

HUTCHINSON, WILLIAM T., AND RACHAL, WILLIAM M. E., editors. *The Papers of James Madison*. Volume 3, 3 March 1781-31 December 1781. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963. xxv, 381 pp. \$10.00.

The third volume of the *Madison Papers*, covering the period from March through December 1781, is further confirmation that the papers of still another Founding Father are in skilled, accurate, and knowing editorial hands.

Looming as a year of crisis and despair, 1781 became the year of ultimate victory by the dramatic military events culminating at Yorktown. Yet before and after 19 Oct. 1781, the struggling Confederation was beset by major problems both at home and abroad that are the major concern of the papers in this volume. There were domestic problems: the territorial question of the lands north and west of the Ohio River; the delicate subject of Confederation finances and the related constitutional issue of state coercion; the movement for separate statehood in Vermont; and a flagging war effort in the Southern theater. As a member of the Virginia Delegation in Congress, Madison also had to deal with formative issues in foreign policy: a definition of commercial rights of neutrals and belligerents; the location and limits of continental boundaries; negotiations with Spain; and the question of fishing rights.

With excellent results the editors, by and large, have followed the editorial method established by Julian Boyd for the *Jefferson Papers*. The volume contains a brief but adequate introduction and a chronology of the major events in Madison's career during 1781, although both the general reader and interested scholar would be well advised to read the scholarly introduction on the provenance of the papers and the more detailed statement on editorial method in Volume 1. The editors have adopted rather latitudinous selection standards. Included in the papers are all "extant writings of Madison which appear to have been wholly or in large degree the product of his mind," and all incoming correspondence and papers that are known to have gained his "careful attention." In spite of the inherent difficulties in applying such standards, the selection is judicious although a reviewer can always quibble over the inclusion of certain documents of marginal value or pertinence. A quantitative breakdown of the papers, provided by the editors, shows that of the 174 papers in this volume, seventy-six are letters and documents in Madison's hand; twenty-six are dispatches he signed as a member of the Virginia Delegation in Congress; twenty-eight are letters addressed to the Delegation from Virginia; thirty-seven are incoming letters addressed to Madison; five are documents with which he was closely identified; and there are editorial notes concerning two letters, one missing, the other misdated. Madison's major correspondents during this period were Edmund Pendleton, Thomas Jefferson, Joseph Jones, Thomas Nelson, and David Jameson. While many of the documents have been published before, including the Madison-Jefferson, and most of the Madison-Pendleton correspondence, several significant documents are published for the first time, including the Report on Retaliation against British atrocities.

The thoroughness with which Messrs. Hutchinson and Rachal have performed their editorial labors will enlighten and simplify the task of the scholar working in this formative period. Painstaking care has gone into the general annotation of the volume although in several cases the notes seem unnecessarily detailed. The comparison of variant texts, interlinear changes in documents, and the cross referencing of the papers has been skillfully handled. Most important for a work of this kind, the volume is thoroughly indexed.

To the credit of the editors and the University of Chicago Press, the volume is handsomely designed, printed, and illustrated. While a voluminous and arduous task lies ahead of the editors, the publication of the first three volumes of the *Madison Papers* is a major event in modern historical editing and a fitting tribute to one of the most influential architects of the American Republic, and one whose career, happily, has been undergoing a reconstruction in the last two decades.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

F. GERALD HAM