

THE TEMPER OF THE UNITED STATES Every one is a specialist in the field of international psychology, for nothing is so easy—indeed so impelling—as to voice light-hearted views regarding one's neighbours. Those who are courteous, sometimes refrain from expressing unfavourable opinions upon the housetops, but there is no standard of courtesy which serves as a bar to candid comment upon foreigners within the circle of family and friends. Indeed, life would lack one of its chief joys were we not to speak what we feel about the acts, motives and manners of other nations.

During the early part of the war—in fact until the Spring of this year—it was sincerely stated by many of us that the United States either did not rightly apprehend what was going on in the world or else did not possess the spirit which leads a community to stand in arms behind its profession of faith. Our own sacrifices during this period being what they were, it was the more natural to employ terms of disparagement regarding the richest and most powerful of democratic neutrals. In war time *ifs* and *ands* count for little. We do not care to know the reasons which account for the hanging back. He who is not with us is against us.

Hence, month after month, many scanned the action, or inaction, of the United States with regret—possibly with more than regret. Now, however, there is good ground to read just the perspective and those will be most willing to modify earlier impressions who from firsthand knowledge are familiar with what has been going on in the United States since the war began, beneath the surface. Here, as elsewhere, the element of time has been immensely important. Last November the Democratic Party asked electors to vote for Wilson—"the man who has kept us out of war." Now, the President is characterized by his admirers as "the man who kept us out of war until the right moment." Be this as it may, the temper of the United States is now unmistakably different from what it was even at the beginning of this year. Then the cause of the Allies was supported by millions of Americans