

to be devoted to military training, and that so long as physically able to serve he must remain subject to the call to arms. The patience with which the people accepted this obligation and this national duty is sometimes intensely pathetic.

The announcement that war had been declared found the people unspeakably sad, but unswerving in their determination to meet the crisis. There was no excitement, none of the marching and shouting which we should have expected from a nation which we have always considered as much more mercurial than we.

From the very beginning, the war was accepted as a thing as inevitable as fate, as a thing bigger than all the interests of the individual, as a thing to which such interests must be subordinated without question. Whatever orders the authorities gave were obeyed unhesitatingly and without criticism, and the bare statement that it was "pour la patrie" justified every sacrifice. The dignity with which the mass of the people accepted their duties under the new conditions imposed by war was as remarkable as it was admirable.

In Paris there was practically no disorder, only an inexpressible unhappiness and sorrow which contrasted strangely with the accustomed gaiety of the city. On the first night of war a few men