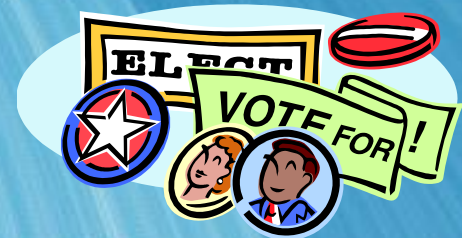
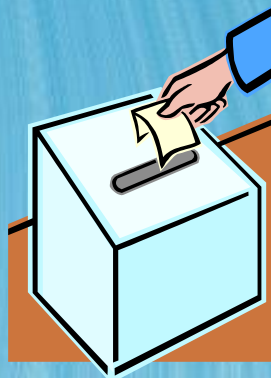


POLITICS IN THE GILDED AGE

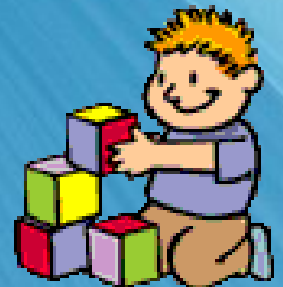
POLITICAL MACHINES

- ♦ During late 1800's, many cities run by a *Political machine*.
- ♦ This was an organized group, headed by a city **boss**, that controlled activities of a political party in a city.
- ♦ Offered services to voters & businesses in exchange for political or financial support.



GRAFT

- ♦ Many **Bosses** got rich through ***GRAFT***-the illegal use of political influence for personal gain.
- ♦ To win elections, some filled the list of eligible voters w/names of dogs, children, & the dead.

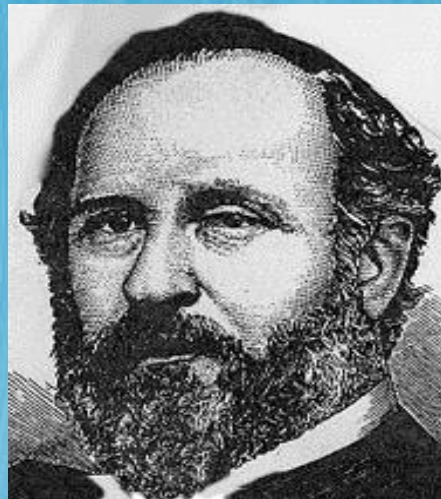


Tammany Hall



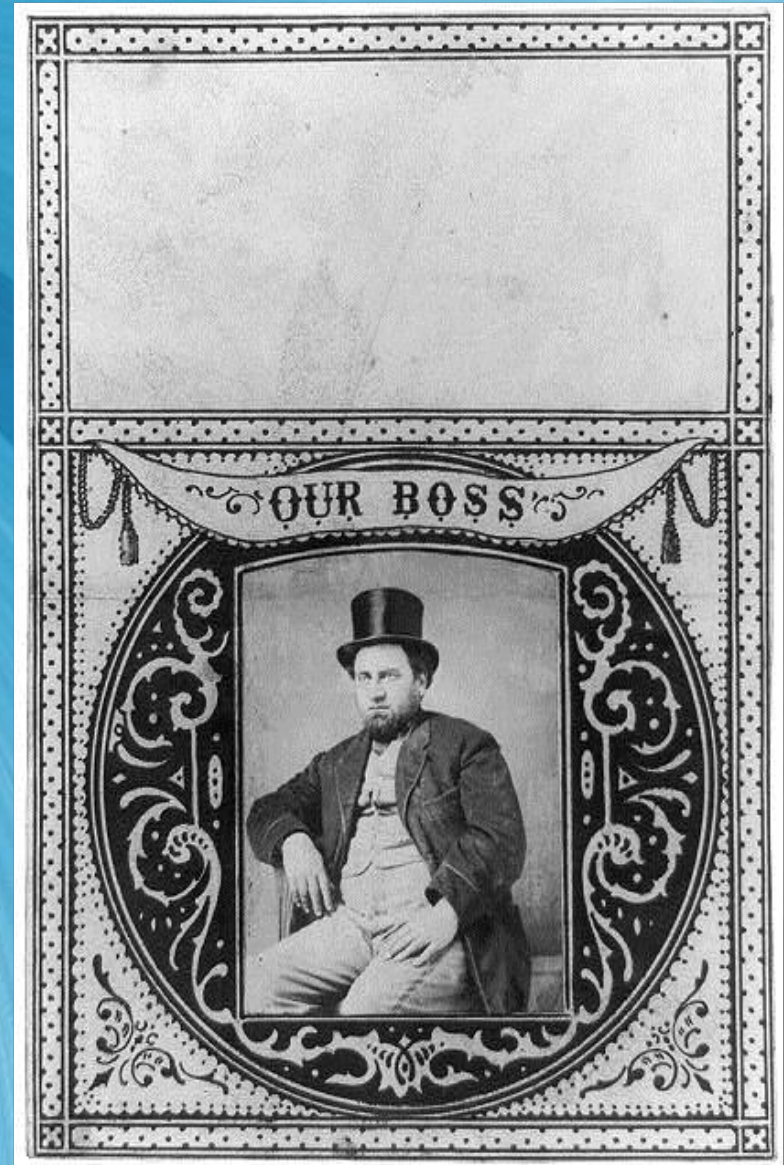
BOSS TWEED & TAMMANY HALL

- ♦ William Marcy Tweed, a.k.a. “*Boss Tweed*”, one of the most powerful political bosses.
- ♦ Became head of *Tammany Hall*, New York City’s most powerful Democratic machine.



Boss Tweed

- The record for brassiness goes to Boss William Tweed, who swindled New York out of a fortune when he headed NY's Tammany Hall in the 1860s and 1870s.
- Tweed's masterpiece of graft was a chunky three-story courthouse in Lower Manhattan originally budgeted at \$250,000. When Tweed was through, the city had spent more than \$13 million – and the building was still not finished.



Fraud!

By 1870, the Tweed ring was able to milk the city through such devices as faked leases, padded bills, false vouchers, unnecessary repairs, and overpriced goods and services bought from suppliers controlled by the ring.

Examples of the flagrant abuse of the public's money were:

- 1) 40 old chairs and three tables: \$179,792.60
(about \$2 million today)
- 2) Repairing fixtures: \$1,149,874.50 (about \$14 million today)
- 3) A plasterer's wages during a nine month period:
\$2,870,464.06 (about \$34 million today)
- 4) 30 months of advertising paid to a Tweed-controlled printing company: \$7,168,212.23 (about \$87 million today)

Thomas Nast Brings Down Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall

***The Power of the
Political Cartoon***

William Marcy Tweed known as "Boss" Tweed 1823- 1878

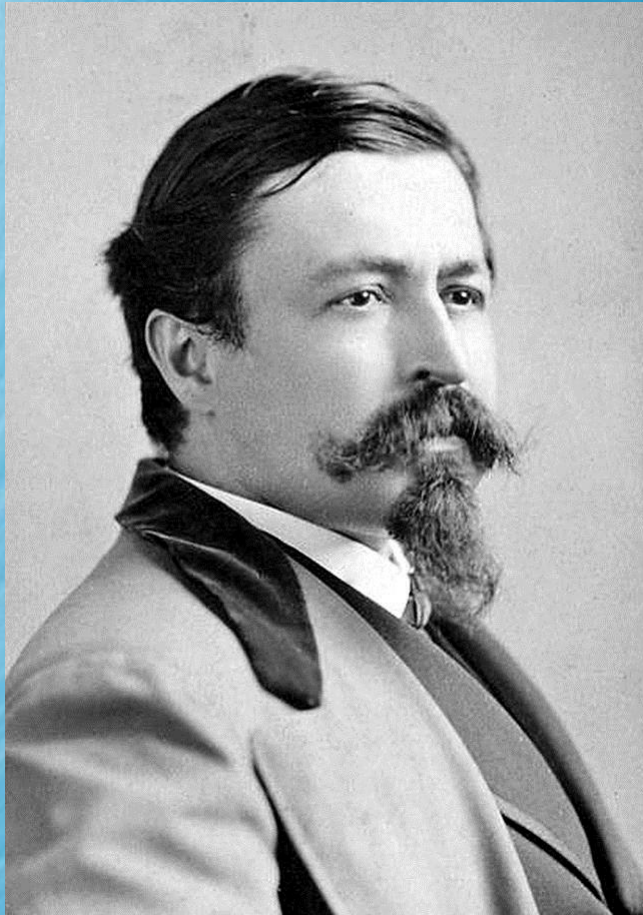


Boss Tweed was an American politician who, with his "Tweed ring" cronies, systematically plundered New York City of sums estimated at between \$30 million and \$200 million.
(that would be worth between \$365 million and \$2.4 billion today)

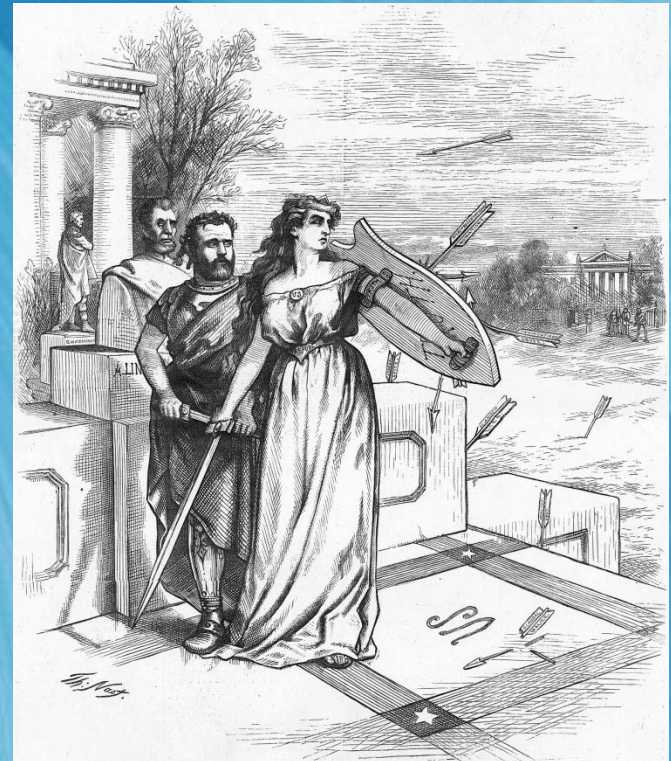
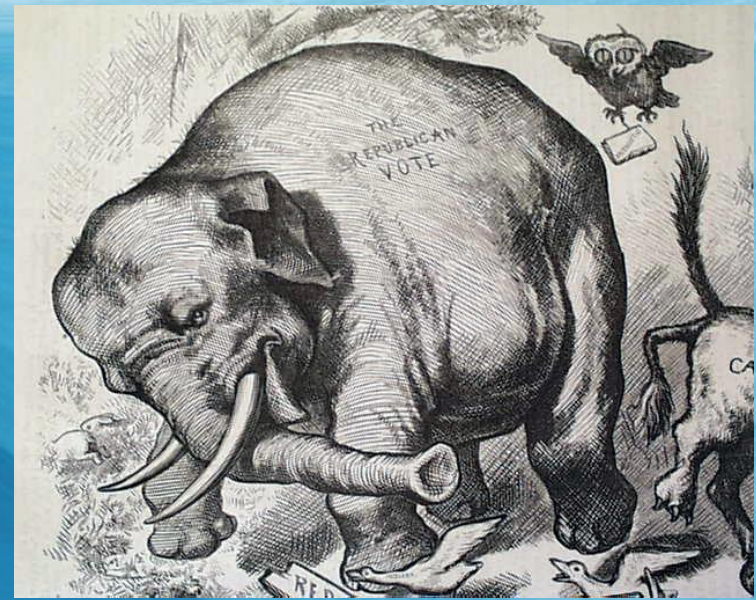


Thomas Nast 1840- 1902

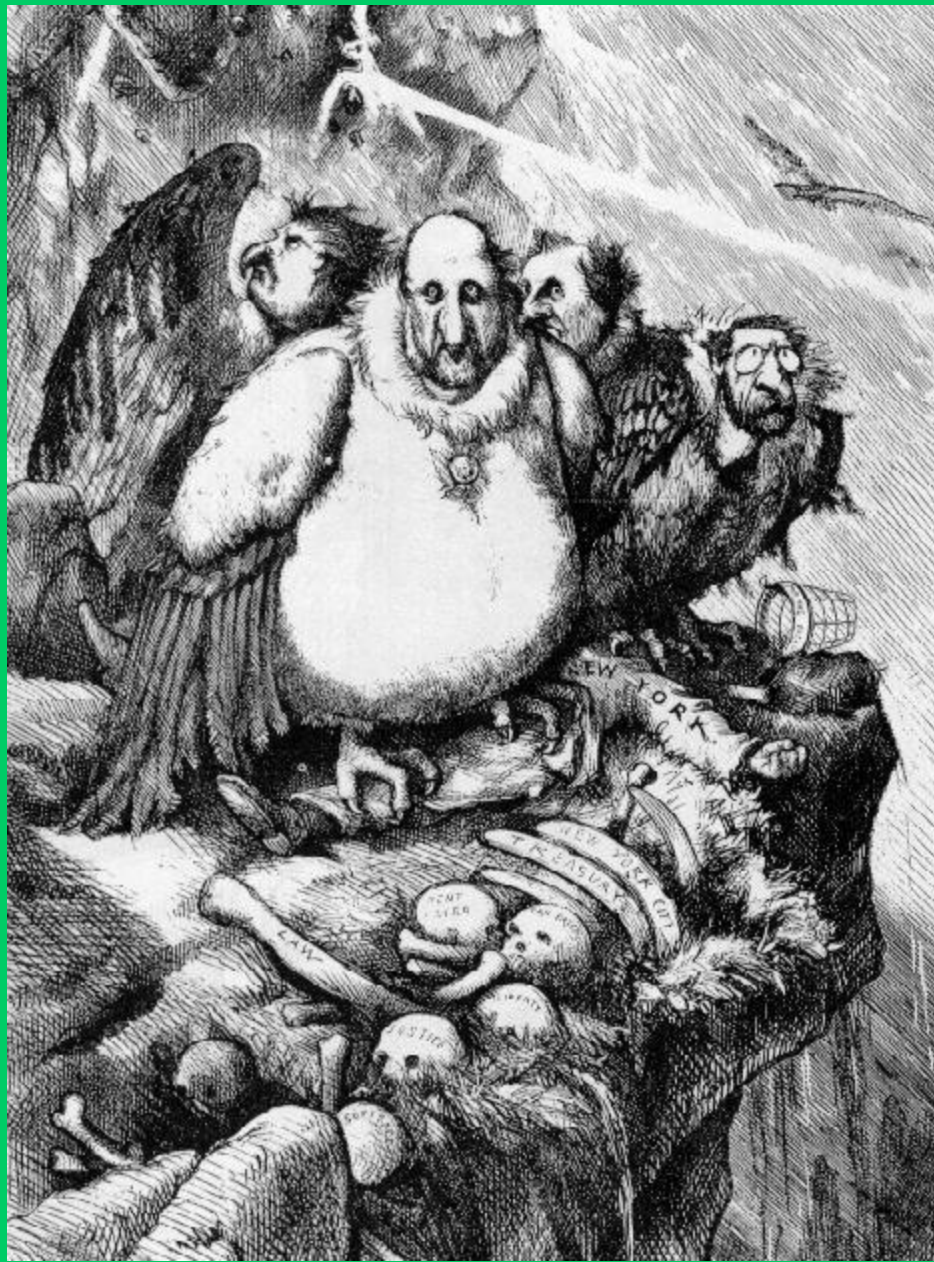
American cartoonist, best known for his attack on the political machine of William M. Tweed in New York City in the 1870s.



Many of Nast's most effective cartoons were virulent attacks on Tammany Hall, led by "Boss" Tweed. His cartoons were probably one of the chief factors in the machine's downfall. Nast's caricature of the fleeing political boss led to Tweed's identification and arrest.

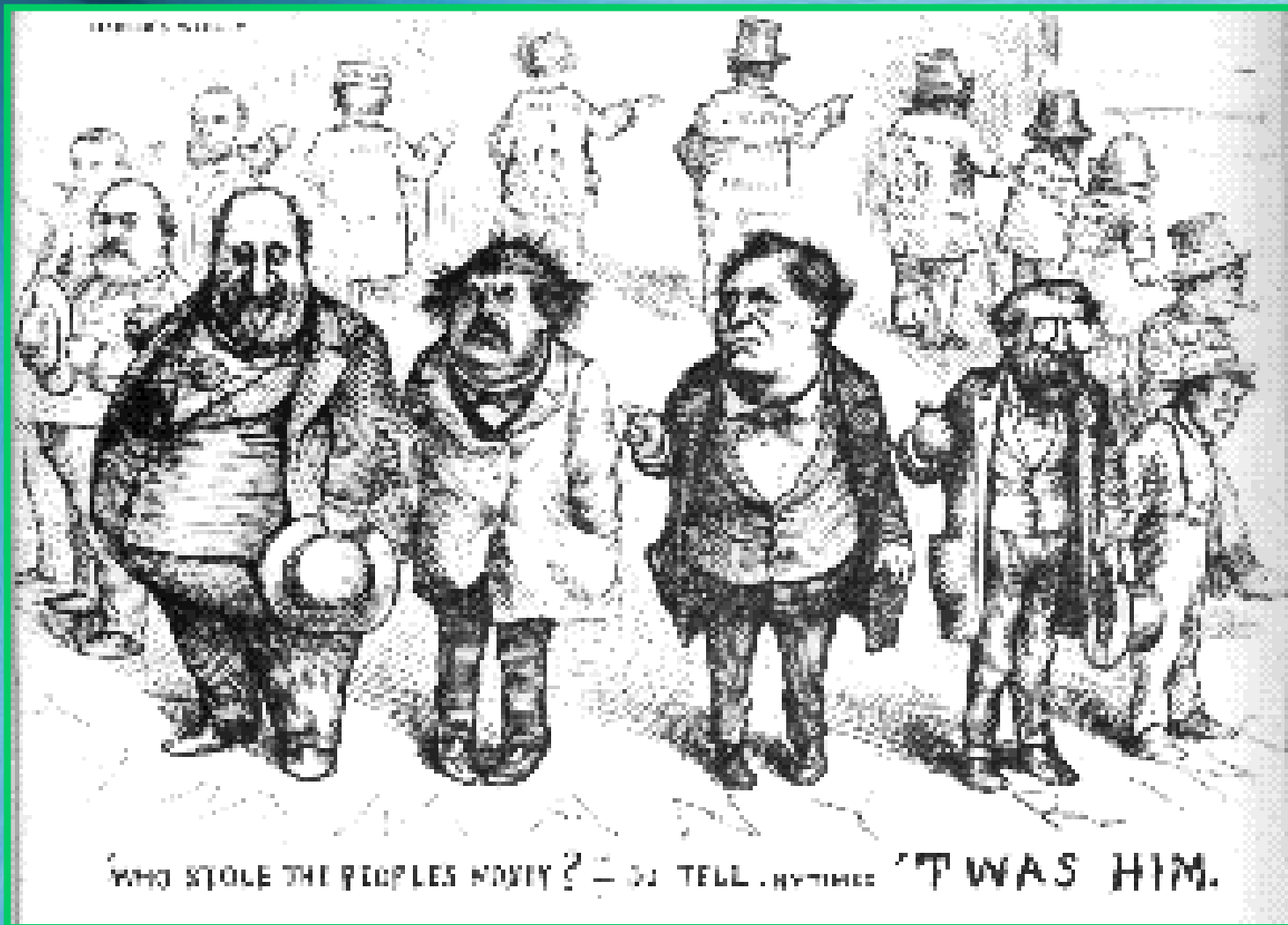






After the disclosure of some of the financial scandals, Tweed and his gang were hopeful that things would boil down. Nast made sure this would not happen when he drew: "A Group of Vultures Waiting For The Storm to 'Blow Over'"





Caption says:

“Who Stole the People’s Money? -- Do Tell. ‘TWAS HIM.”

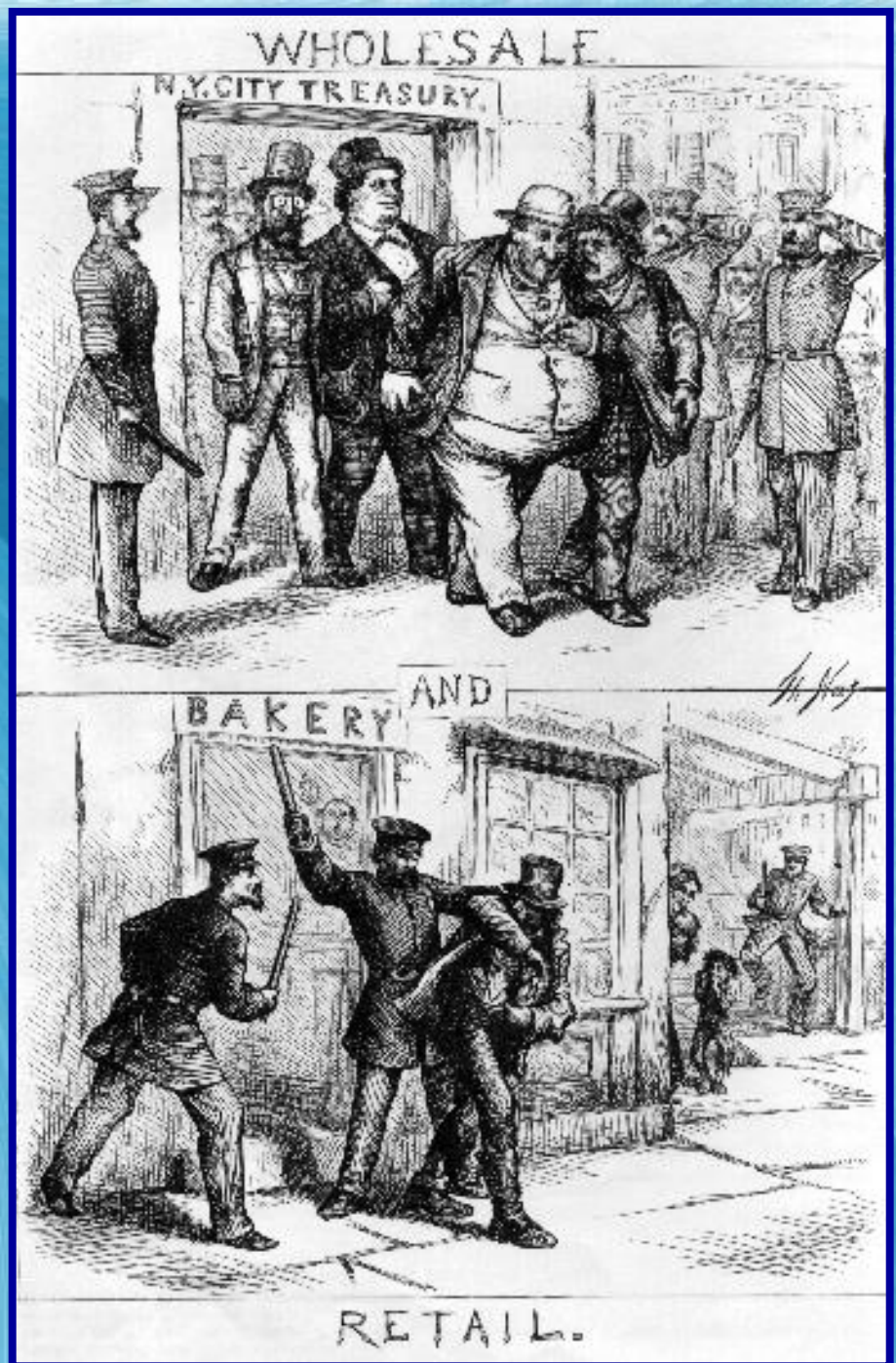
Tweed Tries to Bribe Nast

Tweed decided to buy off Nast, and sent someone to inform Nast that some admirers of his work wanted to send him to Europe to study art. When Nast, suspicious, replied that he could not possibly afford to leave his work at Harper's, the reply was that \$100,000 was set aside for him. Nast responded it would take more than that to make it worth his while. When the figure was raised to half a million, Nast said he'd rather see Tweed and his gang in jail first.

"Be careful Mr. Nast," his caller replied, "that you do not find yourself in a coffin first." Not long after that, suspicious looking characters were seen outside of Nast's home in Manhattan, so he moved his family to suburban Morristown, New Jersey.

Then followed a barrage of cartoons depicting Tweed and his gang as many thieves.

One emphasized the difference between "Wholesale and Retail Thievery."





One of Nast's most famous cartoons speaks for itself on the brains of Tammany Hall.

On the eve of the municipal **elections** in New York City in November 1871, there appeared in Harper's Weekly "**The Tammany Tiger Loose-What Are You Going to Do About It?**" considered to be one of the most powerful **political cartoons** of all time.



Caption says: "The Tammany Tiger Loose-What Are You Going to Do About It?"



All of the Tammany Ring were convicted and sent to prison, but Tweed escaped to Spain. He was later recognized, thanks to [a Nast cartoon](#). The cartoon was one Nast drew earlier showing Tweed in prison garb apprehending two small culprits while his crimes went unpunished. The Spanish police interpreted the cartoon to mean that Tweed was wanted for kidnapping and the word "[REWARD](#)" caught their eye. Tweed was extradited to the United States and reimprisoned.

Question:

How did political cartoons help put an end to the corruption of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall?

Question:

Is there a modern-day equivalent of the political cartoon?

That is, is there a popular media source that deals with politics in an honest, unflinching way?