JAMES MADISON. *The Papers of James Madison,* Vol. 1: *16 March 1751–16 December 1779;* Vol. 2: *20 March 1780–23 February 1781.* Edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. Pp. xix, 343. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962. $10.00 each.

Because Madison the archivist was nearly as devoted as Madison the statesman, and was persuaded that "the origin and outset of the American Republic contain lessons of which posterity ought not to be deprived," it would delight him to know that we are now to have in some twenty volumes the public and private documents of his lifetime. The editing of papers is still a lonely job, but less lonely than it once was—for the one-man dragnet, the one-man editorial team are inadequate to the tasks now being accomplished on behalf of Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, and others. Editors Hutchinson and Rachal have worked with a team of four assistants, and doubtless with others not listed on the title page, to produce these first two volumes. Despite Madison's own attempts, often misguided, to organize his papers for publication, they eventually fell into disarray. Those now on file, awaiting publication, have been drawn from nearly 250 sources. In the tradition of excellence already established by the modern editors of our other Founding Fathers' papers, the series has begun illustriously.

In Madison we have a man who could play a leading role in the shaping of the nation without ever coining a memorable aphorism like Franklin, delivering a resounding speech like Patrick Henry, or otherwise offering himself as a candidate for folk hero. But readers who suppose that he was completely reserved, not to say dull, will find some contrary evidence in his early letters and his political doggerel. His tendency to bawdy humor, while not extensive, is less known than it might be—because earlier editors have consistently bowdlerized him. These two volumes may be considered a preliminary to Madison's long career in government, for at the end of Volume II he is just beginning his service as a delegate from Virginia to the Continental Congress.

Volume I covers his early years, his education at Princeton, and the period of serious illness immediately after his graduation. His illness may have contributed to his ineffectiveness as an orator—his voice was weak—and to his reputation as a reticent man. It may also, as his biographer Irving Brant has suggested, have shaped his career, since a man with a vocal disability could hardly practice courtroom law or serve well in the pulpit. Madison was propelled, instead, into political life. One of the features of Volume I is Madison's long exchange of letters with his closest friend of the time, William Bradford. During the period extending from his departure from Princeton, in the fall of 1771, to the beginning of his service as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly in

1776, all but six items of correspondence are to or from young Bradford.

In Volume II, in his thirtieth year, Madison begins his service in a government which is fighting a war and attempting to get the Articles of Confederation ratified while deterred by disputes among the states over western lands. His stand on an alliance with Spain, and the part he played in convincing his fellow Virginians that a portion of their territory should be ceded to the United States, clearly show that he had abandoned his old forebodings of an early death and had begun to thrive in the vigorous role of statesman.

Readers of collected papers must ever be patient. After sixteen volumes of the magnificent *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, edited by Julian P. Boyd, we are still serving out Jefferson's term as Secretary of State. And, in the Madison series, many an hour of editorial labor must be spent before we shall begin to participate in Madison's work upon the Constitution, his contributions to the Federalist Papers, and his service as President.

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