Uncle Tom’s Cabin Questions

1. Why does Stowe say she wrote the book? What was she trying to accomplish?
2. Why did she choose to write a novel instead of publishing newspaper articles, making speeches, or performing some other action?
3. The legislative act of 1850 was also called "the Fugitive Slave Act".  From this paragraph, what do you think "the Fugitive Slave Act" did?

Stowe said she ignored slavery because it was too painful to think about and she thought it would go away by itself. Because slavery was illegal in the Northern states, many Northerners ignored it until the Fugitive Slave Act made it their business to become involved.

1. What other examples in history can you think of where Americans ignored painful issues because "it's not any of our business”?
2. What arguments did Stowe put forth against slavery?
3. Women in the nineteenth century could not vote, so why did Stowe make a point of addressing mothers?

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