

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 [Sponsored by the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia], 1965. Illustrations, notes, index. Pp. xxviii, 486. \$12.50.)

The fourth volume of *The Papers of James Madison* covers the first seven months of 1782 with the same comprehensive editorial annotation which marked the earlier volumes. In addition to Madison's extensive correspondence, this volume includes numerous resolutions to Congress and committee reports which bear Madison's imprint.

Like most Americans in early 1782, Madison eagerly awaited news that the victory at Yorktown would bring British recognition of American independence. These hopes were weakened when news was received of the British defeat of the French fleet in the West Indies in April. Madison was anxious for the ultimate triumph of the American cause and his fears were expressed frequently in his writings. He was especially concerned about British efforts to use trade as a lure to entice Americans away from the fight for independence.

Madison was concerned also with internal problems such as the Western lands, the independence of Vermont, the shortage of both money and troops, and the reluctance of the states to support the Confederation. The editors note a continuing struggle between Madison's desire to use the "implied powers" doctrine to strengthen the central government and his desire to serve the interests of his state. This was the beginning of a struggle which continued throughout his active life.

The extreme thoroughness of the editors in identifying and annotating almost every reference to events or items—no matter how obscure—is happily relieved by one frank admission of fallibility. Their inability to identify Edmund Pendleton's allusion to the "Irish treasurer's Waggons" will make many a historian who has suffered similar

fruitless searches feel a bond of comradeship which the editors' very excellence has heretofore precluded.

The care and comprehensiveness of the editorial work adds immeasurably not only to the usefulness of the *Papers* themselves but also to an understanding of Madison and the general history of the period. As the volumes proceed through the years of Madison's involvement in the formation of the Constitution, the Jeffersonian years and his own presidency, can the detailed and objective annotation continue? Fortunately, the editors thus far have proved themselves more than able to accomplish their chosen task so that their ability to deal with the magnitude of the material ahead is not seriously questioned.

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