

Quotation #1:

“It may not be within our province to judge of the merits of the question now at issue between our respective governments . . . Let us then, beloved Sisters, unite together . . . in using the influence we possess, which is not powerless though exerted chiefly around the domestic hearth. . . and let us as mothers watch over . . . our tender offspring and point out . . . that the way to true honour is not through fields of battle, but through the enlightened, straight-forward, course of justice and equity.”

Quotation #2:

“We hold it to be the duty of Women, to look with an attentive eye upon the great events which are transpiring around them; in order that with an enlightened judgment, as well as with a feeling heart, they may direct the force of their moral influence against the iniquitous spirit of war. Let us, by the use of the mighty influences that cluster around the domestic hearth, in the opportunity by the wayside, by the pen and the press, bear testimony to the superiority of the law of Christian love and Forgiveness, over that of physical force.”



Lucretia Mott

From Letter by Lucretia Mott, from the Friendly Address of the women of Philadelphia to the women of Exeter, England, 1846

Question 1:

What do these quotations say about the role of women in each country? What are the points of similarity and the differences between the two? How do these quotations speak to the role of women participating in peace efforts and foreign relations?

Quotation #3:

Mary Grew

“The Oregon question is considered as good as settled. The South has said there shall be no war –and of course there is to be no war. The object of coupling Oregon with Texas . . . was to get Western and Northern votes. . . Glad as we are to have peace, it is mortifying to be indebted for it to the dictum of the slaveholders, whose only object is the better security of their accursed slave system.”

Mary Grew, Editor of *The Pennsylvania Freeman*, June 18, 1846, p. 3

Question 2:

While the Friendly Address petitions spoke of unity and common purpose between the British and American women, how was the larger context of politics, issues of slavery, and gendered expectations of women’s roles also revealed by this campaign against war?

RESOURCES:

Wendy E. Chmielewski “American and British Women Peace Activists,” *Oxford Handbook on American and British Women Philosophers of the Nineteenth Century*, eds. Lydia Moland, et. al. Forthcoming 2023-2024.

“‘Binding Themselves the Closer to Their Own Peculiar Duties’: Gender and Women’s Work for Peace, 1818-1860,” *Peace and Change: Journal of the Peace History Society*, October 1995.

“‘Mid the Din a Dove Appeared’: Women’s Work in the Nineteenth-Century Peace Movement,” in *OverHere: A European Journal of American Culture*, Vol. 17, Issue 2, Winter 1997.

Clare Midgley, “British Abolitionism and Feminism in Transatlantic and Imperial Perspective,” <https://glc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/midgley.pdf>