

turning eighty on the day the story opens, has similar crotchets. He has been the very model of a solid citizen for decades and, like Kant, he takes his daily walks at specific times. Further analogies are not implied; the rigidity is an empty form. The moral backbone is sapped of its strength, and the collapse is only a question of time. It happens in the next generation when the son, Robert, uses his knowledge of statics to reverse its laws. With fanatic devotion to a cause he knows is lost he blows up his father's grandest construction, an abbey, in the last days of World War II. The builder's grandson carries on the family tradition, and also studies statics. What will he do—build or destroy? The decision has not been made.

There are a number of peripheral figures in this family portrait, each of them so deftly drawn that one does not know what most to admire: Böll's sure touch at characterization or his handling of epic materials in a novel of ordinary length. The Kaiser's Germany, the great wars, the lean and fat years—he shows how the Germans lived them. It is a harsh and candid picture, full of guilt, brutality, and suffering. Evil shadows from the past loom over the present, while vicious Nazis turn pious democrats.

Yet in this chronicle of false hopes, real frustrations, and unresolved bitterness there are redemptive acts of great moral power, like the shot Robert's mad mother aims at a Nazi. No matter that she only scratches him, or that the few good people are feckless and a bit silly. Heinrich Böll knows how suspect successful saints are, and he communicates his conviction in this memorable new novel.

**FRASER YOUNG'S
LITERARY CRYPT NO. 991**

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 991 will be found in the next issue.

OF BCDD PEX XKBS
XFDCKHFA GSF QKR OF
DPHF GP GPEBS.
FJJKE BCRGPX.

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 990

Principles have no real force except when one is well fed.
M. TWAIN.

FOUNDING FATHERS

Plea: A Stronger Constitution

"The Papers of Alexander Hamilton," Vols. III (1782-1786) and IV (1787-1788), edited by Harold C. Syrett and Jacob E. Cooke (Columbia University Press. Vol III, 701 pp. Vol IV, 721 pp. \$12.50 each), continue an important scholarly project devoted to a man whom history has perhaps treated unjustly. H. Trevor Colbourn, who teaches colonial history at Indiana University, is editing the political writings of John Dickinson.

By H. TREVOR COLBOURN

ALEXANDER HAMILTON seems at last to be coming into his own. Two admiring biographies and these volumes of the long-needed "Papers of Alexander Hamilton" constitute substantial straws in the scholarly wind. Inevitably many historians will mutter, "And about time." Hamilton's has been a case of genuine historical hardship: he has long deserved protection from his relatives and his political admirers, and such categories fit his earlier editors, John C. Hamilton and Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. Indeed, it is somehow logical that the existence of this fine new edition of Hamilton's papers owes something to his political opponent Thomas Jefferson.

It is now almost a dozen years since Julian P. Boyd proudly produced the first volume of his magnificent "Papers of Thomas Jefferson." His continuing accomplishment still dazzles and inspires his colleagues, and editing has consequently acquired a new respectability (if not a vogue). Professor Boyd established a standard of excellence for others to emulate, and it is partly because of his success that the rest of our Founding Fathers are now receiving comprehensive editorial attention.

The editorial results will necessarily be uneven. The writings of the Founding Fathers vary in liveliness and importance. But more to the immediate point is the controversy over what constitutes good editing. Some see the duty of an editor as limited to furnishing an accurate text. Some look to a halfway house in which the editor con-

tents himself with identifying correspondents and individuals mentioned in the text. Still others argue for a broader responsibility. An editor, according to Professor Boyd, has myriad obligations. He should explain the context of the documents he is editing; he should examine the historiographical significance of new materials and inform his reader accordingly. This philosophy is impressively reflected in Boyd's "Jefferson." The editorial notes are fantastically thorough, frequently amounting to scholarly articles of rare distinction. This reviewer readily admits to occasional reservations as to the need for some of these excursions, illuminating though they may be. And yet it is unlikely that anyone will again demonstrate Professor Boyd's understanding, knowledge, and insight.

With the third and fourth volumes of "The Papers of Alexander Hamilton" resplendently before us, it now seems safe to state that this series is being edited in a very different style. Neither Professor Syrett nor Professor Cooke regarded themselves as Hamilton scholars when they were handed their editorial appointments. They have allowed themselves only six years for the preparation of their first volumes, and appear to be maintaining a lively pace of production. (They do not hold themselves responsible for the highly technical task of editing Hamilton's legal papers: this is undertaken by Professor Julius Goebel, Jr., of the Columbia Law School.) Professors Syrett and Cooke are primarily concerned with producing an accurate and complete text. They identify the location of each document, and indulge in some disciplined annotations. There is a certain terseness about their treatment, and this is true of the preface reproduced in each volume. Its concluding sentence is a gem in its own right: "On some occasions," confess the editors, they "were unable to find the desired information, and on other occasions the editors were remiss." We are left to guess which. This vague admission has something of the wayward charm of James Morton Smith's dedication of his "Freedom's Fetters"—"To my wife, the power behind the drone."

Professors Syrett and Cooke have done a superb job of locating Hamil-

toniana. While a stray Hamilton letter will surely come to light as this series is completed, these volumes deserve to be regarded as definitive. They are actually accurate, something too often taken for granted, and the notes are in close proximity to the relevant text, frequently on the same page. There is a useful index at the end of each volume, which is not the case with the Jefferson "Papers." The editorial apparatus is clearly explained. And the volumes themselves are handsomely designed and constructed; the Columbia press deserves to be complimented on an example of book-making superior to that of Yale's Franklin volumes.

Among the deficiencies which this reviewer regrets are the omission of a Hamilton calendar, the absence of a listing of contents for each volume, and the rarity of editorial introductions. The last obviously involves basic policy decisions of the editors. While we should not necessarily look for a duplication of the Boyd technique, some concessions to the non-specialist might well have been entertained. These are "The Papers of Alexander Hamilton," no less, but certainly not much more.

Of course, for many scholars this will be sufficient. The period covered by these volumes, 1782 to May 1788, embraces important material. We have Hamilton's "Cash Book," which has never been previously published, and which adds an extra dimension to our knowledge of Hamilton in the 1780s. We have Hamilton's "Notes on the History of North and South America," prepared for a brief used in the controversy between New York and Massachusetts over Western land claims (1783-1787). In this instance we do have a useful introductory note, and the few annotations represent substantial scholarship. Throughout Volume III we are reminded of Hamilton's concern for a stronger Constitution for the United States, and this theme dominates Volume IV. Here we find his controversial "Draft of a Constitution," carefully reproduced as he wrote it, if in a singularly naked fashion. But this is not true for Hamilton's "Federalist" essays, which are blessed with a first-rate introduction by Jacob Cooke in which he reviews the abundant scholarship dealing with the vexatious question of who wrote what essays, and generally finds for Hamilton. Some mention is made of Douglass Adair's investigation of the disputed authorship, but no further effort is made to explore the significance of the differing political philosophies of Hamilton and Madison. Readers of *The William and Mary Quarterly* will not

be surprised to discover that the "Caesar" letters are deliberately omitted from Volume IV. Professor Cooke, unlike some of his colleagues, is convinced that Hamilton did *not* write these letters; unfortunately, he furnishes neither the letters nor the arguments that led to their rejection.

Editing is rather like selecting a wife. Everyone has his own ideas of what to look for. Professors Syrett and Cooke have established editorial policies with which this reviewer can only partly concur. But as to the quality and value of their accomplishment there can be no question.

President as Prim Young Patriot

"The Papers of James Madison,"
edited by William T. Hutchinson
and William M. E. Rachal (University of Chicago Press. Vol I, 344 pp. Vol. II, 344 pp. \$10 each), cover the first thirty years in the life of our fourth Chief Executive. Richard B. Morris, professor of history at Columbia University, edited the John Jay Papers.

By RICHARD B. MORRIS

IT IS a special virtue of the Founding Fathers that they were conscious of and even self-conscious about the great events in which they were participating. That "decent respect to the opinions of mankind" that moved them to justify what they did also impelled a number of them to keep careful records. In this regard perhaps none was more virtuous than James Madison, self-appointed reporter of the affairs of Congress and the Federal Convention. Accordingly, the publication of Madison's papers may be expected to add a new dimension to our knowledge of the early national period, and the first two volumes of this venture, jointly

supported by the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, scrupulously edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal, and generously underwritten by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, are joyfully received by scholars of the period.

When it is borne in mind that the previous standard nine-volume edition of Madison's writings by Gaillard Hunt included only one-sixth of the extant documents by him and an insignificant fraction of the 15,000 or so extant letters addressed to him, and that the present volumes run down only to 1781, leaving the remaining fifty-five years of Madison's long life still to be documented, the vast scope of this current enterprise can perhaps be dimly perceived.

The present volumes concern the career of young Madison, Princeton undergraduate, Virginia legislator, Congressman, and ardent nationalist; and while it may still be too early to generalize, we have enough of Madison's letters to see that they lack the acid of John Adams's, the pungency of Benjamin Rush's, and the broad humanitarianism of Franklin's. He is a serious, conscientious, well-informed young man, thoroughly aware of the danger-

