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The correspondents of this Yearly Meeting in the 12th
Month last. Prompt action being desirable, as
many of the Members of this Meeting as could be
assembled on short notice, met and in accor-
dance with a request from London Friends
a Committee was appointed to present the Memorial
to the President of the United States. Abraham
Lincoln, who received them with much interest
and cordiality, and afterwards sent the following
acknowledgment which was transmitted to England.

This Meeting approved the action of their
Members thus informally taken and directs
their proceedings to be recorded on our Minutes.

(The memorial is herewith attached) 23

" The Quaker reply is as follows.

Executive Mansion

Washington January 7th 1862

Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge
the receipt through you of the Memorial of the
English Friends, in relation to the matter in question
between the government of Great Britain and
that of the United States of America.

Although I trust that any fears entertained
of serious derangement of our amicable
relations have been without foundation

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Copy of a Memorial of the Religious Society of Friends on the impending difficulties between
Great Britain and the United States of America.

To VISCOUNT PALMERSTON, First Lord of the Treasury, and Earl Russell, Principal
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
The undersigned, acting on behalf of the Society of Friends throughout Great Britain,
request the considerate attention of the First Lord of the Treasury and the Foreign Secretary
to the following observations on the present critical aspect of affairs between this country and
the United States of North America, offered as they are under a strong sense of religious
duty.

On former occasions, we fully stated our conviction that all War is unlawful for
the Christian; but it is needless now to repeat it. But there are circumstances connected with
the present difficulties between the two countries, of so marked and peculiar a character, as to
our apprehension, to justify this special appeal to the Government. And though there may be no such prospective
of (there are, perhaps, no two independent nations on the face of the earth so closely united
together as England and America by the combined ties of blood, of language, of religion, of
constitutional freedom, and of commercial interest; and no civil war between which would
be a more open scandal to our common Christianity, or a more serious injury to the
welfare and progress of the human race.

The hatred of a brother when once offended is a proverb. Nor were the feelings which
existed between England and America after the War of Independence and the War respecting
African Rights, by any means an exception to this proverbial truth. By degrees,
however, animosity and mutual suspicion subsided. The reciprocal visits of enlightened
travelers, the vast increase of commercial relations, and the healthy emulation in Christian
philanthropy, in science and in literature were, under the Divine blessings, producing an
improved tone of both personal and national feelings, when at length in 1860, the visit of
the Heir-apparent of the British throne to the United States seemed to complete the entente
cordiale between the two countries. It is little more than twelve months since English
subjects and American citizens were alike rejoicing in this healthy condition of the relations
between these two great divisions of the Anglo-Saxon race. It is to be remembered that not
only the two nations were united by the ties of blood and language, but also by the ties of
religion and of commerce. And now, however, with sadness of heart we see all this sorrowfully changed. The question
of international law which has been submitted to a competent tribunal of able jurists
whether England or America, or to the arbitration of any independent third
party, might probably in a few months be settled. But the satisfaction of all parties, and the welfare of the human race, would be
seriously injured by the result.