

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.)

During the first seven months of the year 1782, well after the surrender of Cornwallis but long before Americans could be absolutely certain that their independence would be acknowledged, the Reverend James Madison, second cousin and namesake of the statesman, expressed himself as "tired of war, and everything relative to it." The other cousin while representing Virginia in the Continental Congress knew this to be a prevalent attitude, made all the more dangerous because the British were turning from armed force to propaganda and blandishments in order to thwart a total separation. These papers illustrate the Virginia statesman's concern for maintaining the French alliance as the surest bulwark against British "arts of seduction and division," his efforts to secure acceptance of Virginia's terms for a cession of western lands to the United States, and the maintenance of union in the situation where numerous and interrelated conflicts among the states threatened it. Solutions to domestic problems, it seemed, were all premised upon the exercise of broader national powers than those actually granted the Congress by the Articles of Confederation. The Virginia nationalist recognized the need for stronger central powers but insisted that it was necessary to "appear to follow rather than lead the sentiments of their constituents." As he wrote to Edmund Pendleton in January (p. 38), "Nothing is more distressing to those who have a due respect for the constitutional modifications of power than to be obliged to decide on them."

The editors of the Madison Papers continue to support the idea that their enterprise, launched in 1962, will result in one of the most useful works of reference for the period of the War of Independence and for the early national period. Of the two hundred eleven items in this volume only thirty-five were printed in any form in earlier editions of Madison's writings.

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