

quorum in the legislature. Its miserable lack of power had shaken most of Madison's correspondents and was the single source of their anxiety. But Shays' Rebellion brought also a feeling of urgency, almost of impending disaster, and convinced them to back the Philadelphia Convention of 1787. Washington stated his feelings very well in these words: "No morn ever dawned more favourable than ours did—and no day was ever more clouded than the present!" Madison agreed, but his analysis of the crisis makes clear that he expected the people in their desperation to divide into several small political units or to seek monarchy as a solution for future disorders. "I hope the danger of it will rouse all the real friends of the Revolution to exert themselves in favor of such an organization of the Confederacy, as will perpetuate the Union, and redeem the honor of the Republican name."

With these expressions of crisis were others that seemed to contradict them. Jefferson felt a little rebellion was good for the political soul, while Madison prepared his mind for reform of the Confederation. His optimism for the triumph of popular government over its enemies was unshaken; he came to the Philadelphia Convention better prepared than any other delegate. Rutland says that what distinguished him was the blending of first-hand political experience with scholarly reflection, so that he was the best-informed man present at Philadelphia.

Rutland's estimate of Madison's ability is not readily apparent from these letters. What is evident is the presence of a devout patriot who wishes the best for his country. Alongside John Adams and Thomas Jefferson he appears less well rounded and less interested in the world of art and literature. His interests in land speculation and the natural order give some dimension; his family correspondence with his father occasionally gives insights of personality.

The editing of the volume is excellent; the notes are modest but informative; the essays by the editors are helpful in understanding the events of the day.

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ROBERT A. RUTLAND, editor-in-chief. *The Papers of James Madison*. Volume 9, 9 April 1786–24 May 1787, with supplement 1781–1784. Edited by WILLIAM M. E. RACHAL. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1975. Pp. xxv, 447. \$18.50.

This curious collection of letters contains the correspondence primarily of national leaders who were disturbed by politics. It reflects the deepening crisis in the Confederation government, which was unable for a time to maintain even a