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IN this volume Madison continued to be preoccupied almost exclusively with matters before the Congress; a disproportionate part of its work he continued to bear. His

activity is reflected in the 201 documents that the editors were able to locate, more than three times the number published, even in part, in previous editions of Madison papers for a like period. Madison was constantly employed with grave public questions: divisive forces, more evident after Yorktown, became even more disturbing; both Vermont and Kentucky sought statehood; French help being less necessary, her critics began to show their heads, and matters were not helped when it appeared that France would attempt to deny the Newfoundland fisheries to the new nation, and, for fear of offending Spain, would not support the claim of the states to the lands beyond the Alleghenies; even before a peace treaty could be negotiated, Americans renewed their trade with Britain; and the Congress, which had striven to meet its financial needs by an amendment to the Articles of Confederation, to permit it to levy a tax on imports (a measure dear to Madison), was thwarted by the opposition of Rhode Island; even Virginia, to Madison's distress, repealed the act by which its assent had been given. Madison was handicapped, sometimes completely stalled, by two of his colleagues—Arthur Lee and Theodorick Bland, Jr.—because of the absence of two colleagues who usually shared his views—Joseph Jones, who was often ill, and Edmund Randolph, who had absented himself from Philadelphia during the whole period because of his duties as Attorney General of Virginia, a post he could not relinquish because of his need for the salary. Moreover, Madison's financial support from Virginia was precarious, and when the treasurer, Jacquelin Ambler, forwarded a draft, he expressed the hope that Madison would be able to cash it.

The content of this volume consists mainly of Madison's notes, his official correspondence, some letters to and from Edmund Pendleton, but, most of all, his correspondence with Edmund Randolph. In the third volume his exchanges with Pendleton had, in a sense, "carried" it; in the fourth, Pendleton and Randolph share that honor; in the fifth, Randolph became much more important, 47 letters passing between him and Madison, contrasted with 20 between Madison and Pendleton. In content the contrast was greater still. Although it was Pendleton who gave Madison the first news of Virginia's repeal of the act which would have enabled Congress to levy a tax on imports, usually his letters contained state news and speculation. Pendleton was a generation older than Madison and, after assuming his judicial duties, would come to Richmond only during termtime, and would forsake Richmond, which he disliked, and retreat to his "forest" in Caroline. Pendleton knew that he was probably putting a strain on Madison, so continued the practice of corresponding alternately with Madison and Jones, each sharing Pendleton's letters with the other. With Randolph matters were entirely different. He was a contemporary of Madison; lived in Richmond, a source of news; as a member of Congress, although not in attendance, he could share secret discussions and decisions, and, because they wrote in part in cypher, Madison could freely put his thoughts on paper. To contrast the difference in Madison's letters to Randolph and Pendleton, one only need look at letters written to both on the same day, for instance on August 20, September 24, October 15, 22, 29, and November 5. Indeed, the letters to Randolph often give us the best accounts we have of what was happening at Philadelphia. But there continues one great lack in these letters: there is not one, in or out, involving Madison's immediate family, and only three from a relative, the Reverend James Madison. So we hardly see

Madison the man; only Madison the hardworking statesman. As a man with hopes and fears (beyond problems of state), of personal ambitions, of human foibles, we see nothing.

The editors had done the same thorough job of annotations that characterized the preceding volumes, the kind of scholarship fully justified by Madison's importance, and made possible by a competent staff and adequate financial backing. The editors were fortunate from the first in working out an editorial policy and working guides which brought immediate success to their efforts. Now they and their experienced and balanced staff are in full stride.

DAVID J. MAYS

Richmond, Virginia