

What Is Feminine

In this country there is an organization seeking to secure the ballot for women which has caused the organization of a remonstrant body opposed to women voting because, as they say, it is unfeminine for women to express their opinions where they will be counted.

In China there is a society seeking to secure feet for women by asking people to let their girls feet grow. This is called the Anti-foot-binding Society. Their discussion has caused there the organization of a remonstrance society because, as they say, it is unfeminine to permit women's feet to grow. What a mistake was made when God created women in giving them feet capable of moving their bodies easily, and brains capable of developing thought. What a lot of trouble it would save if these various remonstrants could only teach the Lord what is feminine and induce him to remedy these grave errors in the making of women. Perhaps it would be just as well if the Lord would make all the people men as they are extolled for perfection.

Mariana T. Folsom,

Austin, Texas.

Mariana Thompson Folsom born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania in 1845. She studied at St. Lawrence University in New York earning a degree in the Universalist theological program to become one of the first women in the United States to be ordained as a Universalist minister. As a woman's rights suffragist lectured in Texas, New York, Nebraska, and Iowa in the 1880s. She and her husband, Alan Perez Folsom, moved to Texas in 1884 where Folsom led the suffrage movement and was a major player in many women's associations including The National American Woman Suffrage Association. Folsom spent died in 1909 leaving a legacy of hard work, wit and humor.

Speech, "What is Feminine," 1898

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by Alissa Clark, Public History 3308