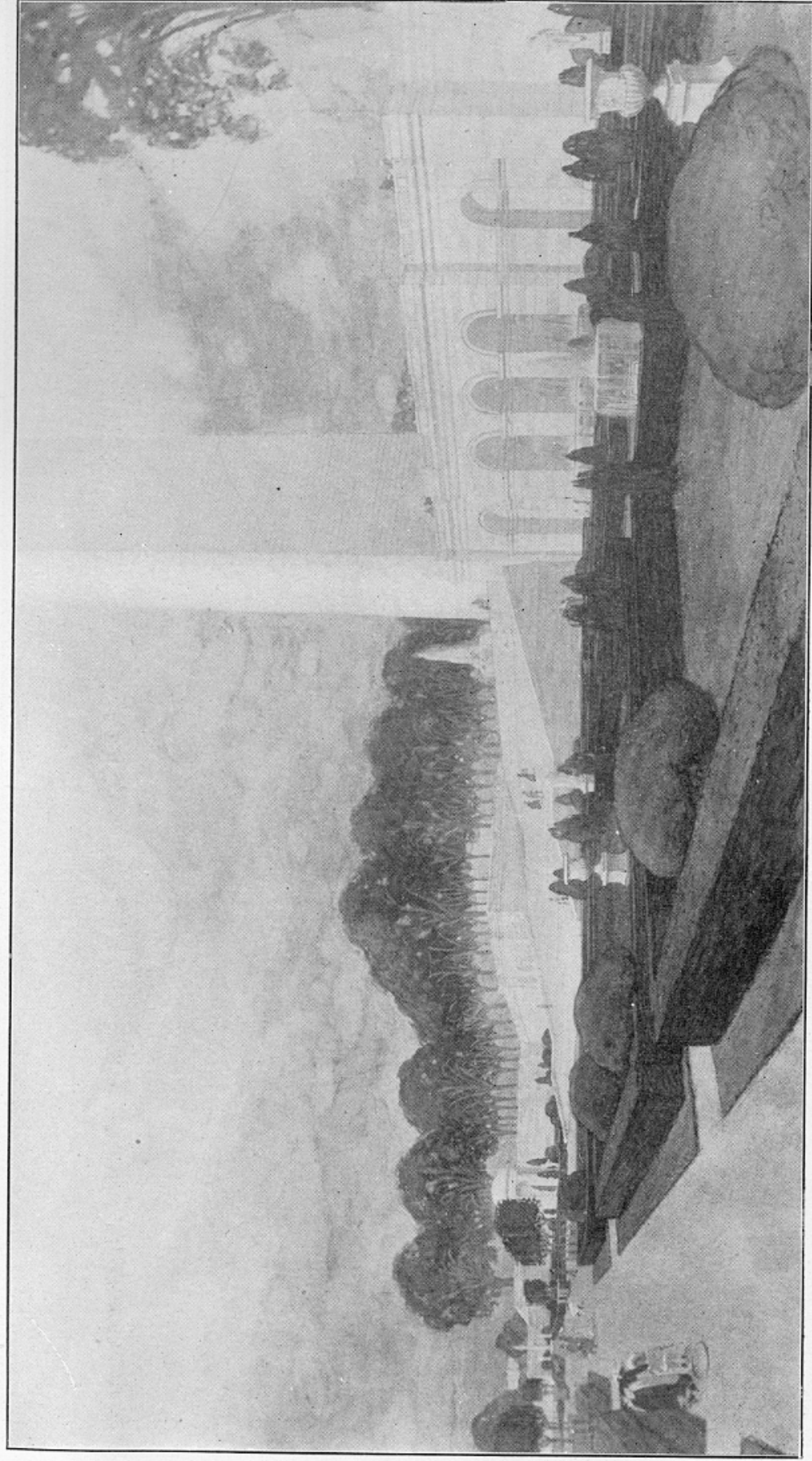
NO. 45.—VIEW FROM THE MONUMENT TERRACE, LOOKING TOWARD ARLINGTON.



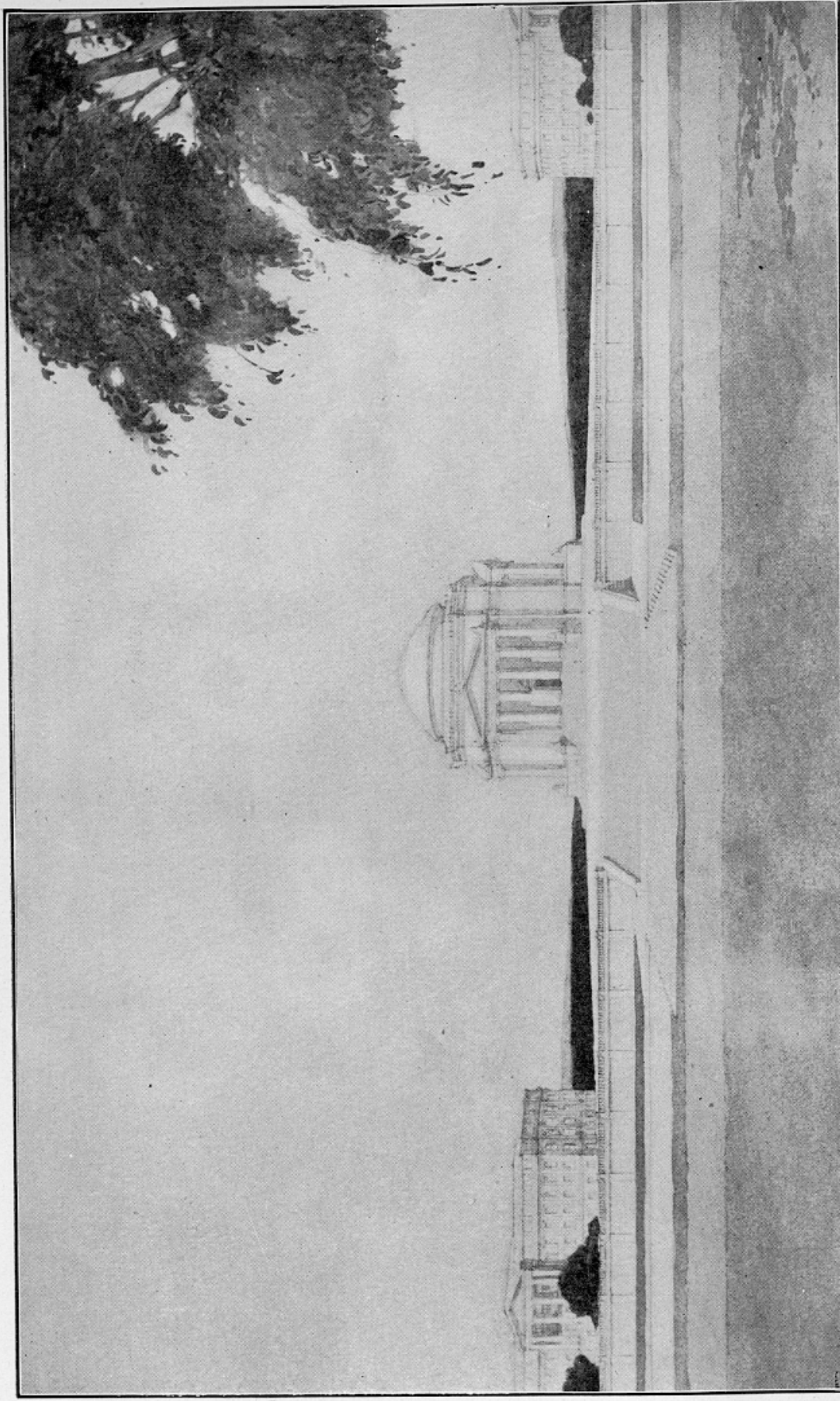
NO. 47.—VIEW IN MONUMENT GARDEN, MAIN AXIS, SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF APPROACHES AND TERRACES, FORMING A SETTING FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.



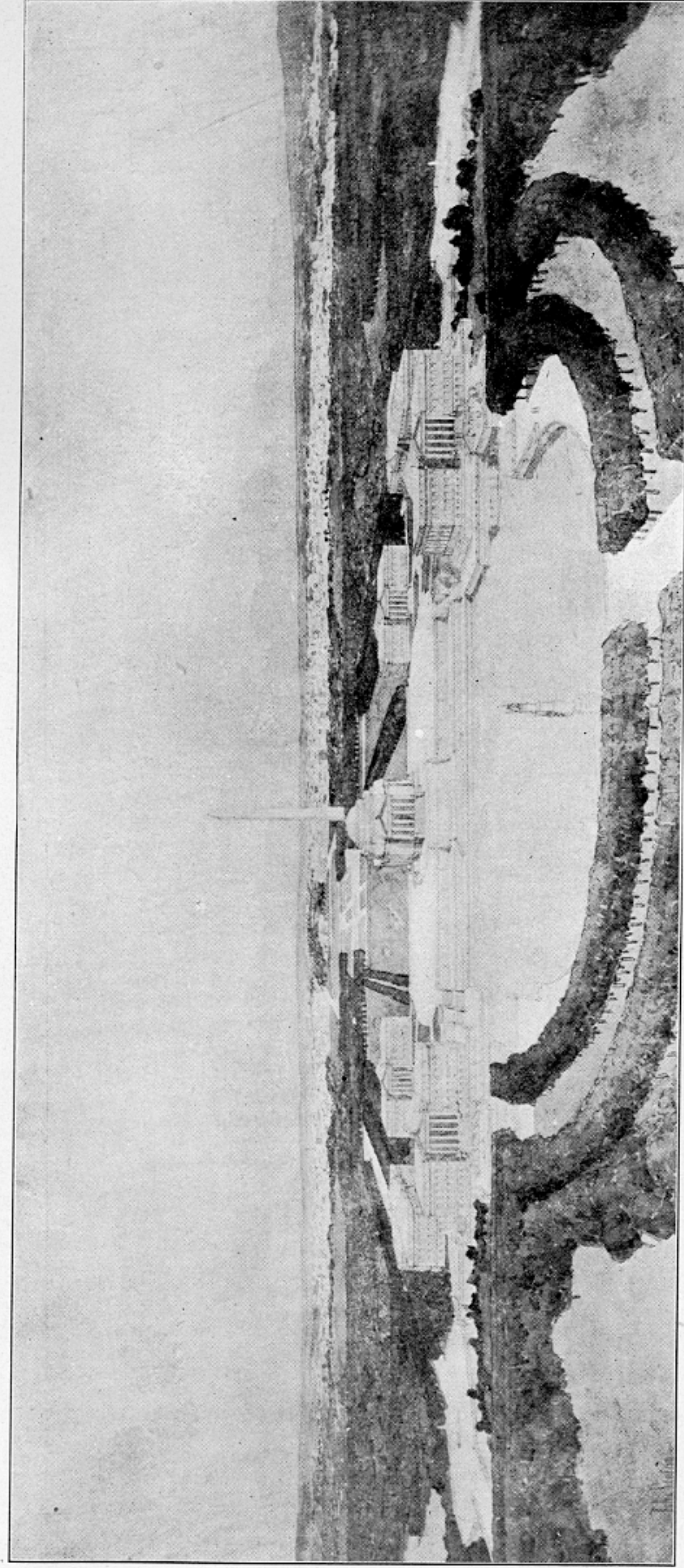
NO. 47.—VIEW OF THE TERRACE AND MONUMENT GARDEN, LOOKING EAST.



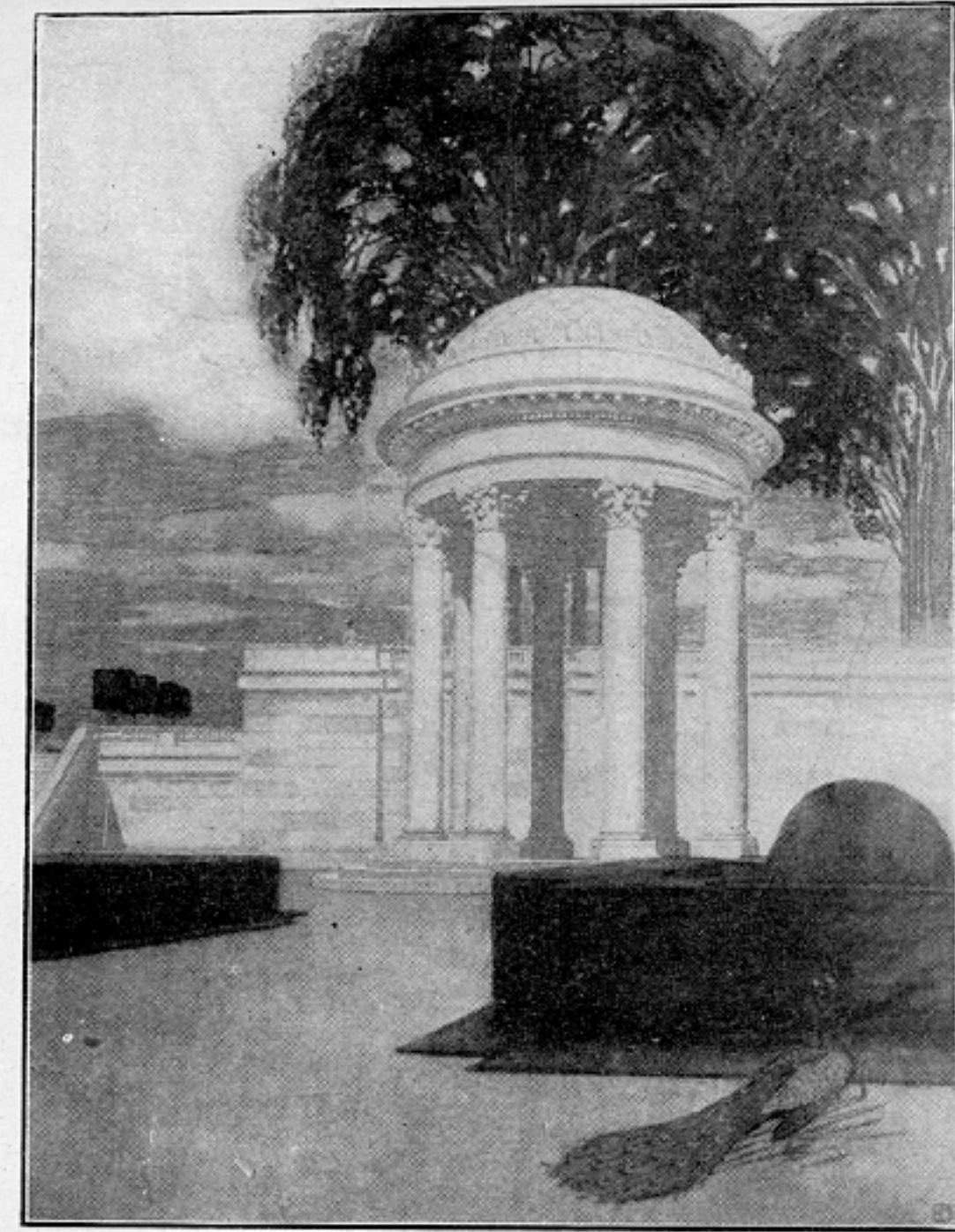
NO. 48.—VIEW IN THE MONUMENT GARDEN, LOOKING TOWARD THE WHITE HOUSE.



NO. 53—VIEW OF THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL STRUCTURE ON THE AXIS OF THE WHITE HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH.



NO. 54.—VIEW OF THE WASHINGTON COMMON AND PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, SHOWING PROPOSED MEMORIAL BUILDING, BATHS, THEATER, GYMNASIUM, AND ATHLETIC BUILDINGS.



No. 43.—One of six pavilions in the Monument Garden.

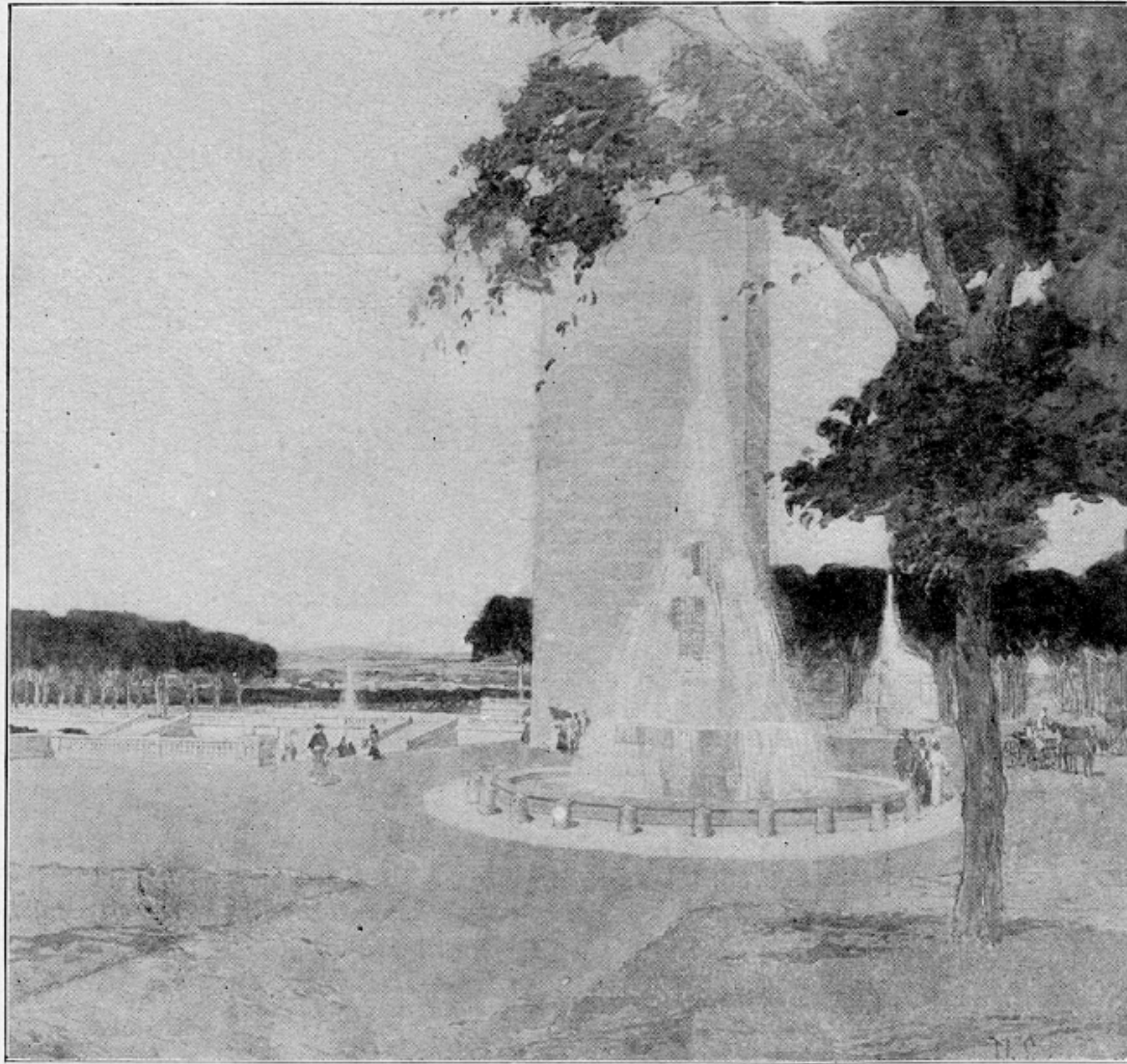
THE WASHINGTON COMMON.

TAKING the Monument garden as a center, one looks northward over the White Lot, which is retained as the great drill grounds of the District. On the east and on the west, along Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets, walks shaded by four rows of lindens tempt one from the hot and busy streets of the city to the cool and quiet of the gardens or to the field of sports beyond.

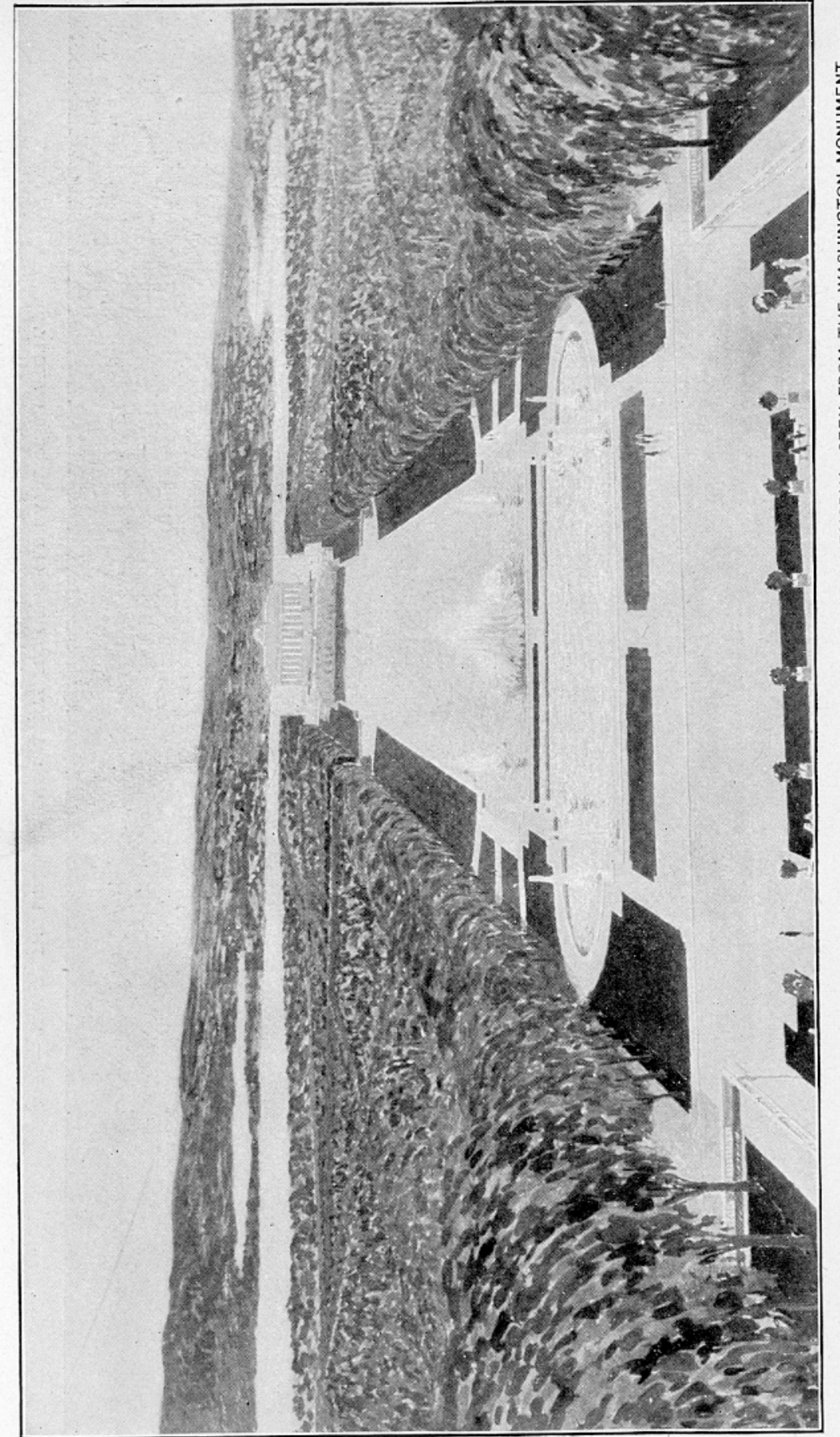
The space south of the Monument is to be devoted to the people as a place of recreation—the Washington Common it might be called. Here should be constructed a great stadium arranged for athletic contests of all kinds and for the display of fireworks on festal occasions. Ball grounds and tennis courts, open-air gymnasiums for youths, and sand piles and swings for children, all should be provided, as they are now furnished in the progressive cities of this country. The tidal basin should have the most ample facilities for boating and for wading and swimming in summer, as well as for skating in winter. To

this end boat pavilions, locker houses, and extensive bath houses should be constructed with all the conveniences known to the best-equipped institutions of like character. The positive dearth of means of innocent enjoyment for one's leisure hours is remarkable in Washington, the one city in this country where people have the most leisure.

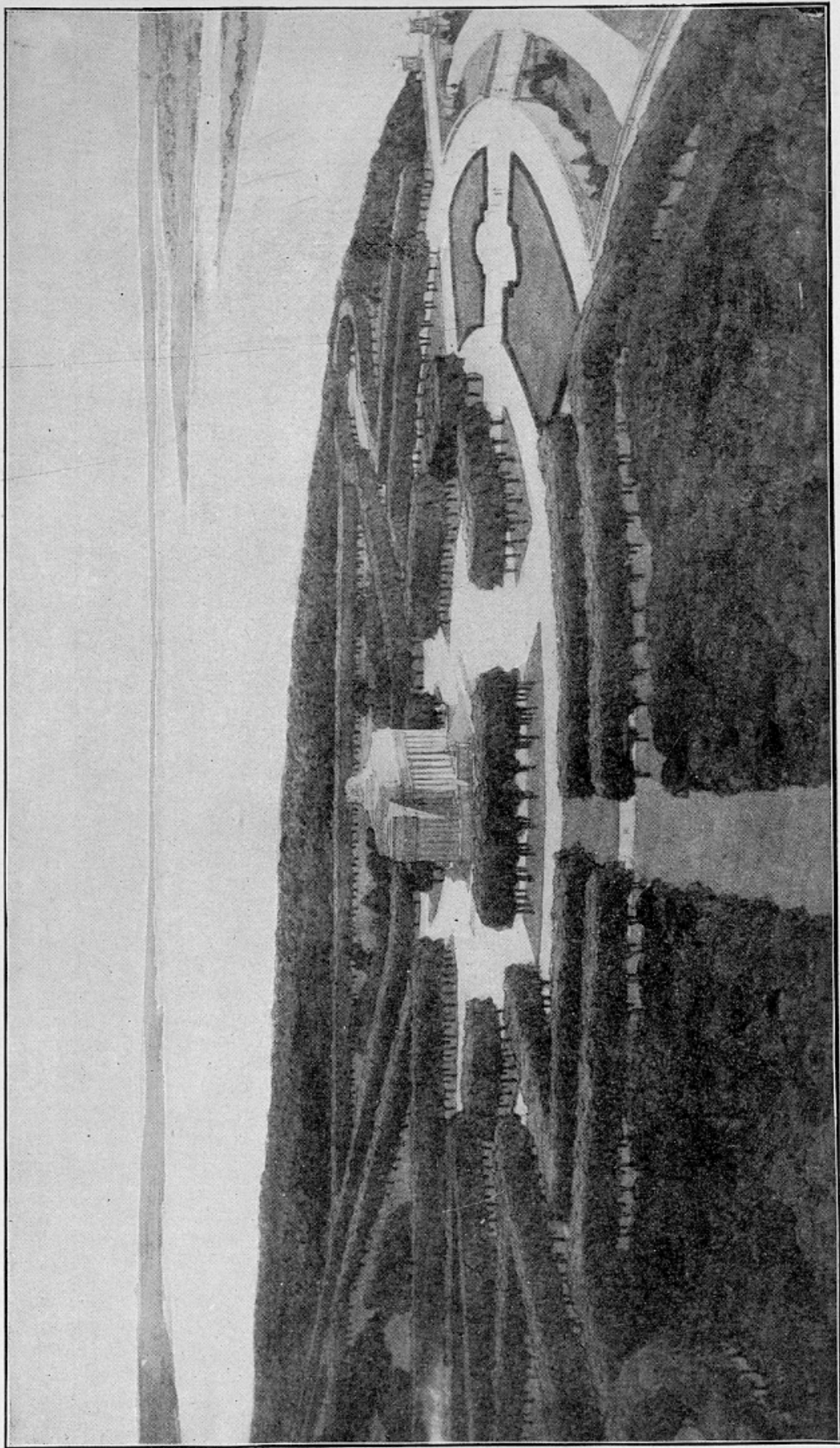
Where the axis of the White House intersects the axis of Maryland avenue a site is found for a great memorial. Whether this memorial shall take the form of a Pantheon, in which shall be grouped the statues of the illustrious men of the nation, or whether the memory of some individual shall be honored by a monument of the first rank may be left to the future; at least the site will be ready.



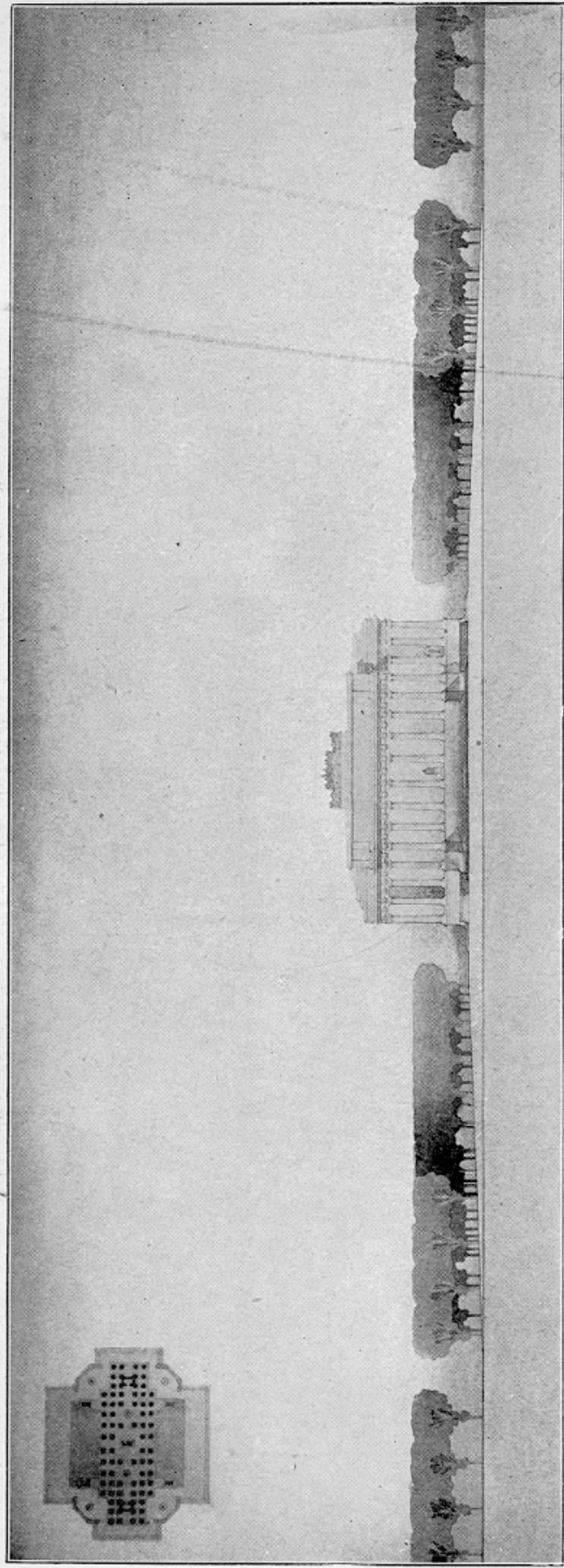
No. 46.—View of Terrace from base of Monument.



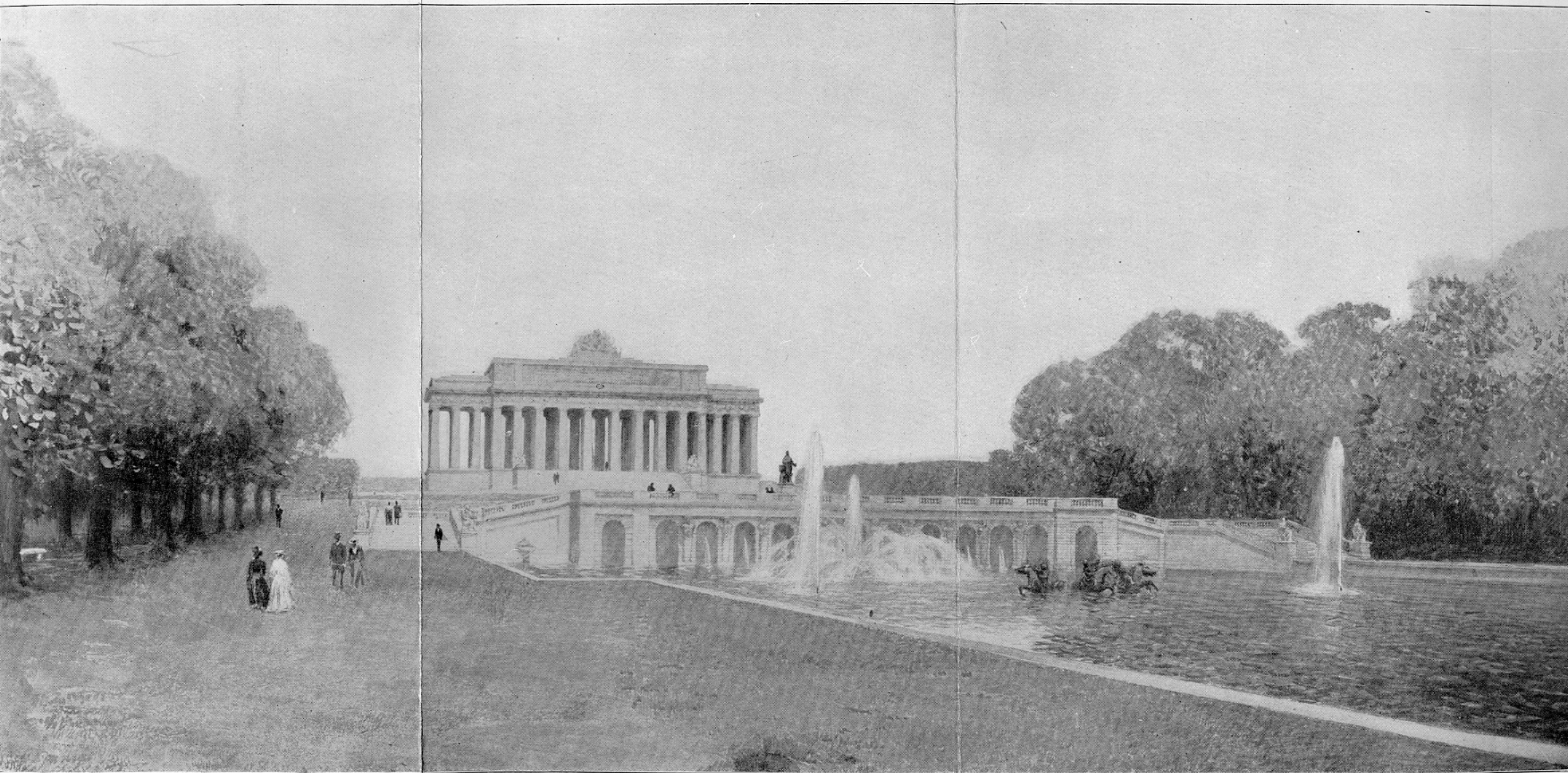
NO. 52.—VIEW SHOWING THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE FOR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, SEEN FROM THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.



NO. 51.—VIEW OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL SITE FROM THE OLD NAVAL OBSERVATORY.



NO. 30.—PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED TREATMENT OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL SITE.



NO. 49.—VIEW SHOWING THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE LINCOLN MÉMORIAL SITE, SEEN FROM THE CANAL.



THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

THE area extending westward for a mile from the Monument to the bank of the Potomac—land reclaimed from the river flats—remains to be considered. For the most part this area from New York avenue to the river should be treated as a wood, planted informally, but marked by formal roads and paths, much as the Bois de Boulogne at Paris is treated. If the plans as laid down by this Commission shall be observed by the army engineers in the remaining work of flats reclamation, and by the District engineers when they come to complete the sewage-disposal system, this portion of Potomac Park can be made ready for planting without appreciable expense.

The central portion of this area, still adhering to the Mall width of sixteen hundred feet, has a special and particular treatment. From the Monument garden westward a canal three thousand six hundred feet long and two hundred feet wide, with central arms and bordered by stretches of green walled with trees, leads to a concourse raised to the height of the Monument platform. Seen from

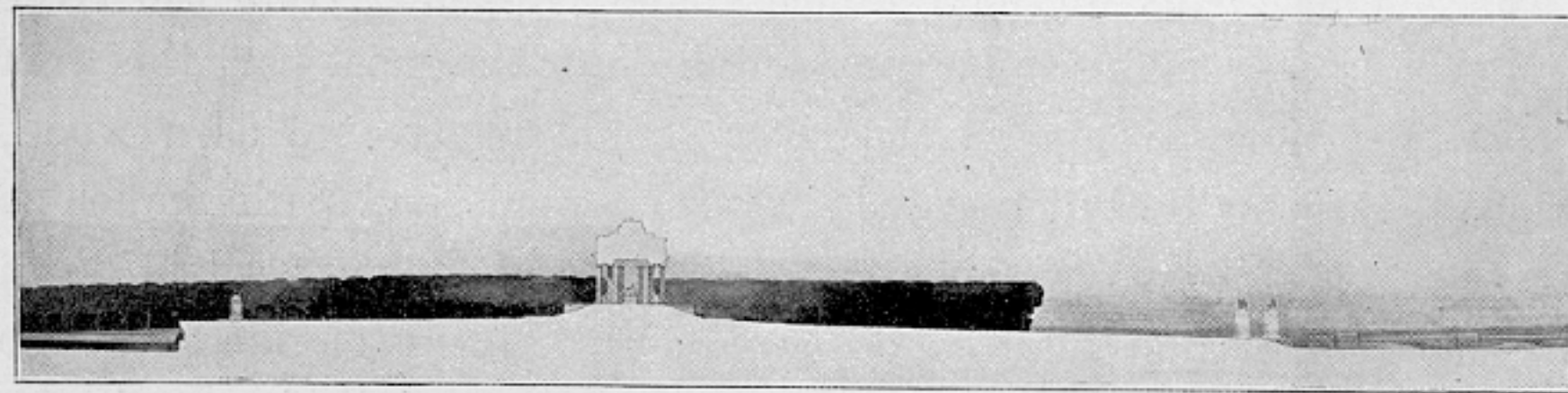
The canal.

the Monument platform, this canal, similar in character and general treatment to the canals at Versailles and Fontainebleau, in France, and at Hampton Court, in England, introduces into the formal landscape an element of repose and great beauty. At the head of the canal a great *rond point*, placed on the main axis of the Capitol and the Monument, becomes a gate of approach to the park system of the District of Columbia. Centering upon it as a great point of reunion are the drives leading southeast to Potomac Park and northwest by the Riverside drive to the Rock Creek system of parks. From this elevation of forty feet the Memorial Bridge leads across the Potomac directly to the base of the hill crowned by the Mansion-house of Arlington.

Crowning the *rond point*, as the Arc de Triomphe crowns the Place de l'Étoile at Paris, should stand a memorial erected to the memory of

that one man in our history as a nation who is worthy to be named with George Washington—Abraham Lincoln.

Whatever may be the exact form selected for the memorial to Lincoln, in type it should possess the quality of universality, and also it should have a character essentially distinct from that of any monument either now existing in the District or hereafter to be erected. The type which the Commission has in mind is a great portico of Doric columns rising from an unbroken stylobate. This portico, while affording a point of vantage



No. 32.—Section of Lincoln Memorial.

from which one obtains a commanding outlook, both upon the river and eastward to the Capitol, has for its chief function to support a panel bearing an inscription taken either from the Gettysburg speech or from some one of the immortal messages of the savior of the Union.

The portico contemplated in the plans, consisting of columns forty feet in height, occupies a space of two hundred and fifty feet in length and two hundred and twenty feet in width; it is approached by flights of stairs on the east and the west, is embellished with appropriate groups of sculpture, and is surmounted by a central crowning group of statuary. At the head of the canal, at the eastern approach to the memorial, it is proposed to place a statue of Abraham Lincoln, while surrounding the memorial and framing it are linden trees, planted four rows deep, to form a peristyle of green, from which radiate various avenues centering upon the memorial itself.¹

¹On June 16, 1902, the House of Representatives passed the Senate bill, introduced by Mr. Cullom, of Illinois, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the Senate, the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of War, and James D. Richardson, a member of the House of Representatives, be, and they are hereby, created a commission to secure plans and designs for a monument or memorial to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States.

SEC. 2. That the sum of \$25,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 3. That the said commission shall report the result of their action to Congress as soon as practicable after a decision has been reached.