

BOOK REVIEWS

THE PAPERS OF JAMES MADISON: VOL. I, 1751-1779;
VOL. 2, 1780-1781

Edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. (University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 1962. Vol. I, pp. xlii, 344. \$10. Vol. 2, pp. xix, 344. \$10.)

Last year Irving Brant brought out the sixth and concluding volume of his monumental study of the Fourth President against his times, a rescue operation for "little Jemmy" who, notwithstanding his great work in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and in the First Congress as author of the Bill of Rights, has had much less than his due in both American history and popular attention.

Now appear the first two vol-

umes of some twenty that will assemble the papers of Madison, much as the papers of Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and other notable Americans are being gathered in multi-volume projects at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. The handsome new blue-backed Madison is being sponsored jointly by the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia.

The editors, William T. Hutch-

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inson and William M. E. Rachal, representing these two institutions respectively, have the assistance of an editorial staff of Jean Schneider, Ralph L. Ketcham, Robert L. Scribner, and Donald O. Dewey. The advisory board is made up of Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., George W. Beadle, Julian P. Boyd, Irving Brant, Colgate W. Darden, Jr., Dumas Malone, and John Cook Wylie.

An example of Madison's thoughts which will be found in these volumes when completed is this extract from a letter to Edward Everett, March 19, 1823:

It has been the misfortune of history that a personal knowledge and an impartial judgment of things, can rarely meet in the historian. The best history of our country therefore must be the fruit of contributions bequeathed by contemporary actors and witnesses, to successors who will make an unbiased use of them. And if the abundance and authenticity of the materials which still exist in private as well as in public repositories among us should descend to hands capable of doing justice to them, then American History may be ex-

pected to contain more truth, and lessons certainly not less valuable, than that of any country or age whatever.

Madison's connections with the Mississippi Valley are not numerous but they are important. He was Secretary of State when Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. He appointed his fellow Virginian Ninian Edwards as governor of Illinois Territory; and on September 14, 1812, Edwards created Madison County to embrace much of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, and named the vast new county for the friend of liberty and freedom in the presidency.

Madison County celebrated its sesquicentennial on September 9-15 last year with a historical pageant, "Our 150 Years," near Edwardsville, and related observances in Alton, Collinsville, Granite City, and other cities of the county.

IRVING DILLIARD
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