

War, & fighting, are unlawful, being contrary both to the letter & spirit of the Gospel which breathes peace on earth & good will towards man. But it is at times, as like the person when our country is at war with another nation, when at home we witness the efforts that are being made to arouse the spirit of war & of conquest and abroad our fellow citizens engaged in the dreadful work of invasion destruction & death that we feel peculiarly constrained to let our voices be heard feeble though they may be, in earnestly denouncing so unchristian so terrible & so barbarous a mode of settling disputes between nations.

We believe War to be not only unnecessary & impolitic but wholly at variance with & irreconcilable to the precepts of the Lord Jesus. He commands us to love our enemies, and thus we apprehend virtually abolishes all wars & fighting, both for individuals and for nations - for how can it be possible to love our enemies & destroy them at the same time? But sinful as it is in its own nature war is no solitary evil, but fraught with innumerable transgressions against the Divine law. It brings into play all the worst passions of our nature. It is followed by fraud robbery, rapine licentiousness, & all,

and the demoralization & profligacy which it entails upon the nations engaged in it are not the least of its evils. How then can a nation which professes Christianity justify herself in being so much evil, misery & crime upon our fellow beings? and man especially may we ask how can she justify herself in the sight of the religious world (not to appeal to a higher tribunal) in waging an aggressive war for however some who name the name of Christ may be disposed to plead for the necessity & lawfulness of a defensive war. Most Christians are agreed that a war of invasion or conquest is unchristian & unjustifiable such is the war which is now being waged against our neighbor Mexico and such is the position in which our beloved country is at present placed a position from which we earnestly desire to see her released by the speedy restoration of peace. May best wisdom direct your efforts to the accomplishment of this blessed result so that no feeling of false honor or of national pride may prevent you from sheathing the sword, and that conviction of superior strength may induce you to ask for more than justice demands or to hesitate in making reparation where injury has been inflicted. It is right to say that whilst a nation belies its name is a reproach to