

The Papers of James Madison. Volume III: 3 March 1781—31 December 1781. Edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1963. Pp. xxv, 381. \$10.00.)

As noted earlier in the *REVIEW* (XLVIII [January, 1963], 551-552), the Madison papers are being given the most careful and complete editing as another of the several major historical publications now in process. The high level of workmanship for which Messrs. Hutchinson and Rachal are responsible is maintained in this third volume, which contains a smaller amount of matter relevant to James Madison's personal affairs—although there is enough here to sustain the image that appeared

to the reader of the first two volumes—and a proportionately greater number of items relevant to the affairs of Virginia and the United States. The period of ten months was one in which the War of Independence was concluding with the campaigns in North Carolina and Virginia, culminating in the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Madison and the other delegates of Virginia to the Confederation Congress were complaining to Governor Thomas Nelson of a lack of reciprocity in the furnishing of information to them about the course of the war.

There is correspondence about ugly episodes which occurred in 1781, with some proposals for retaliation for atrocities like the massacre of Fort Griswold's defenders and the burning of New London, for both of which the 'parricide' Arnold was held responsible. Other items have to do with the familiar defense of Virginia's western interests, against the claims of pre-Revolutionary land companies which were well represented at Philadelphia and with regard to boundaries to be defended in peace-making at the end of the war. It was a year of (relatively speaking) financial reform, related of course to the perpetual struggle to secure adequate supply for the armed forces. Madison's concern with maritime law is first evident here in his attempts to draft regulations governing captures at sea, discharging a responsibility which he incurred as a member of Congress' Board of Admiralty. One cannot fail to be edified by the number of obscure points, of personal and of geographical interest, clarified for the reader in the notes appended to each piece of correspondence.

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