

Book Reviews

The Papers of James Madison, ed. William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. Vol. 4, 1 January 1782 — 31 July 1782, xxviii, 487 pp.; Vol. 5, 1 August 1782 — 31 December 1782, xxx, 521 pp. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1965 and 1967. \$12.50 per volume.

These two solid volumes represent Madison as a Delegate to Congress in Philadelphia during the calendar year 1782. The correspondence echoes in the early months the hopes of Americans that the surrender of Cornwallis would bring the British to admit defeat, and in the later months the watchful-waiting and reporting of a somewhat grim and disillusioned statesman who then saw that if peace was to come and the colonies were to be truly independent, a great deal of masterly diplomacy must be added to the military victory.

Much of the material of this year is official or semi-official, when the Congressional Delegate reports back to Virginia what measures are being considered, what the international news is, and what especially concerns Virginia. Madison wrote to Governor Benjamin Harrison, to Edmund Pendleton, to Thomas Jefferson, and perhaps most frequently to Edmund Randolph, a member of the Congressional Virginia delegation who had returned home. The extensive exchange between Randolph and Madison shows both as patriotic, discerning men of high principles and a clear understanding of the situation of the new United States. These qualities we have long known for Madison, but the publication of the letters by Randolph with those to him helps to enlarge and illuminate our concept of a still controversial figure.

The historian of westward expansion will find Madison's view of Virginia's ceding of its northwest territory useful. The economic historian will find the consideration of national, state, and individual debts and modes of payment, and attitude toward all these, quite significant. Anyone interested in the part the famous Lee family, especially Arthur and Richard Henry, played in the international politics and policies of this period may find Madison's view of that part anything but flattering to these eminent fellow Virginians. In fact, if there

is a villain for the Madison story of the attempts at peace in 1782, it is Arthur Lee.

For the cultural historian there are bits of some value. Exchanges with his cousin the Reverend James Madison discuss natural history in general, and the mammoth in particular, and also new electrical apparatus. Even semi-official letters to other friends occasionally bring in books and science. But on the whole there is relatively little of direct interest to the intellectual historian. Madison and his colleagues are too much concerned with peace terms favorable to the formation of a great nation to write of much else.

Again in these volumes the well-printed, learned, and *literate* notes and headnotes are a pleasure to read. *The Madison Papers* thus continue in their distinguished way.

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