

The Civil War and Reconstruction 1860-1868

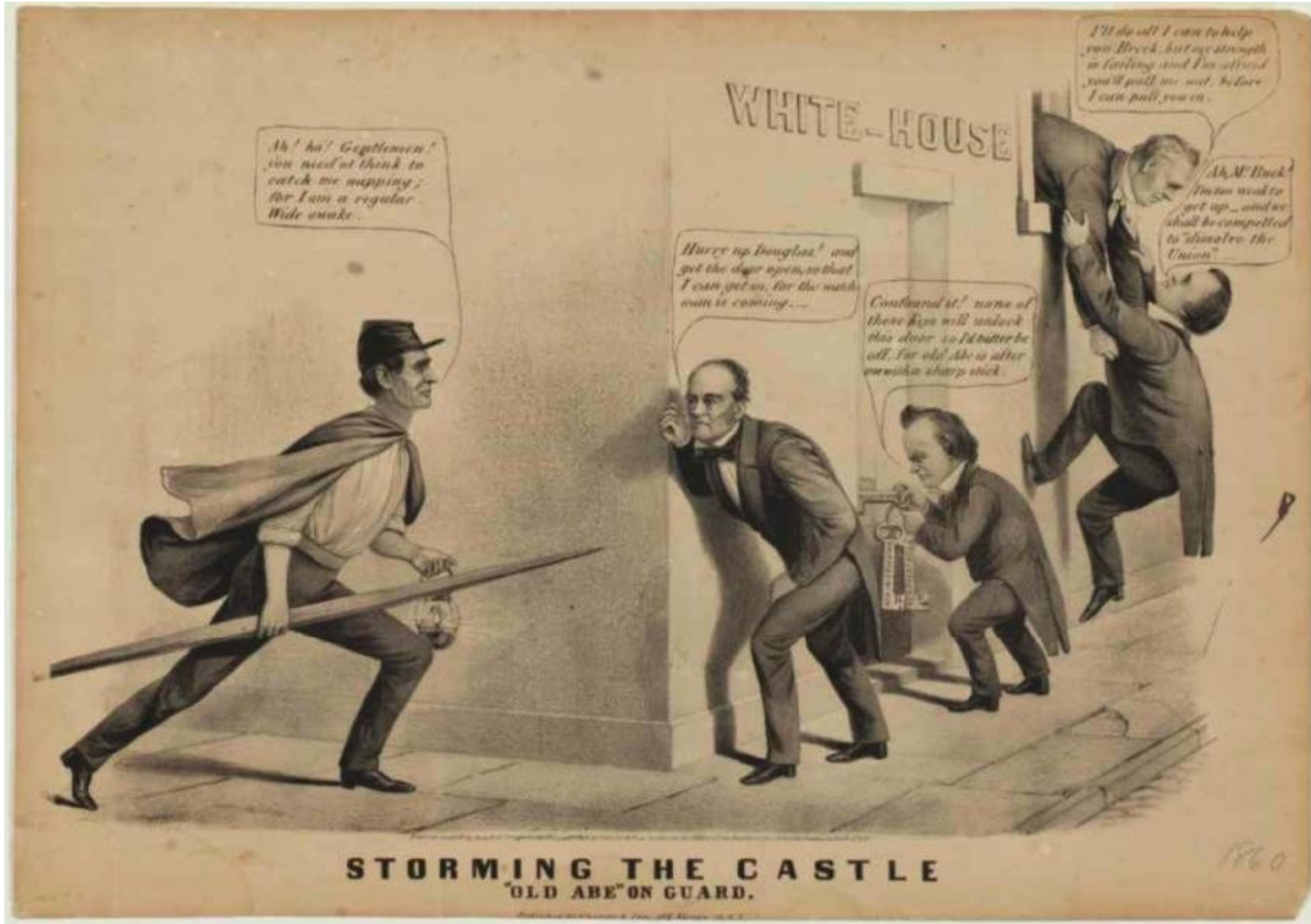
General Background Knowledge for Political
Cartoons



Storming the Castle (1860)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - Who ran in the 1860 Presidential Election and their supporters.
 - The platforms of each candidate.
 - Abraham Lincoln's nickname was the "Railsplitter."
- **Vocabulary: (people you might not be familiar with)**
 - **James Buchanan:** President of the United States from 1857-1861. He is generally remembered as one of the worst Presidents.
 - **John Breckenridge:** Vice President from 1857-1861 and then a Presidential Candidate in the 1860 election. He was the southern democratic candidate and Buchanan openly endorsed him.
 - **"Buck and Breck":** Nickname referring to Buchanan and Breckenridge.
 - **Stephen Douglas:** Political Adversary to President Lincoln and a Presidential Candidate in the 1860 election. He campaigned hard for union between northern and southern democrats, yet it did not work and Abraham Lincoln was elected President.
 - **John Bell:** Ran in the 1860 election under the constitutional union party.

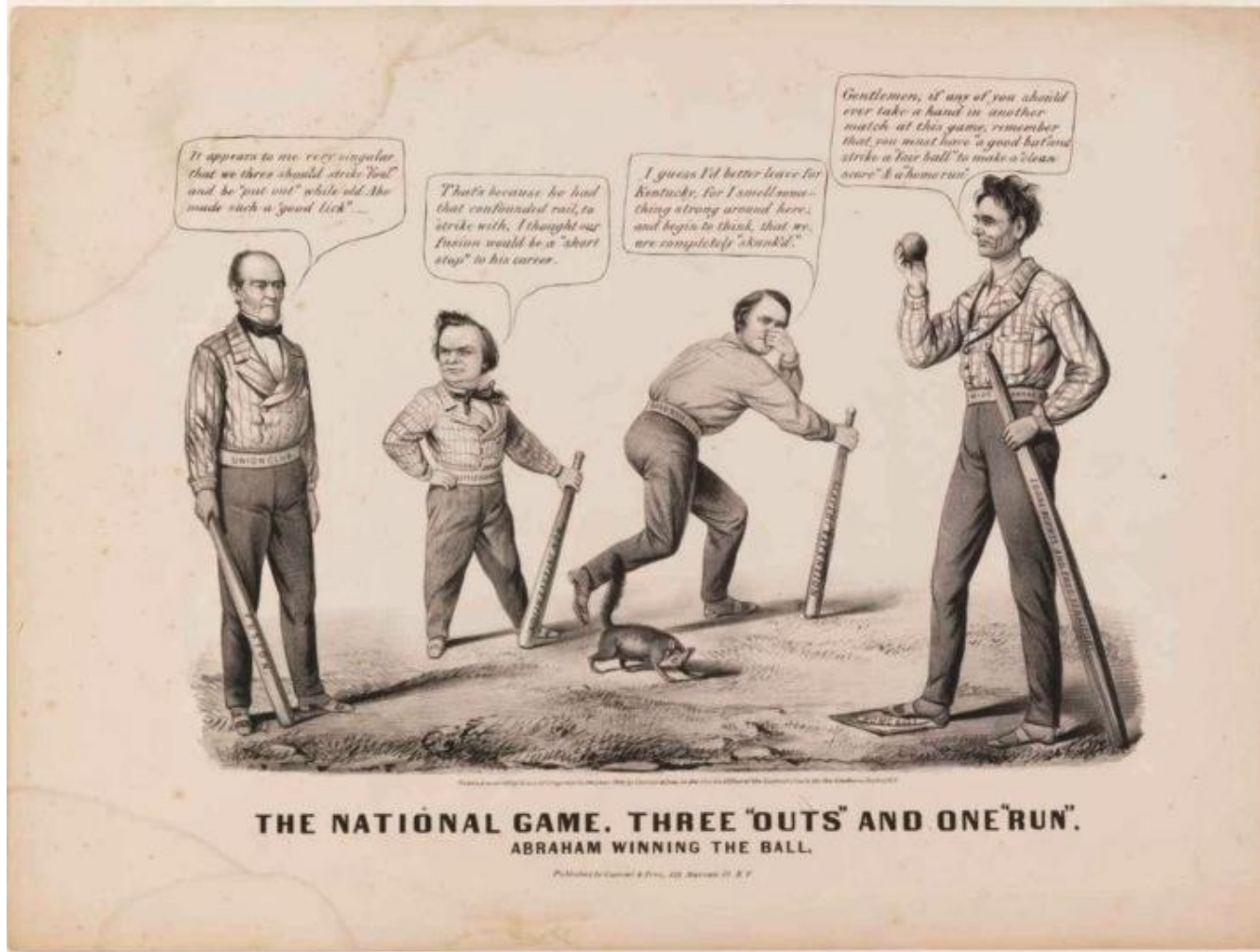
Storming the Castle



The National Game. Three “Outs” and One “Run” (1860)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - The rules/positions of Baseball.
 - The candidates for the Presidential Election of 1860.
 - The platforms and political parties of the candidates.
- **Vocabulary: (including people students might not know)**
 - **John Breckenridge:** Vice President from 1857-1861 and then a Presidential Candidate in the 1860 election. He was the southern democratic candidate and Buchanan openly endorsed him.
 - **Stephen Douglas:** Political Adversary to President Lincoln and a Presidential Candidate in the 1860 election. He campaigned hard for union between northern and southern democrats, yet it did not work and Abraham Lincoln was elected President.
 - **John Bell:** Ran in the 1860 election under the constitutional union party.
 - **Skunk Rule:** In baseball a team is skunked when there is no way they can win so the game ends before the other team can run up the score even more. Also known as the “Mercy Rule.”
 - **Foul ball:** In baseball, if you hit the ball outside the parameters of the base lines it is considered a foul.
 - **Short Stop:** A position in Baseball.

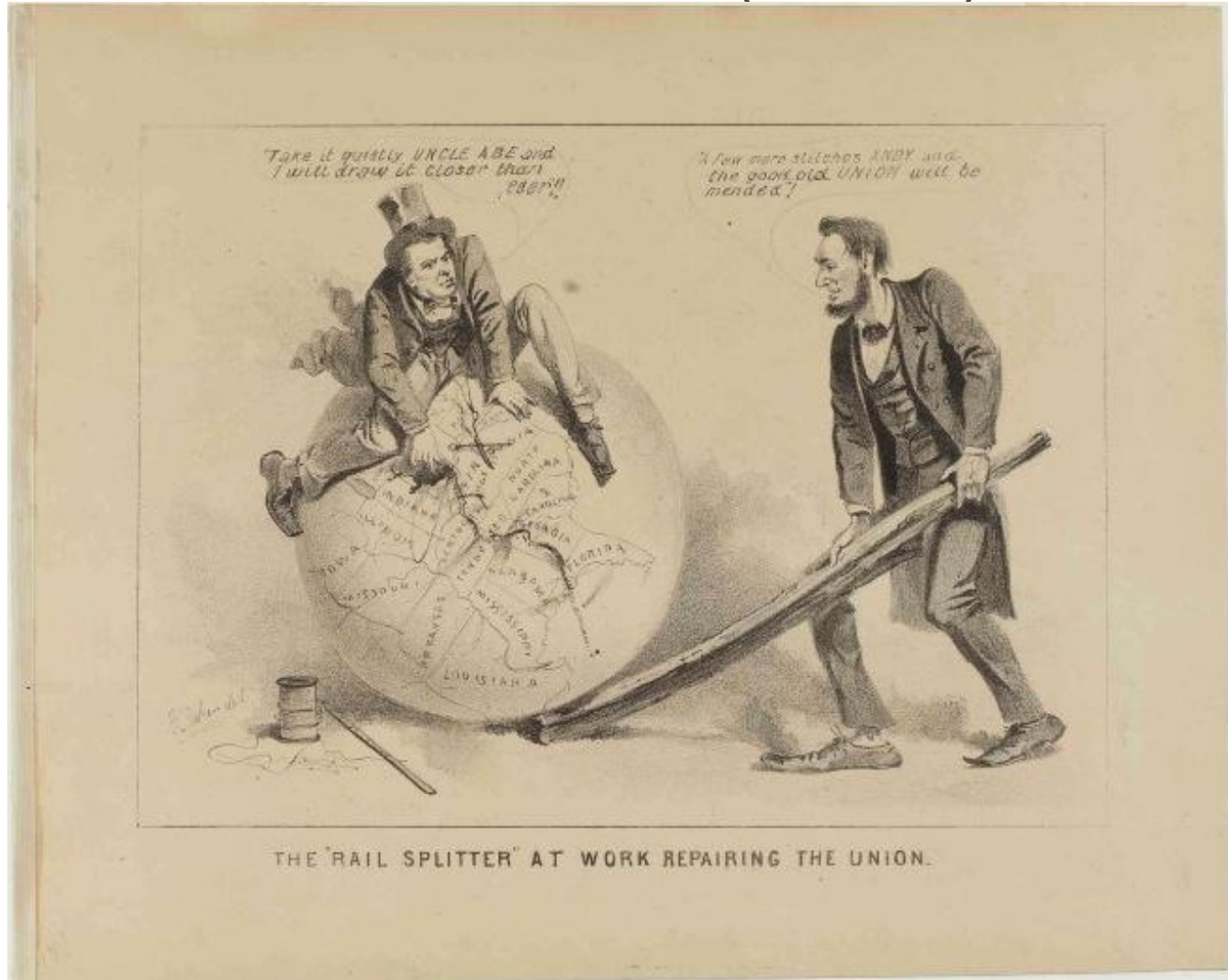
The National Game. Three "Outs" and One "Run" (1860)



The “Rail Splitter” at Work Repairing the Union (1860)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - Abraham Lincoln’s nickname, the “Railsplitter,” and Andrew Johnson’s nickname, the “Tennessee Tailor.”
 - Abraham Lincoln became President in 1860 and before 1861 South Carolina had seceded from the Union. During this time Lincoln and his Vice President Andrew Johnson acted to try to stop other states from doing the same.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **“The Railsplitter”**: This was President Abraham Lincoln’s nickname, used most often during the 1860 Presidential Election, and it refers to his manual labor he completed for wages as a young man living on the frontier. The nickname was given to him to help his political appeal toward workingmen.
 - **“The Tennessee Tailor”**: Nickname for President Andrew Johnson because he worked as a tailor prior to going into politics.

The "Rail Splitter" at Work Repairing the Union (1860)



Southern Ass-Stock-Crazy (1861)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **The Union:** Refers to the United States or the Northern Army during the Civil War.
 - **Confederacy:** The Southern Army during the Civil War.
 - **Secede:** to withdrawal formally from a union, alliance, or membership.

Southern Ass-Stock-Crazy (1861)



The “Secession Movement” (1861)

- In order to understand the cartoons, students should know:
 - Which states seceded from the Union.
 - Georgia was divided in their vote to secede.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Humbug:** deceptive, false, or tricky.
 - **Repudiate:** refuse to accept or associate.

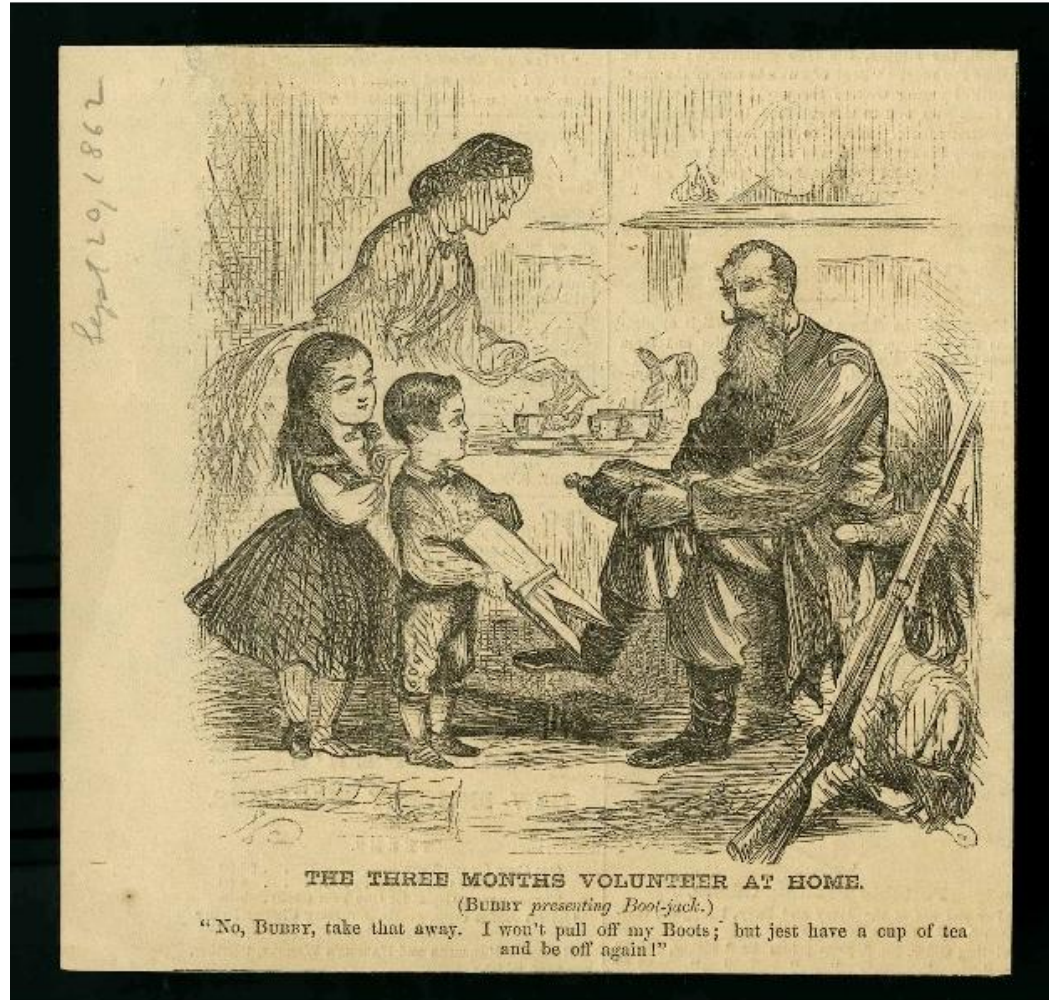
The "Secession Movement" (1861)



The Three Months Volunteer at Home (September 1862)

- Background knowledge students should know:
 - There was a militia law in place at the time of the Civil War that did not allow militia volunteers to serve for more than three months each year.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Boot-jack:** a tool used to remove boots.

The Three Months Volunteer at Home (September 1862)



The Fair Thing (October 1862)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - Secesh is a shortened version of secession.
 - Jefferson Davis was the President of the Confederacy.
 - Many families were divided during the Civil War.

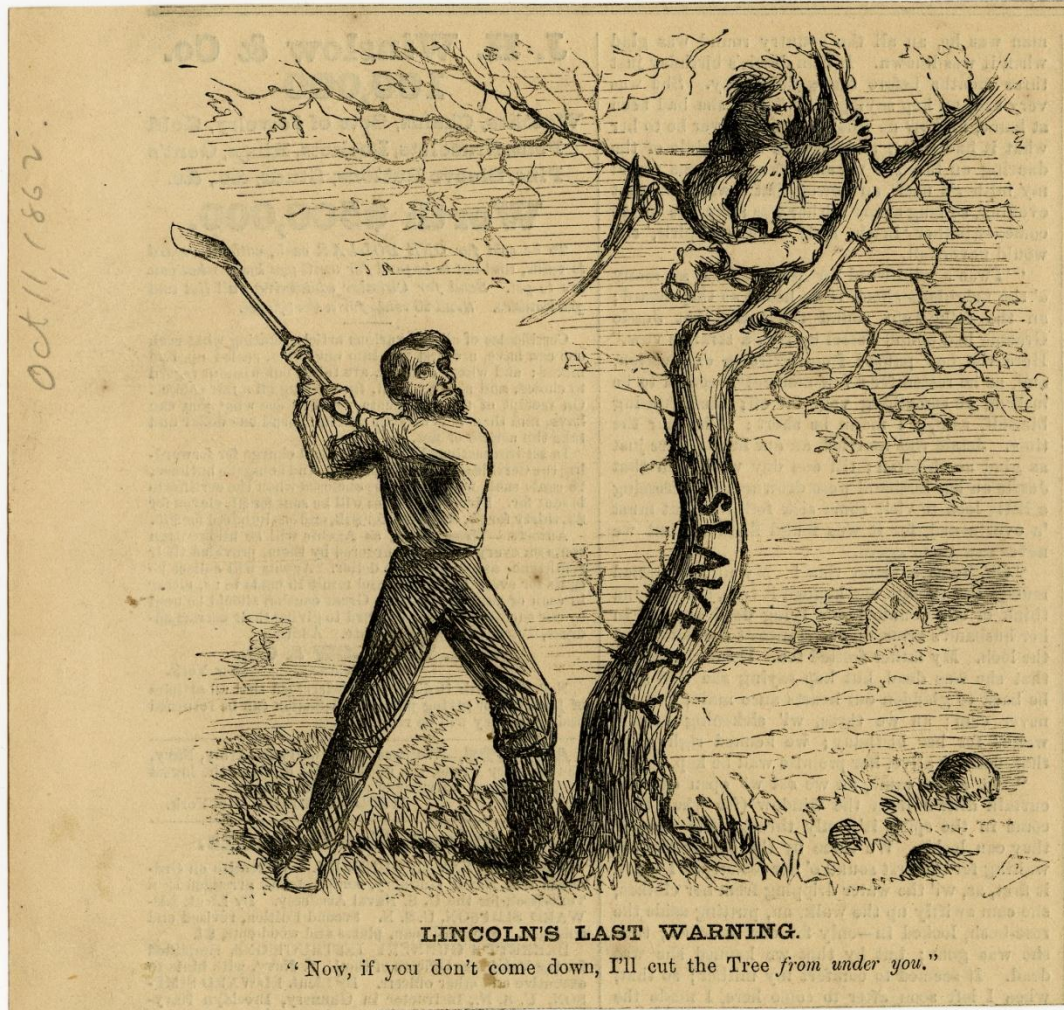
The Fair Thing (October 1862)



Lincoln's Last Warning (October, 1862)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - On September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation where he stated if the south did not stop rebelling by January , 1863, emancipation would take effect.
 - This cartoon was created two weeks after the announcement.

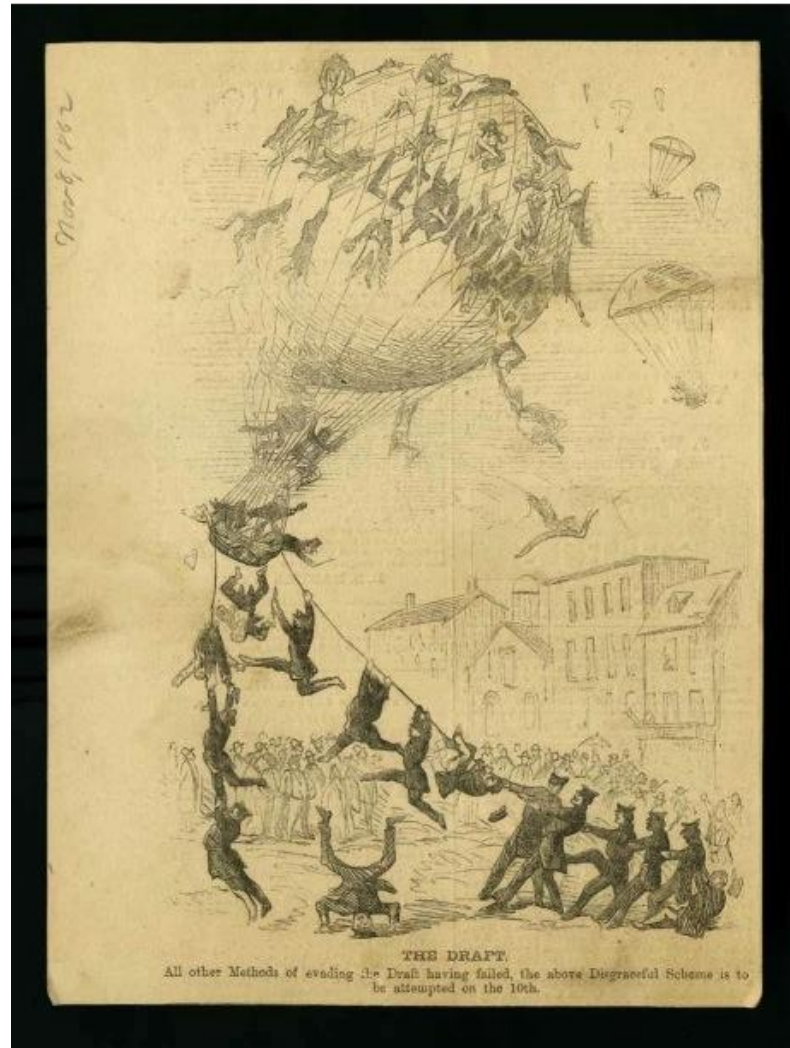
Lincoln's Last Warning (October, 1862)



The Draft (November 1862)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - Abraham Lincoln ordered a Militia Act in 1862 for 300,000 more volunteers for nine months.
 - Many were unhappy with the draft, especially immigrants, and in Wisconsin the draft had been held back several times until it was finally set for November 10th. There were rumors of unrest, yet nobody was prepared for the riot that ensued on the actual day.
 - The balloon says Leonidas, we have been unable to find an exact answer as to why the name exists so it may be left up to interpretation.
 - Possible answers are that it refers to the King of Sparta, Leonidas I, or it refers to Leonidas Polk, a confederate general.

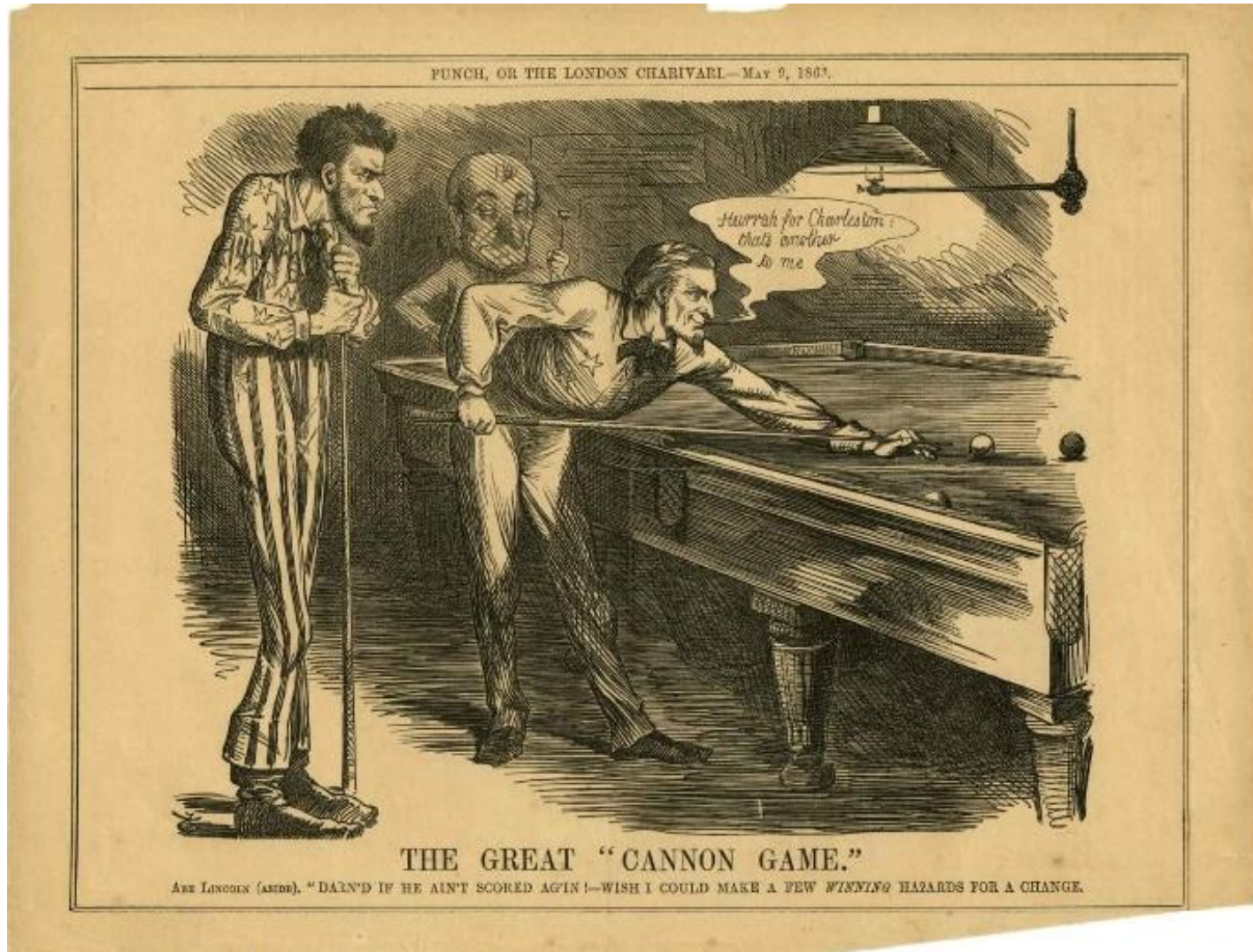
The Draft (November 1862)



The Great “Cannon Game” (May 1863)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - The Battle of Chancellorsville took place in early May 1863 where General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson led an epic win against Union forces even though they were very outnumbered.
 - To this day Jackson’s flank maneuver is studied by the military and historians. Unfortunately, Jackson died right after this cartoon was created and this was the last major win for General Lee.
 - The First Battle of Charleston Harbor took place in April 1863 where a Union Navy Ship was sunk by confederate ships and land artillery. The Union was unable to defeat the confederate forces by Navy attack at Charleston.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Hazard:** a risk or chance.

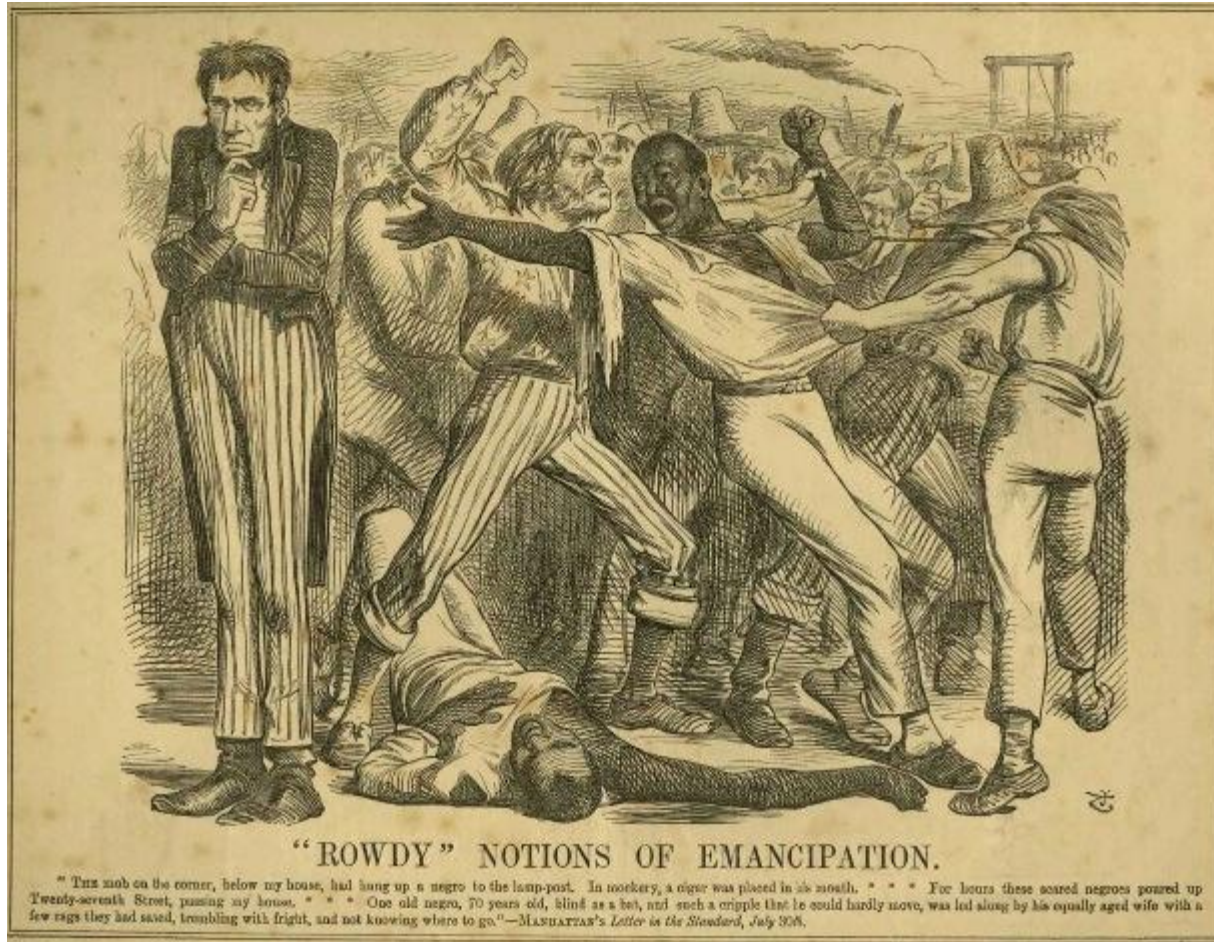
The Great "Cannon Game" (May 1863)



“Rowdy” Notions of Emancipation (July 1863)

- In order to understand this cartoon, students should know:
 - In July 1863 tensions were high in New York over the Draft as well as over jobs. Riots ensued, and over 200 free African American men were attacked.

“Rowdy” Notions of Emancipation (July 1863)



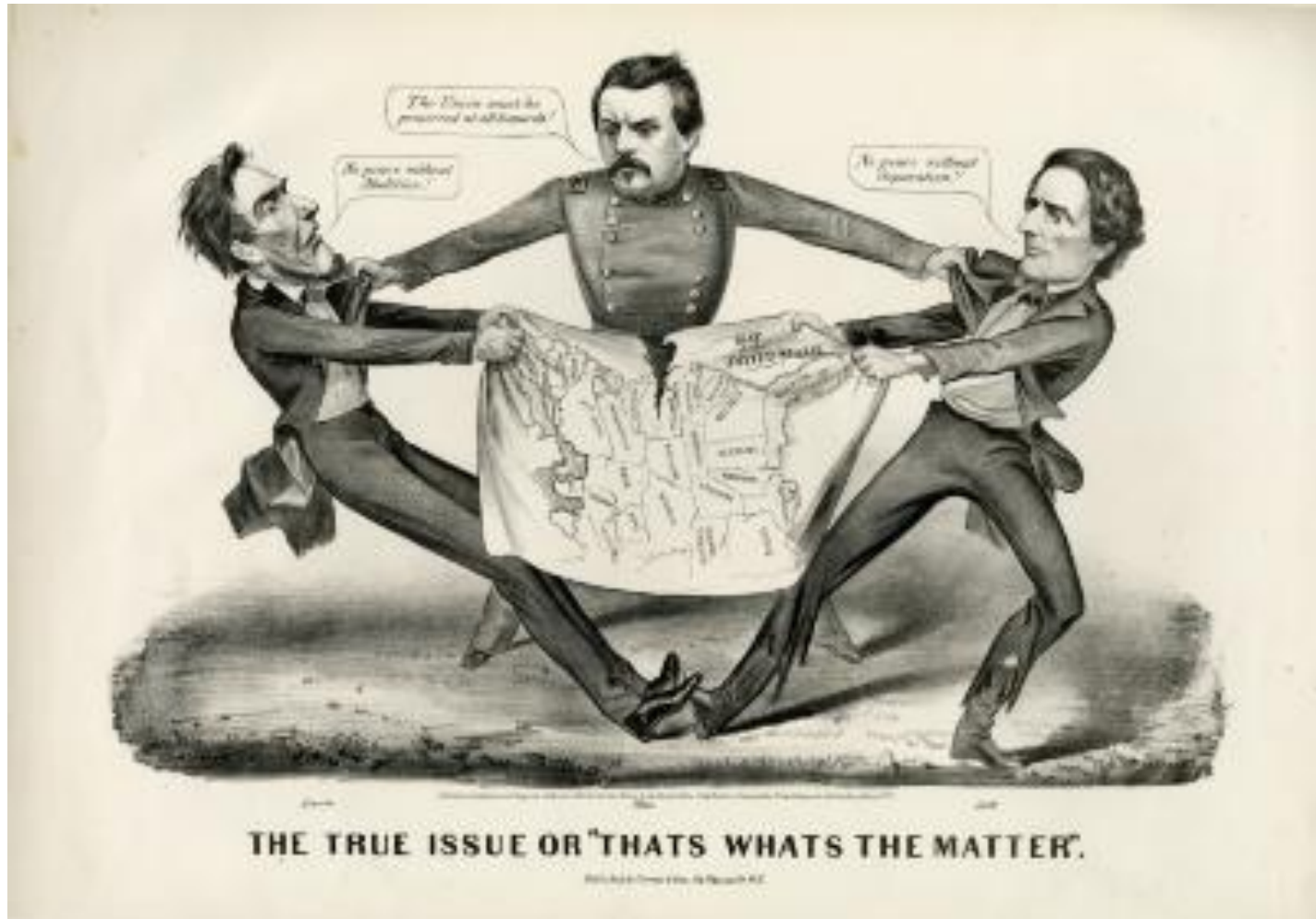
“ROWDY” NOTIONS OF EMANCIPATION.

“This mob on the corner, below my house, had hung up a negro to the lamp-post. In mockery, a cigar was placed in his mouth. * * * For hours these scared negroes poured up Twenty-seventh Street, passing my house. * * * One old negro, 70 years old, blind as a bat, and such a cripple that he could hardly move, was led along by his equally aged wife with a few rags they had saved, trembling with fright, and not knowing where to go.”—MANHATTAN'S Letter to the Standard, July 1863.

The True Issue or “That’s What’s the Matter” (1864)

- In order to understand this cartoon students should know:
 - The name Mac refers to General George McClellan, he ran for President in 1864 under the slogan of preserving the Union and not abolishing slavery.
 - Jeff, refers to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

The True Issue or "That's What's the Matter" (1864)



Slow and Steady Wins the Race (1864)

- In order to understand this cartoon students should know:
 - General George McClellan's platform was laughed at for being inconsistent. McClellan believed in a continuation of the war in order to preserve the Union including the Southern States, while his party said he would end the war immediately and negotiate a settlement with the rebel states.
 - In the cartoon he is balancing on the two "party platforms" depicted by a horse and a donkey.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Faders:** slang for fathers.

How Free Ballot is Protected (1864)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - During the 1864 election people were complaining that McClellan supporters were not getting a fair vote.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Copperheads:** Northern Democrats who wanted peace immediately.

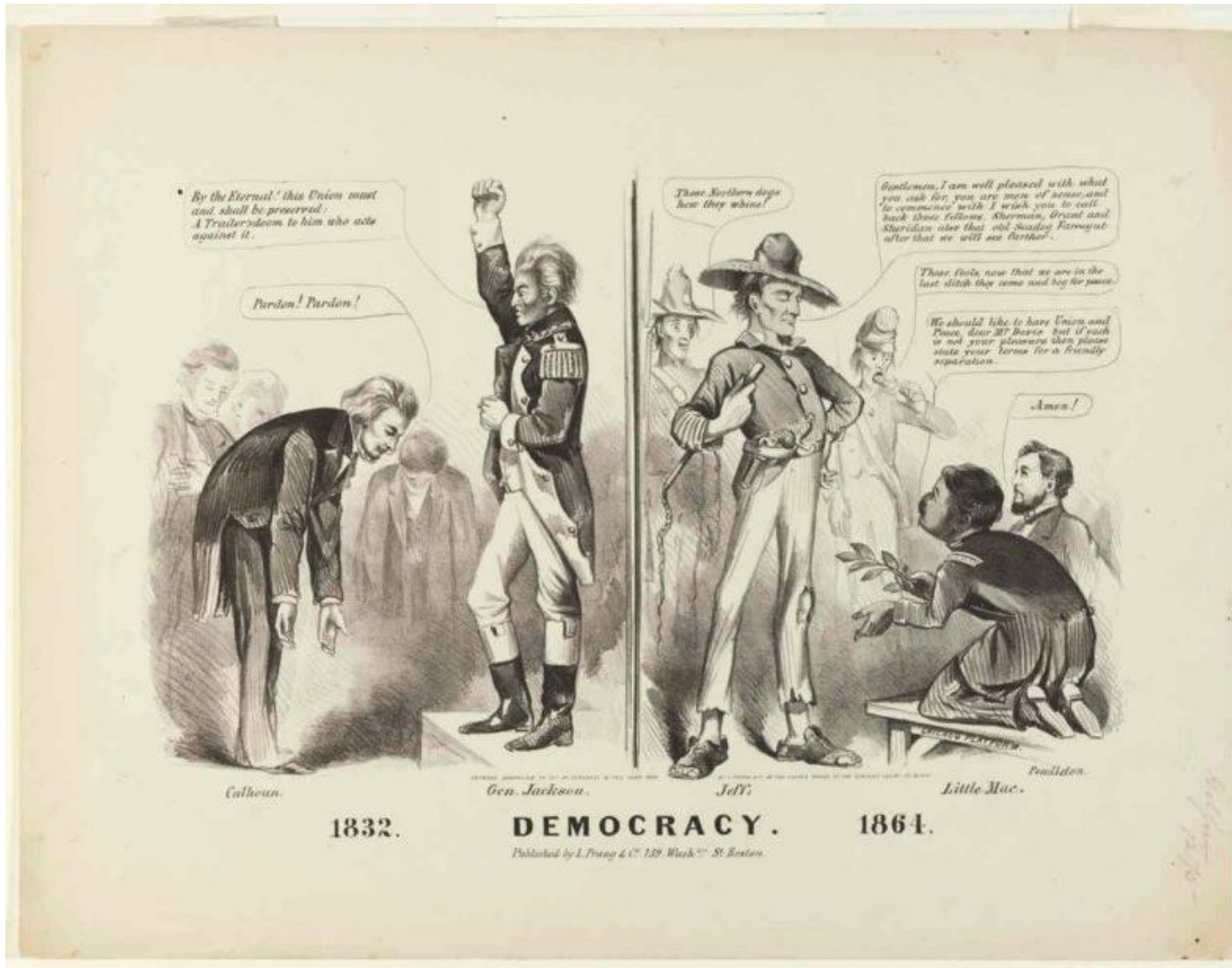
How Free Ballot is Protected (1864)



Democracy 1832, 1864 (1864)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - General Jackson refers to President Andrew Jackson who was known for his no-nonsense democracy.
 - General George McClellan was often depicted as cowardly and attempting to appease the confederate states. His nickname was Little Mac.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **John C. Calhoun:** Vice President under James Monroe and Andrew Jackson. Calhoun was from South Carolina and opposed a Tariff Law that he said favored northern states. When the Tariff was passed Calhoun threaten that South Carolina would secede from the Union and Andrew Jackson immediately sent military to South Carolina to stop it. Soon after a compromise was made.

Democracy 1832, 1864 (1864)



The Last Ditch of Chivalry, or a President in Petticoats (1865)

- In order to understand the cartoon students should know:
 - There was a 100,000 dollar reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis, and it was rumored he fled wearing his wife's overcoat as a disguise.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Yankees:** Nickname for northerners.
 - **Magnanimous:** Generous or forgiving to someone who is less powerful.

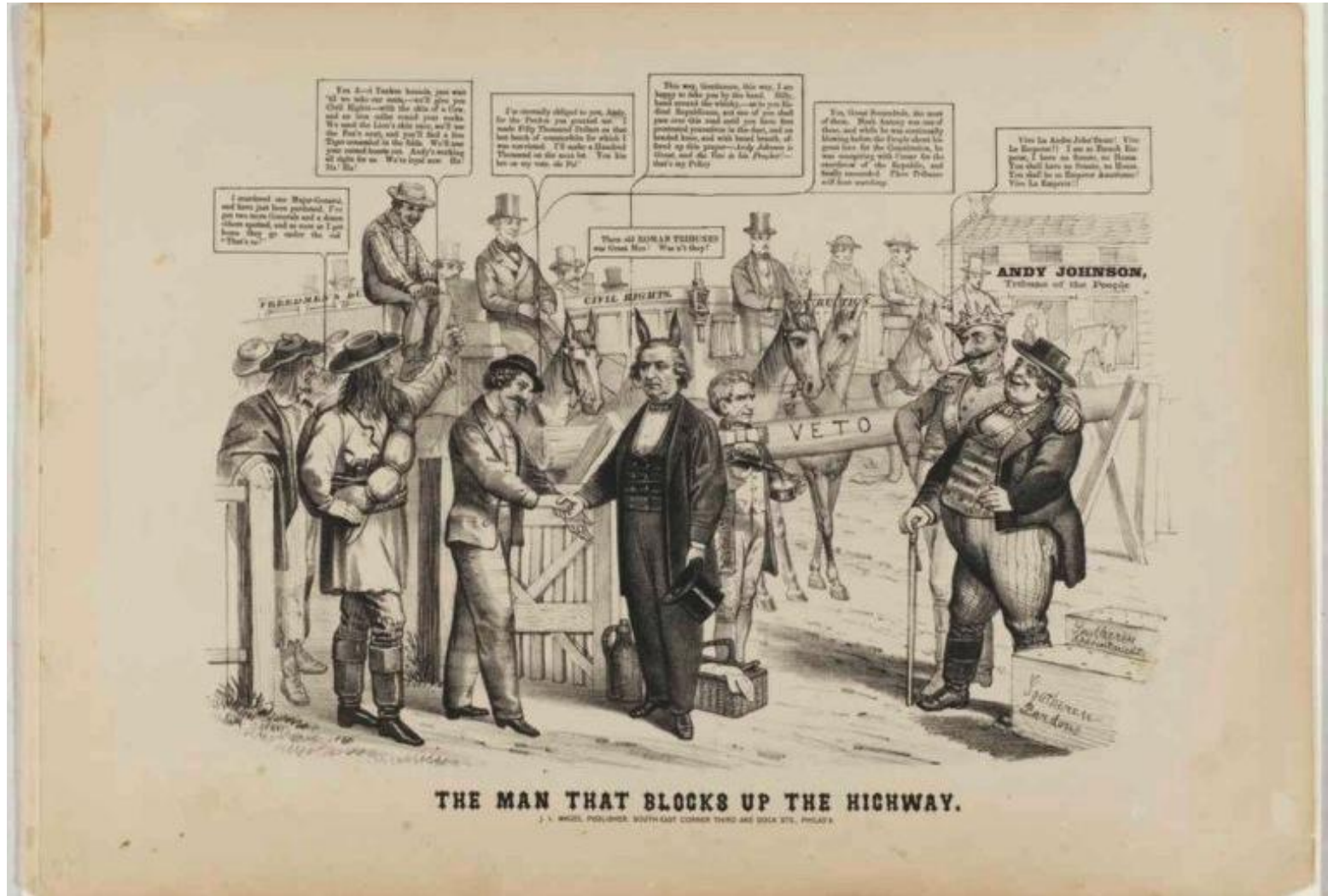
The Last Ditch of Chivalry, or a President in Petticoats (1865)



The Man That Blocks Up The Highway (1866)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - Andrew Johnson was not popular during reconstruction because he was considered too lenient against former confederates.
 - President Johnson also used his veto power to stop several bills including one that would restrict former confederate states with “black codes” from serving in the government.
- Vocabulary:
 - Black Codes: restricted newly freed slaves from having equal rights. Also, ensured that they would still be an available labor force for southern planters.

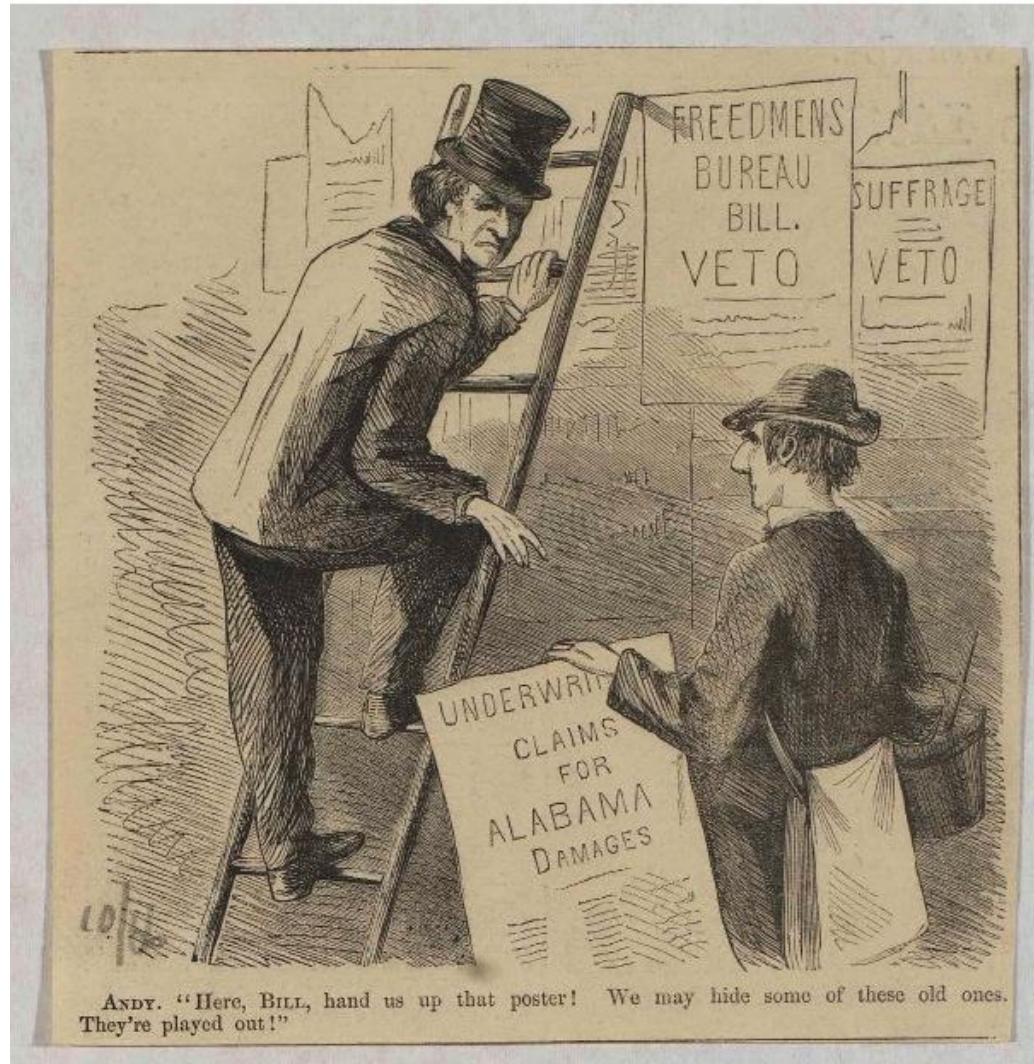
The Man That Blocks Up The Highway (1866)



Andy, “Here, Bill, hand up that poster! We may hide some of these old ones. They’re played out!”
(November, 1866)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
- President Andrew Johnson vetoed the Freedmen's Bureau Bill and the Civil Rights Bill in 1866.
- Also, in 1866 Johnson broke ties with the republicans. Following the break, in November of that year, the Republicans won control of Congress by a landslide.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Freedmen’s Bureau Bills:** meant to aid former slaves in areas such as housing and education.
 - **Civil Rights Act of 1866:** defined African Americans as equal citizens under the law.

Andy, "Here, Bill, hand up that poster! We may hide some of these old ones. They're played out!"
(November, 1866)



ANDY. "Here, BILL, hand us up that poster! We may hide some of these old ones. They're played out!"

Out on Parole – Scene – A Southern Forest (November 1868)

- In order to understand the cartoon, students should know:
 - The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was started by six confederate veterans in 1865. They were very violent against newly freed African Americans as well as carpetbaggers.
- **Vocabulary:**
 - **Carpetbaggers:** Northerners who moved South after the Civil War in order to profit from the instability in the South.

Out on Parole – Scene – A Southern Forest (November 1868)

