

had surrendered at Yorktown but a few months earlier and victory seemed within grasp, the taste of that victory already was taking on a certain bitterness, and the problems of negotiation and of peacetime re-orientation were beginning to seem even more awesome than those of wartime.

The British, despite having surrendered in one place, were still attempting arrogantly to draw upon the awesomeness of their reserve power, particularly their naval power, to try to force a settlement with their former colonies, beneficial to themselves, independent of France. Particularly, they were exploiting American economic difficulties as a device for accomplishing this end. James Madison, here, shows his literal mindedness as well as his patriotism and prescience in insisting that the United States should stick with its allies and should reject such blandishments as the subversion they were and, in fact, should retaliate. Granted he was not alone in this, but as an emerging leader of the "first new nation" he placed more importance upon the necessity for adhering to commitments than did many of his countrymen. He also demonstrates his ability to think in a composite fashion in seeing this problem as interlinked with a variety of other complications and pressures, particularly with the need for the faltering government under the Articles to operate successfully on a variety of fronts, which meant not only adhering to treaty obligations but also using its potential "implied powers" in domestic affairs, without at the same time choking the proper activity of state power and without overplaying its hand so as to become so autocratic as to destroy public faith and render itself ineffective.

One also begins to see the working of the mind of a man who clearly feels that the general welfare of the whole can only proceed from the individual welfare of the various components. Madison is still tremendously conscious that he is a Virginian, delegated to represent the interests of that state. Yet such a loyalty could not preclude a higher one imposed by national necessity. A sensitive balance was essential. Thus while he might support Robert Morris' plan for a Bank of North America as a national advantage, he also could defend Virginia's title to western lands, even to the point of denying congress' authority to adjudicate when

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The first half of the year 1782 was a trying-ing but exciting time for a thirty-one-year-old Virginian with a strong conscience and a deep-seated sense of both local and national responsibility. Although Cornwallis

the competition for claims by the states became insoluble. The young Virginian was further confronted with one of the ironies of political life in the fact that, as great national tensions relaxed with victory in view and a period of peacetime calm was supposedly assured, victory seemed on the point of being "celebrated" through renewed factionalism among component parts of the fragile union, rather than through a new appreciation of its national accomplishment. But again, characteristically, such a trend led him to explore positive alternatives, rather than to despair or resort to easy panaceas.

Thus the beginning of Madison's intellectual growth as a potential statesman and leader becomes more evident in this fourth volume of the compendious collection of *Madisoniana* which constitutes this ambitious undertaking than was the case in the earlier three. While one still cannot develop a personal feeling for the man as a lively, colorful, personally persuasive individual, one begins to detect his own growing confidence in both the rightness of his positions, once they have been carefully thought through, and in his ability to draw the majority to him. Hopefully, without reading history backward too grossly, one does begin to see more of the later Madison emerging here. Certainly the preciseness of his mind and his grasp of the constitutional implications of a great variety of seemingly disparate events begins to creep through the often rather foreboding or legalistic documents which he writes.

Again, as in previous volumes, the editors possibly resort to "overkill" in the extent of their fastidious documentation, yet one is not only impressed with the massive amount of historical data which is here drawn together but with the fact that the editors, despite the overwhelmingly demanding nature of their self-imposed assignment, relish and enjoy both the broad implications which they are thereby enabled to set forth and the ability to set straight earlier scholarship down to the last jot and tittle. It is to be hoped that the key segments of Madison's vital career will receive such treatment by such competent authorities within this reviewer's lifetime.

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