

The Papers of James Madison, Volume VI—1 January–30 April 1783. Edited by WILLIAM T. HUTCHINSON and WILLIAM M. E. RACHAL. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969. xxxi, 545 pp. \$15.00.

VOLUME VI, like the one that preceded it, deals with the problems of the shadow land of neither war nor peace. The Treaty of Paris had been signed but not formally

ratified. British troops were in New York, in Maine, and on the western frontier; and British ships were preying on American vessels. Washington still had an army to watch the British in New York, but as they waited inactively both officers and men found time to grumble, most of all about back pay. Indeed, Congress wondered whether it had two hostile armies to face. Not only was the treasury empty, but there seemed little prospect of refilling its coffers, because requisitions to the states were not being met (after all, the war was over!); Rhode Island had refused to agree to permit the Congress to levy a five-percent tariff on imports, and Virginia, once having authorized it, had withdrawn its approval; and France was disgruntled because the American negotiators had not taken her into their confidence, thereby imperiling the foreign loan upon which the Congress had set its heart and hopes. Trying to hold together the union of states was a very doubtful business to Madison and the half-dozen of his colleagues who carried nearly the whole burden of government.

What a statesman this man was! No assignment was too great for him; no burden beyond his capacity. Day and night he toiled uncomplainingly, with no thought of self, his only goal the public good. He is the ideal example of the scholar in politics, probably not matched by any other in American history.

The official journals of the time were sparse, so we turn to Madison's discriminating notes to learn what went on. They are so vital to the historian that they exceed in value (at least in this reviewer's opinion) the letters that he exchanged. Of the papers in this volume almost half are published for the first time, and all for the first time received adequate editorial treatment. In this work, the editors have again been ably assisted by Jean Schneider and Robert L. Scribner. Only sixty-eight of these are personal letters, thirty-seven out letters and thirty-one in. They vary considerably in content, depending upon the correspondent, and it is revealing to list the letters to and from each individual separately, and then read each set consecutively for its own particular flavor. From Jacquelin Ambler, Treasurer of Virginia—apologies for a bare cupboard, and not a personal word; with Governor Harrison—exchanges of information, part in cypher, and nothing of a personal nature; with Joseph Jones, a colleague in Congress—an exchange of notes in the third person; with Madison's father—letters of deep respect, "Honored Sir . . . with great affection yr. dutf. son"; with Edmund Pendleton (Madison still alternating with Joseph Jones)—exchanges of news and mutual respect; with his cousin, the Reverend James Madison—friendly exchanges, not intimate. His principal correspondent was still Edmund Randolph. Here there was a free exchange of information, but neither seemed able to work out their exact personal relationship: after greeting each other as "My dear Sir," Randolph risked "My dear Friend" (when mentioning the death of Randolph's aunt, which at last brought him some much needed money). But by the time Madison warmed up enough to write "My dear Friend," Randolph (maybe a bit fearful) was back at "My dear Sir." So it went. Jefferson tried to be more familiar. Lodged at the same boarding house, he and Madison had gotten to know each other very well, with mutual respect and liking. Another boarder was young Catherine Floyd ("Kitty" to Jefferson), a daughter of William Floyd, a delegate to the Congress from New York. Jefferson worked hard at bringing the thirty-two year old bachelor and the teenage girl together. In the end the lady's charms and propinquity resulted in their

engagement, and Jefferson was delighted. He wrote some good-natured badinage to the lucky young man, but seemed not to get a like response. So finally Jefferson, in wishing Madison all happiness, concluded by saying "of this no more without your leave." For Madison was a very serious young man—the lady could wait until Congress adjourned; his country needed him more.

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