

National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The political situation of enfranchised women is fairly well known. They are coming out to vote creditably. But voting by women is still in its very beginning. Few women are being elected in the United States, Great Britain or Canada compared with the strength of the vote polled by women. Yet an occasional candidate is successful, not by the help of women specially, but with the support of both men and women. Governments sometimes appoint women to act on commissions and as delegates at conferences. What, however, of the underlying tendencies which can be perceived in politics for women? What is their political desire? Whatever it is, its nature is difficult to discover, just as their desire in the church conceals itself at least to some extent. Women evidently do not mean to use their votes to elect women as their representatives above all other considerations. Any woman candidate will not do; she must be of a special character. What is required apparently is a woman who will really represent the average, a high average possibly, but of a character and inclination that her supporters may deeply trust. Women voters do not mean to be committed beyond their instinctive knowledge of what is wise and workable. This attitude towards women as candidates is surely one of the most interesting manifestations so far of the woman elector. Another political conviction has been plainly shown. Women do desire greatly that women of ability and training should work with men when action, political or otherwise, is being taken which will affect the life of the country, on such matters, for instance, as education and social legislation. They do not think that laws should be framed which will change their lives and the lives of those for whom they are responsible without a woman's intelligence and point of view being brought to bear

on the problem which is to be solved. About such representation as this, they are seriously in earnest; and oddly enough, they would rather have elected women representatives than women chosen by favour of governments. Their political position is reasonable if examined without bias. The woman candidate must have qualifications other than just being a woman or having contended for woman suffrage.

The purpose of this article has been to arrive at tendencies of to-day which belong to women in general. No matter how able or conspicuous members of a minority may be, their actions do not tell, or rarely tell, the direction of general progress as well as the attitude of a great majority. Both consciously and unconsciously, it is contended, women are endeavouring to remove restrictions which may obstruct their development into the perfect Eve. They do not want to be perfect men, but perfect women. If they are hindered by artificial boundaries, women will endeavour to escape from them. Someone at once will ask the question, what boundaries are artificial? Certainly there are natural boundaries, both for men and women. Part of the problem of the race is to discover what its natural boundaries are. It should, however, be admitted in fairness that women have had more trouble with temporarily imposed limitations than men have had. If the race may be described in a figure as a single human soul, borne onward by wings (since we are at liberty to venture on the methods of Ezekiel), then the one wing nobly outspread is man and the other woman. Should the woman wing fail in its development, the progress of the soul, the race, is not only retarded but suffers unnecessary dangers.

Let us pass in brief review the tendencies which seem to belong to the departments considered, and examine the result. Many women undoubtedly work because they must for a living. Employment is often craved because