

or in Volume II. (published in December, 1901). Letters to leading men of the time, written between 1769 and 1787, make the bulk of material for these first volumes; and the reader finds in them those expressions of opinion, descriptions of events, and statements of facts, from which the life of the period may be known. But no collection of Madison's writings would be complete which failed to include these Convention notes by the "Father of the Constitution," which give us so clear an account of the ideas in the minds of these master-builders of a government. Forty-four pages of index, and a reduced facsimile of the draft of the first page of the Constitution, add value to the Journal. The four volumes bring the life of Mr. Madison down to September 17, 1787, when he signed the Constitution. During the next two years he played a very prominent part in the fight for the adoption of the instrument, and then gave twenty-eight additional years to the public service. In the opinion of many, his best work was done in the earlier part of his career; and the four volumes of his collected writings will always remain the great source of information regarding this period of his public life.

*Journal of the
"Father of the
Constitution."*

The fourth volume of the collected writings of James Madison, edited by Mr. Gaillard Hunt and published

by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, appears as a companion volume to the third, the two comprising the Journal of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Mr. Madison was a constant and faithful attendant upon the sessions of this famous body, and as the champion of the "Virginia Plan" was the most influential member in fashioning the Constitution as it was finally adopted. In the absence of modern machinery for accurately recording the discussions of a convention, Mr. Madison's self-imposed task of keeping extended and careful minutes of the proceedings made him an authority in all later controversies regarding constitutional questions, and gave to his opinions and arguments a commanding force. His own notes were supplemented by additions made by other delegates with whom he consulted in the years following the Convention; and in the two volumes comprising the so-called Journal of the Convention the editor has given footnotes citing statements made by members of the body whose papers have been published. The result of such careful editing is a most valuable account of the discussions in the Convention. There is not much of general interest in these two volumes, such as one finds in Volume I. (published in October, 1900)