

campaign and who attempted to analyze the causes of its defeat, it seems apparent that the obstacles which the suffragists have to overcome are, first, the opposition of a large and influential proportion of their own sex; secondly, the absurdity which characterizes most of the arguments by which they endeavour to gain support; and thirdly, the fear that the introduction of woman suffrage would be detrimental to the virility of the national government.

The last of these obstacles which has been augmented if not raised by the suffragists themselves, namely, the undefined but instinctive fear of the male electorate that the participation of women in the national franchise would induce what Mr. Roosevelt aptly calls "pussy-footedness" in the national government, is rapidly diminishing in importance. *A priori*, there is no ground whatever for this fear. Mankind is man and woman, and women can be trusted to share the passions and the sentiments of their men and to think, and, so far as possible, act in the like manner in the like circumstances. To suppose otherwise were to ascribe to a lioness the attributes of a Southdown sheep. The temper of the women of France and Great Britain in the present supreme trial gives ample assurance that the women of the United States may be relied on in matters affecting the safety and the honour of their country. In the bosom of countless thousands of American sisters breathes the indomitable spirit of an Edith Cavell; and for every American mother who in time of peril would weakly and foolishly cry, "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier," there would be a dozen who would bravely echo the Spartan message of the Englishwoman who, shortly after the outbreak of war, having seven of her sons in the army or navy, wrote to the eighth who was working in Canada, and said, "If you don't come home and enlist, I'll never speak to you again!"

Accompanying this fear of the enfeeblement of national government is the suspicion that the vote in the hands of women would bring forth a crop of ill-considered and faddy legislation. To judge by the record of certain Western and Pacific Coast states whose women already enjoy the franchise,