

THE PAPERS OF JAMES MADISON. Volume IV, 1 JANUARY 1782-31 JULY 1782. Edited by *William T. Hutchinson* and *William M. E. Rachal*. ([Chicago:] University of Chicago Press. 1965. Pp. xxviii, 486. \$12.50.)

OF the 211 documents in this volume of Madison's papers, 43 are letters written by Madison, most of them to his political associates and friends, Edmund Pendleton and Edmund Randolph. In their exchanges all three gentlemen display a lively interest in the intricacies of a state's constitutional relationship to the general government and an intense concern about the inadequacies of Congress under the Articles of Confederation. Their correspondence also provides a fascinating glimpse into factional politics in the Virginia legislature as the Lees carried their fight against Robert Morris into the chambers of the House of Delegates. Like a large proportion of the other documents printed here, most of Madison's letters are in one way or another concerned with some aspect of the peace negotiations just under way, or with congressional maneuverings to block Virginia's qualified cession of western lands and at the same time to secure the admission of Vermont as a state.

It should be reported that the editors of these volumes have not been deflected from their original editorial approach by recent strictures on their propensity to leave nothing unexplained or unidentified. Perhaps it was ungracious in the first place to make a fuss about too much of a good thing, but the nagging fear that none of us will live to see the end persists.

As for James Madison himself, he continued in 1782 to stick strictly to business in his correspondence, revealing little about the inner or the outer man. Although Governor Benjamin Harrison was certainly less than fair in complaining of the "sterility" of his letters, he was being eminently just when he charged that Madison "did not communicate the circulating news."

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