

the vote either by persuading the majority of men or by achieving unanimity within their own ranks. Since it is usually easier to secure the concession of a right than to wring from reluctant men or women the recognition and performance of a duty, the first course, namely, the persuasion of men, seems to offer the quickest road to success. It is possible, nay, even probable, that national woman suffrage in the United States will be granted as the result of something apparently quite different from conversion by argument. It may come about through the anxious bidding of the great political parties or as the effect of some more adventitious cause. But it will not come about at all unless the majority of the people are prepared to admit its innate justice. Hence the paramount importance of the validity of the arguments with which the suffragists sustain their cause, and hence the magnitude of the difficulties which they have created in their own path by setting up many fallacious and ridiculous pleas. Some of these arguments are almost too absurd to be mentioned were it not for the importance with which the suffrage advocates invest them.

In the first place, every male voter is a judge in the case, and no advocate of any experience or skill would expect to succeed before him if his argument were prefaced or accompanied by abuse of the court, by charges of tyranny and suppression of which the judge knew himself to be completely innocent. It may be good tactics, when one has no case, to abuse the plaintiff's attorney, but whether one's cause is good or bad, it is the height of folly to abuse the judge.

In its original significance, namely, the taxation of colonial possessions by a suzerain parliament in which the colonies were not represented, "Taxation without representation" is an excellent rallying cry. It has a special appeal to Americans in recalling the memory of Bunker Hill, the Boston tea-party, and a successful revolt. But it is hardly more appropriate in the mouths of suffragists than the cry of the French Revolutionists in 1789, "A bas la Bastille!" Women may sincerely cherish the belief that their interests would be promoted by