

# A publisher's view of female foibles

Local females may have wondered if Bloomington newspaper publisher William Gabe had had an argument with his wife when he was putting together the May 23, 1867, edition of the *Progress*. The man was new in town, but his honeymoon with women was definitely over on that date.

In an unsigned, impromptu editorial, Gabe lashed out at the new hair fashion under a modest headline which read, simply, "WATERFALLS." Wrote Gabe, "A fashionable woman's head at present is a wonder of unsightliness. One would not think so many of the sex could, with positive genius for the hideous, so deform themselves as they do in a single sitting."

As if Gabe knew his opening remarks were sufficient to set female fashion-setters' teeth grinding, he slipped a backhanded compliment into his little editorial. "They rise in the morning, go from the bath comely and



## Looking back

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charming as nature created them."

That natural, unspoiled look, according to the publisher editor, vanished a couple of hours later after the female's own or someone else's ministrations. The whole effect was "elaborately wrought out of all symmetry and attractiveness, especially in regard to the hair."

Gabe faulted the exhaustible ingenuity of individual females to make their hair look like anything else: "to give her head a size and form and proportion little less than repulsive."

As if he had not made his  
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