



This engraving commemorates Henry Clay's farewell speech to the Senate on March 31, 1842, and is often considered the finest depiction of the United States Senate. Senator Clay of Kentucky appears in the left background, standing. The scene includes more than 100 likenesses that are based on individual daguerreotypes produced between 1843 and 1844 by the photographic studio of Edward Anthony. While the composite provides accurate portraits of scores of senators and distinguished Americans, the individuals depicted never appeared in the chamber at the same time. Despite such artistic license, the engraving was well received. One contemporary writer remarked, "there are persons introduced who were not there, and this is not only done with perfect propriety, but it gives the picture more the air of a historical composition, and renders it far more valuable than it would have been had the artists confined themselves to a merely slavish and mechanical accuracy."¹ The print was widely circulated and fed the public's growing appetite for inexpensive and faithful images of the country's most prominent citizens. 🌀

¹"The United States Senate Chamber," *The American Review: A Whig Journal of Politics, Literature, Art and Science* 4, no. 4 (October 1846): 431–432.



United States Senate Chamber.

Thomas Doney after James Whitehorn
Powell & Co., 1846
Mezzotint, black and white
28 x 36 inches (71.1 x 91.4 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00027.001

See appendix p. 478 for key

Senate Chamber



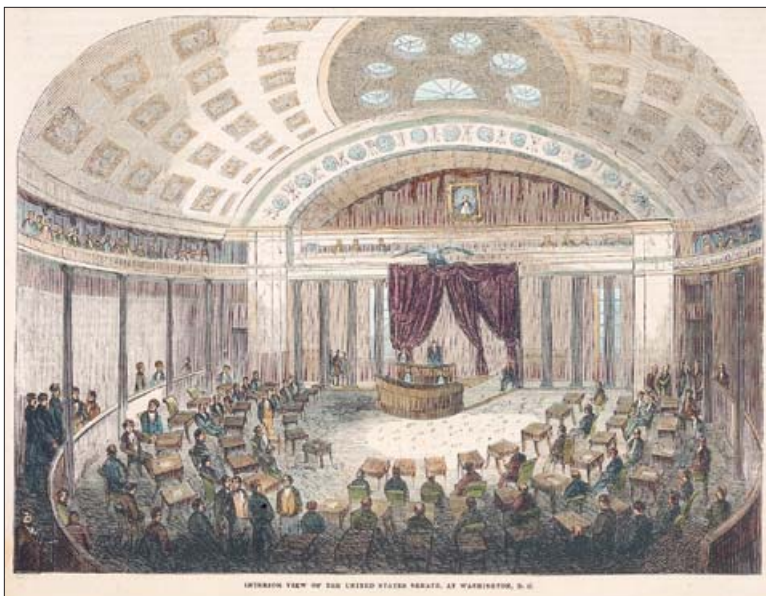
Senate Chamber

Deroy after Augustus Theodore Frederick Adam Köllner
 Goupil, Vibert & Co., 1848
 Lithograph, colored
 7 3/8 x 11 inches (18.7 x 27.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00964.001



"A Message from the President."

Unidentified
 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 01/12/1856
 Wood engraving, black and white
 4 x 3 inches (10.2 x 7.6 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00334.001b



Interior View of the United States Senate, at Washington, D.C.

Unidentified after Augustus Theodore Frederick Adam Köllner
 Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion, ca. 1852
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 7 3/16 x 9 3/8 inches (18.3 x 23.8 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00051.004



View of the Senate of the United States in Session.

J. Rodgers
 E. Anthony, ca. 1850
 Engraving, hand-colored
 5 1/8 x 6 1/4 inches (13.0 x 15.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00911.001



Opening the 2nd Session of [t]he Thirty Second Congress

Frank Leslie
The [New York] Illustrated News, 01/01/1853
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 14 ½ x 9 ½ inches (36.8 x 24.1 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00311.003



Ladies in the Senate Chamber—Reading of the President's Message.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 01/12/1856
 Wood engraving, black and white
 4 ¼ x 6 ¼ inches (10.8 x 15.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00334.001a



The Assault in the U.S. Senate Chamber on Senator Sumner.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 06/07/1856
 Wood engraving, black and white
 8 ⅝ x 9 ⅞ inches (21.9 x 23.2 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00292.003



The United States Senate, A.D. 1850, depicts the Golden Era of the Senate in the Old Senate Chamber, site of many of the institution's most historic debates and deliberations. It was in this Chamber that Henry Clay of Kentucky, the "Great Compromiser," engaged in his last significant act as a senator by introducing the Compromise of 1850. In a desperate attempt to prevent war from erupting, the "Great Triumvirate" of Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, and Clay struggled to balance the interests of the North, South, and West. This image shows all three men: Clay is at center stage presenting the compromise to the Senate, Calhoun stands third from the right, and Webster, head-in-hand, sits at the left. Peter F. Rothermel, who painted the work that served as the basis for Robert Whitechurch's engraving, used daguerreotypes to produce highly accurate portraits of the senators. By working from photographs, Rothermel produced an image with an immediacy almost as real as the event. Whitechurch attained the same quality in the engraving, which captures the spirit of the 19th-century Senate as no other print does. 🌀



The United States Senate, A.D. 1850.

Robert Whitechurch after Peter Frederick Rothermel
William Smith, 1855

Engraving, hand-colored
28 ¼ x 33 ½ inches (71.8 x 85.1 cm)

Cat. no. 38.00029.001

See appendix p. 479 for key



The United States Senate in Session in Their New Chamber.

Unidentified after John McNevin
Harper's Weekly, 12/31/1859
Wood engraving, black and white
14 x 20 ¼ inches (35.6 x 51.4 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00001.001



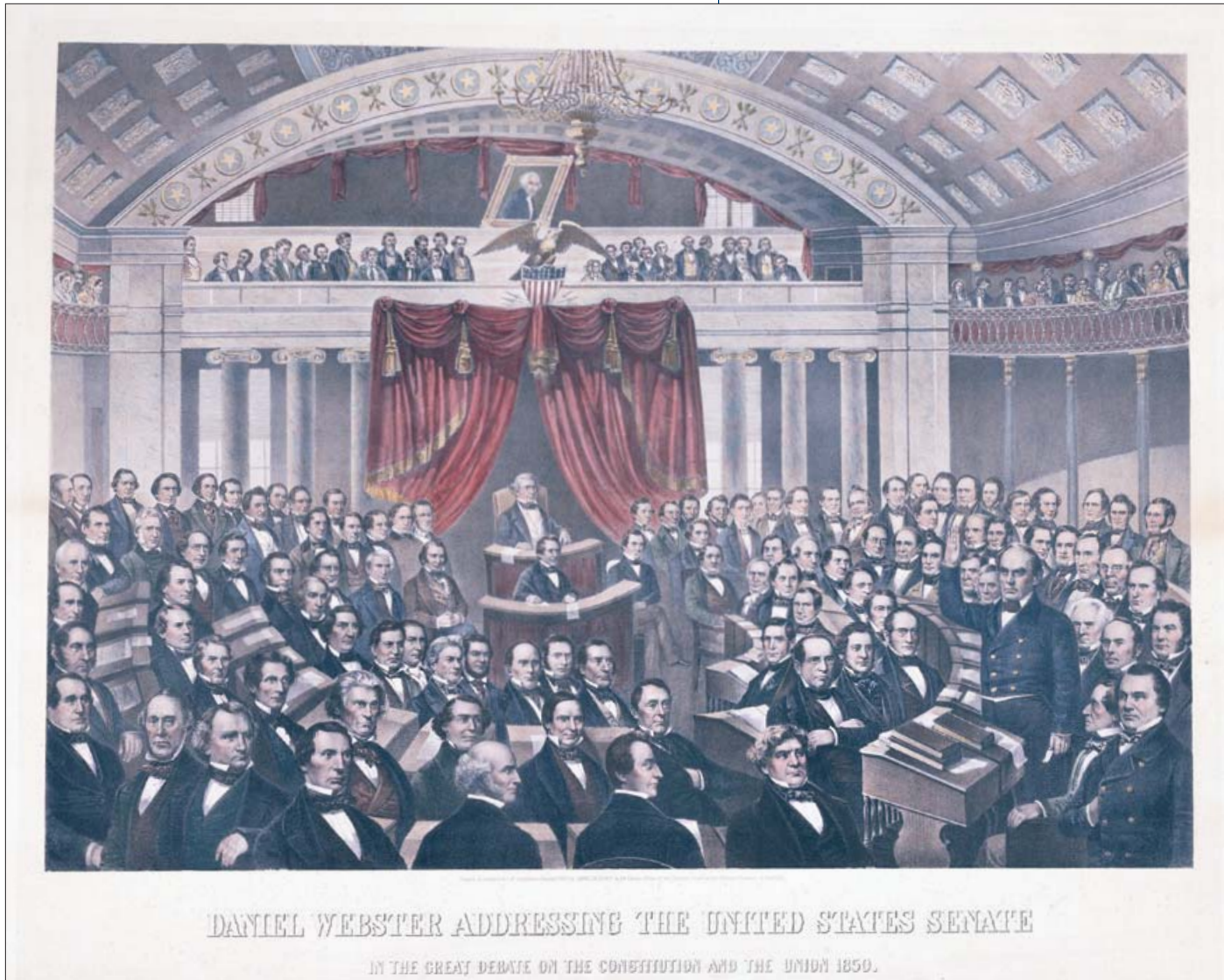
General Cass in the Senate, Washington.

Unidentified
The Illustrated London News, 09/27/1856
Wood engraving, black and white
4 ¾ x 4 ¾ inches (10.6 x 10.6 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00559.001



A Calm Debate in the United States Senate on a Point of International Maritime Law.

Unidentified after J. M. L.
Harper's Weekly, 06/12/1858
Wood engraving, black and white
15 ½ x 7 inches (39.4 x 17.8 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00526.001



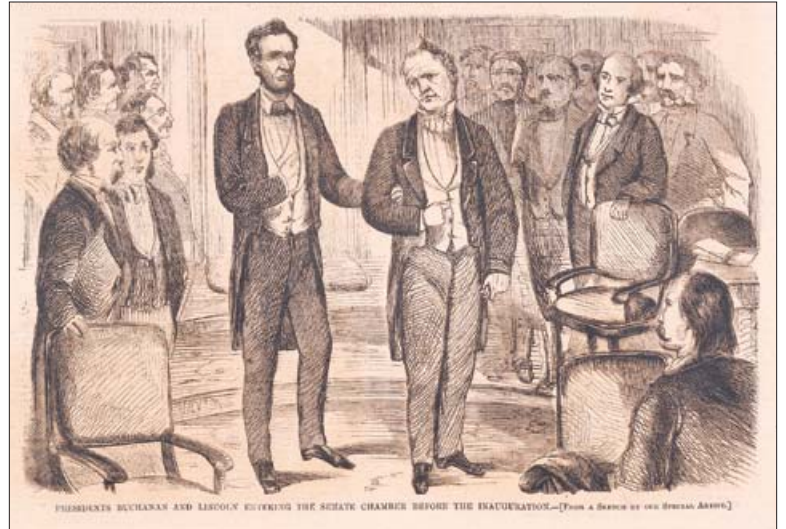
Daniel Webster Addressing the United States Senate / In the Great Debate on the Constitution and the Union 1850.

James M. Edney
Jones & Clark, 1860
Lithograph, hand-colored
25 ¼ x 29 ⅞ inches (64.1 x 75.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00016.003
See appendix p. 480 for key



The Last Hours of Congress, March, 1859.

Unidentified
Harper's Weekly, 03/12/1859
Wood engraving, black and white
15 ⅝ x 7 ¼ inches (39.7 x 18.4 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00291.001



Presidents Buchanan and Lincoln Entering the Senate Chamber before the Inauguration.

Unidentified
Harper's Weekly, 03/16/1861
Wood engraving, black and white
7 7/8 x 9 inches (20.0 x 22.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00180.001



Senate Chamber, (in U.S. Capitol.)

Bell and Brothers
Bell and Brothers, 1867
Photograph, black and white
2 7/8 x 6 3/16 inches (7.3 x 15.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00129.001



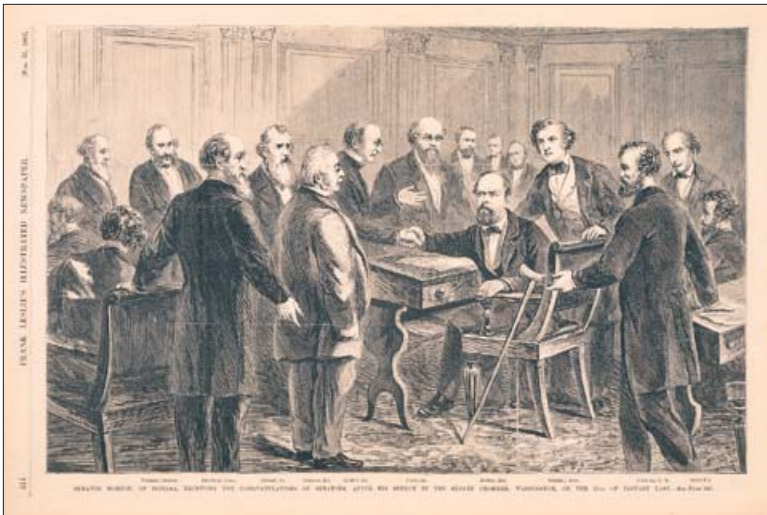
The Gentlemen's Gallery in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C.

Albert Berghaus after Edward Jump
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 02/01/1868
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 6¹⁵/₁₆ x 9¹/₁₆ inches (17.6 x 23.0 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00090.001b



The Ladies' Gallery in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C.

Albert Berghaus after Edward Jump
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 02/01/1868
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 5 x 9³/₈ inches (12.7 x 23.8 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00090.001a



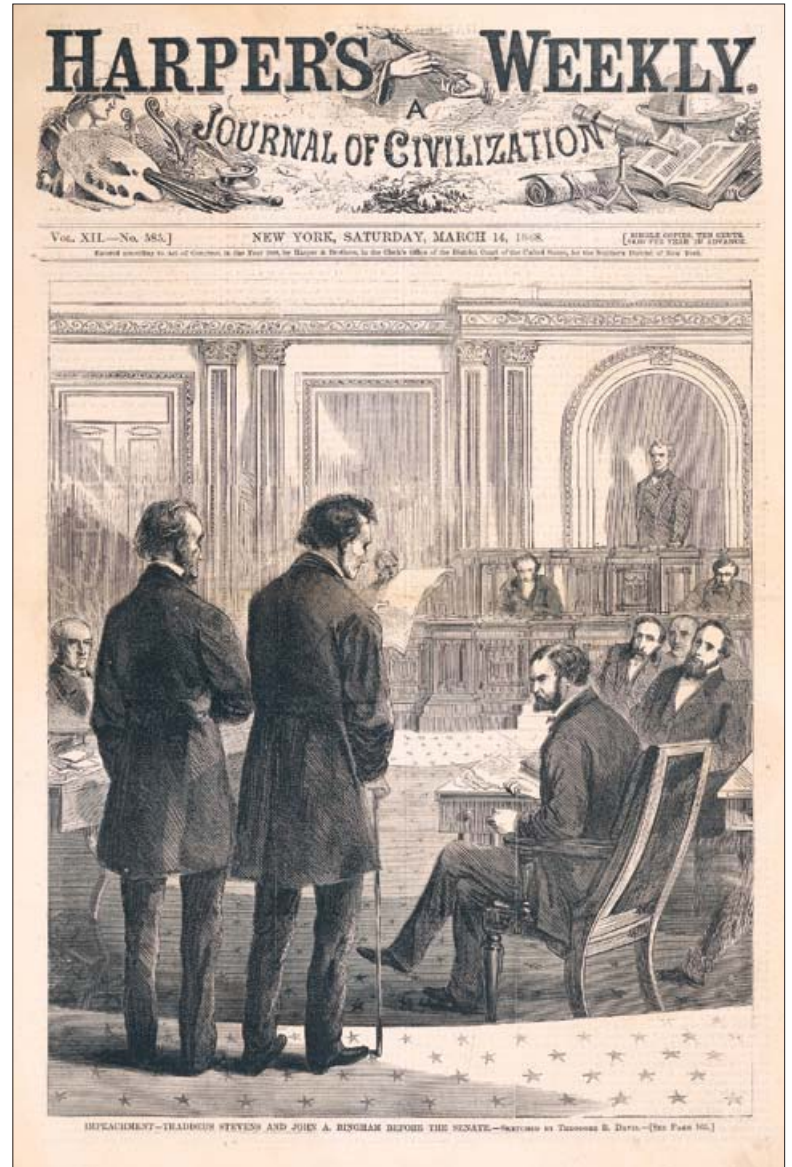
Senator Morton, of Indiana, Receiving the Congratulations of Senators, after His Speech in the Senate Chamber, Washington, on the 24th of January Last.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 02/15/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
9 3/8 x 14 1/16 inches (23.8 x 35.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00338.001



Formal Notice of the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson, by the House Committee, Thaddeus Stevens and John A. Bingham, at the Bar of the Senate, Washington, D.C. on the 25th Feb.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/14/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
9 3/4 x 14 1/8 inches (24.8 x 35.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00156.002



Impeachment—Thaddeus Stevens and John A. Bingham before the Senate.

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis
Harper's Weekly, 03/14/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
11 3/8 x 9 1/8 inches (28.9 x 23.2 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00310.001



The House Committee of Impeachment Managers in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., on the 4th Inst.—John A. Bingham, Chairman, Reading the Articles of Impeachment.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/21/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7½ x 9⅜ inches (19.1 x 23.8 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00339.001



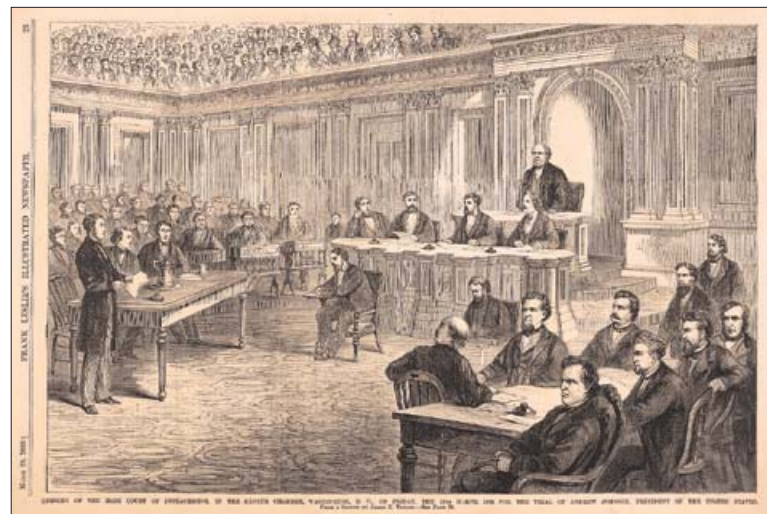
Chief Justice Chase, as President of the Court of Impeachment, Administering the Oath to Senator Wade, in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., on the 6th March.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/28/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7⅜ x 9⅞ inches (18.7 x 24.0 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00337.001a



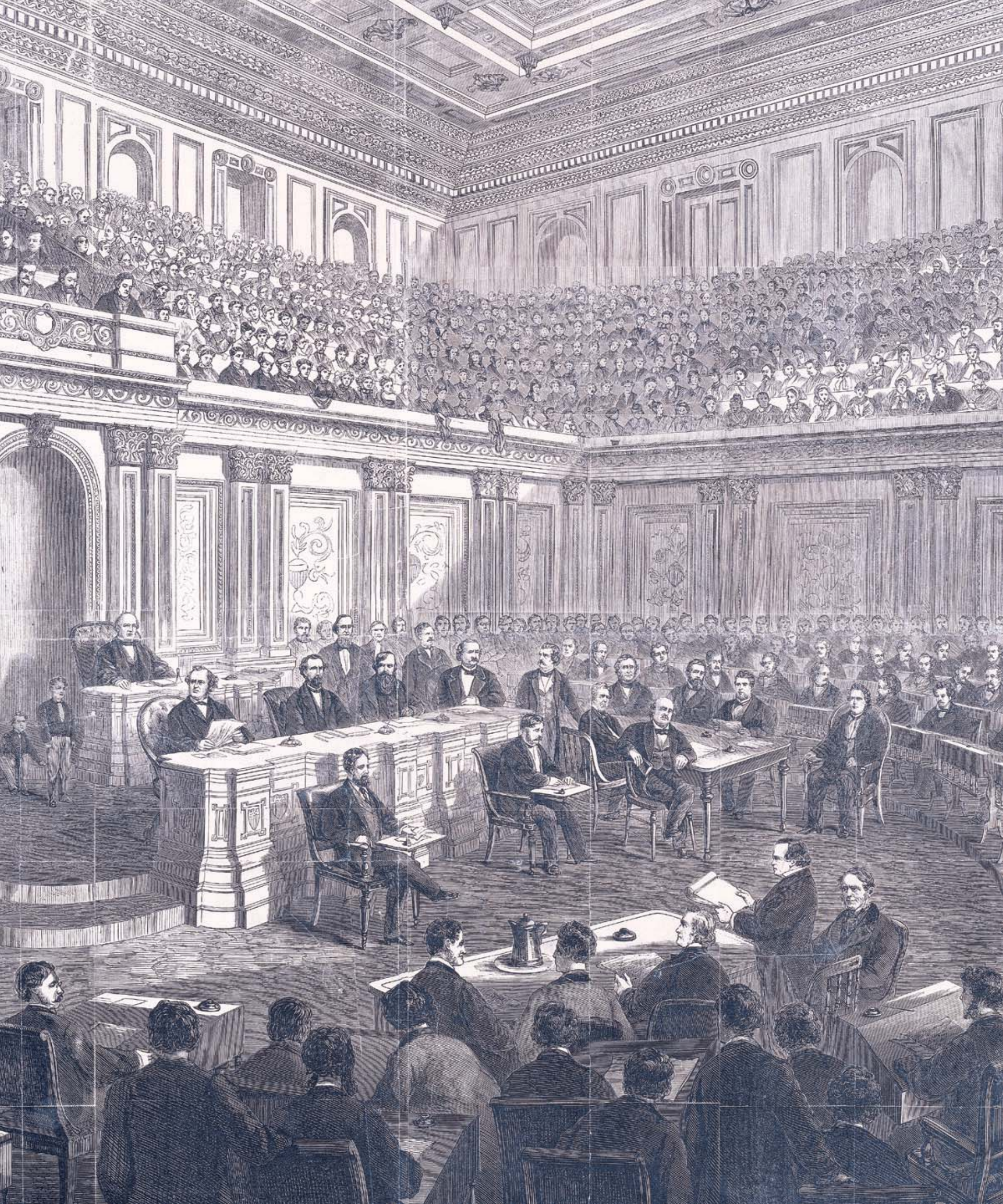
Scene in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., during the Withdrawal of the Senators for Secret Consultation, on the Opening Day of the Court of Impeachment.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 04/04/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9½ x 14 inches (24.1 x 35.6 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00390.001



Opening of the High Court of Impeachment, in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., on Friday, the 13th March, 1868, for the Trial of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/28/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9¾ x 14⅛ inches (24.8 x 35.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00290.002



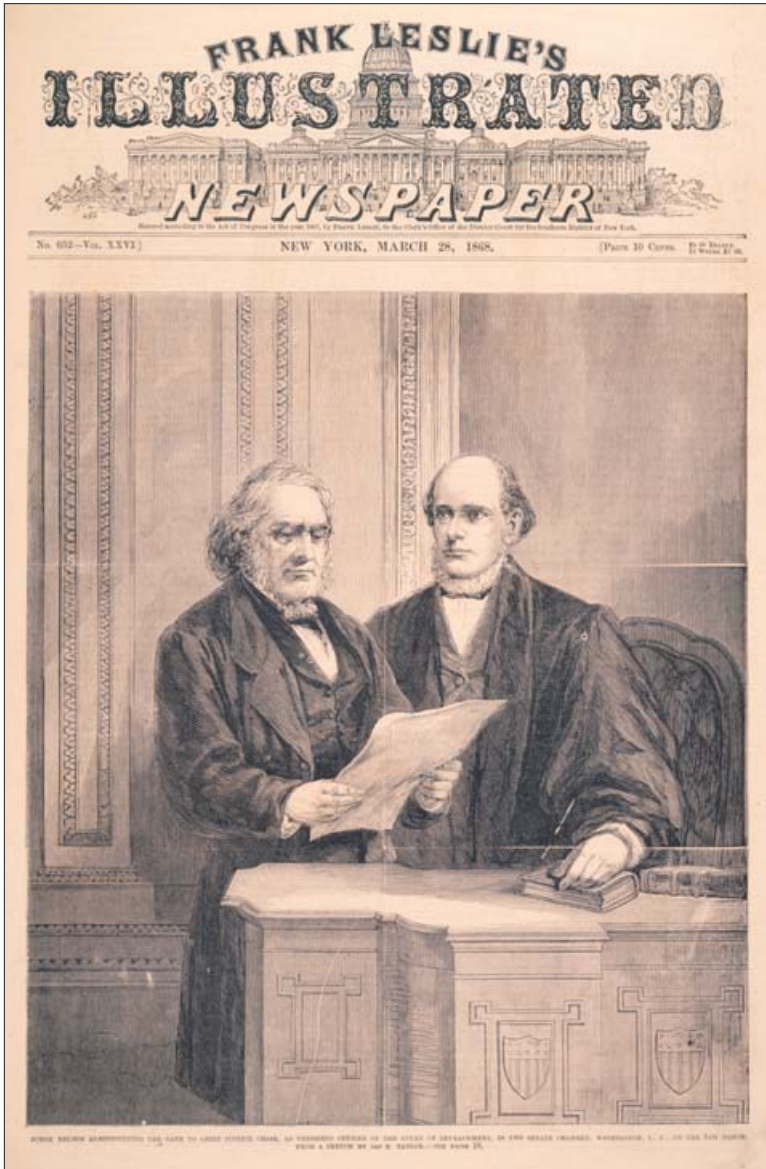
The dramatic impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson captivated the nation for two months in 1868. With the chief justice of the United States presiding in the Senate Chamber, the debate focused on the legality of Johnson's actions in removing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in defiance of the Tenure of Office Act. Although the Senate was largely opposed to the president—voting 35 to 19 on three of the articles of impeachment—it failed by one vote the two-thirds majority necessary for conviction. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* declared that this engraving of the Senate as the High Court of Impeachment “will be a most desirable acquisition to every household in the land, not only as a work of art, but as a memento of one of the most remarkable and important episodes in the history of the Republic. It should be framed and kept as an heirloom in every family that regards with interest the national destiny; for the time will come when, to future generations, this picture will tell, more eloquently than written words, its story of a crisis, the results of which none can now foresee in the experiment of republicanism, that is now passing, perhaps, its most trying ordeal.”¹ 🌀

¹“Our Picture of the High Court of Impeachment,” *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 11 April 1868, 1.



The High Court of Impeachment, in Session in the U.S. Senate Chamber, at Washington, D.C., for the Trial of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States—Benjamin R. Curtis, Esq., of Counsel for the President, Reading the Answer to the Articles of Impeachment, on Monday, March 23d, 1868.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 04/11/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 21 x 30 1/4 inches (53.3 x 76.8 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00191.001



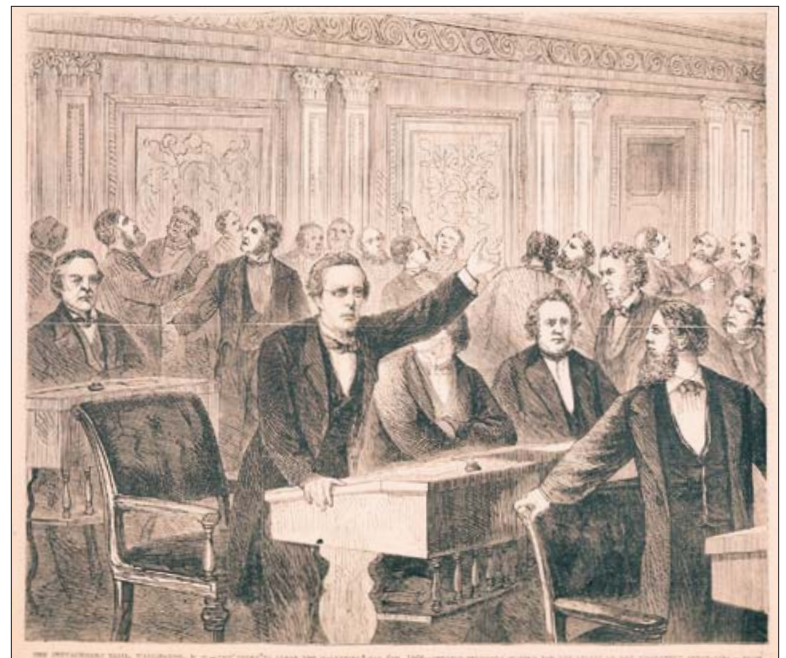
Judge Nelson Administering the Oath to Chief Justice Chase, as Presiding Officer of the Court of Impeachment, in the Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., on the 5th March.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/28/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
11 ¼ x 9 ⅞ inches (28.6 x 24.0 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00379.001



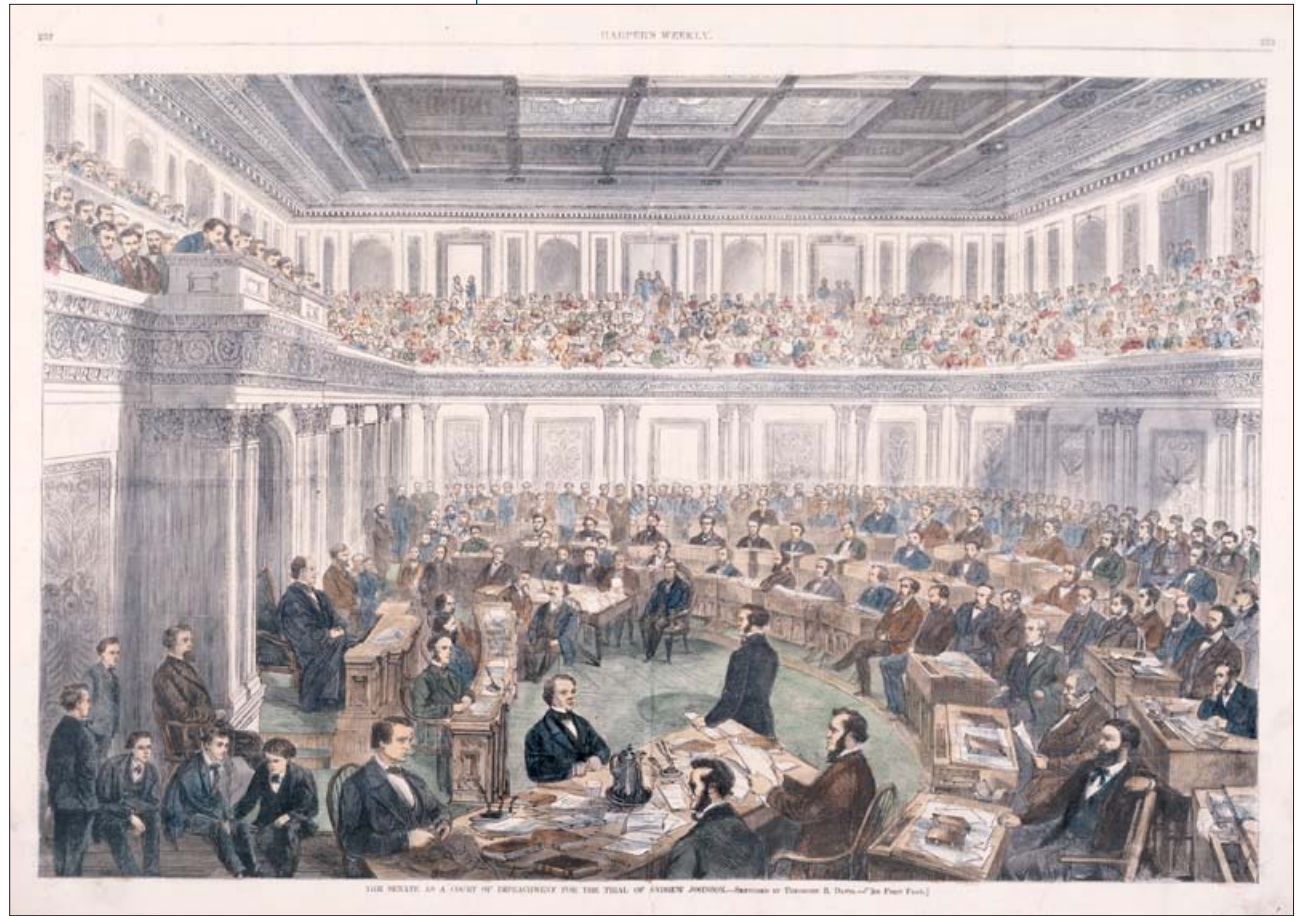
Swearing in a Witness at the Impeachment Trial—Colonel Forney, Secretary of the Senate, Administering the Oath to Gen. W. H. Emory, as a Witness of the Managers, Thursday, 2nd Inst.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 04/18/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
7 ¼ x 14 ¼ inches (18.4 x 36.2 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00383.001



The Impeachment Trial, Washington, D.C.—The Order to Clear the Galleries, May 6th, 1868—Senator Trumbull Moving for the Arrest of the Disorderly Spectators.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 05/23/1868
Wood engraving, black and white
8 ⅝ x 9 ⅜ inches (21.1 x 23.8 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00529.001



The Senate as a Court of Impeachment for the Trial of Andrew Johnson.

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis
Harper's Weekly, 04/11/1868
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 13 3/4 x 20 1/2 inches (34.9 x 52.1 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00024.005



Taking the Vote on the Impeachment of President Johnson, Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C., May 16th, 1868.—Senator Ross, of Kansas, Voting "Not Guilty."

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 06/06/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7 3/16 x 9 7/16 inches (18.6 x 24.0 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00378.001a



The Andrew Johnson impeachment trial began on March 30, 1868, and lasted almost two months. The illustrated papers sent scores of “special artists” to Washington, D.C., to keep the public informed of these historic proceedings. Aside from being one of the most dramatic events in Senate history, the trial was the focus of the city’s social season. Only holders of numbered and dated tickets could enter the Senate galleries. *Harper’s Weekly* reported that “the most lovely as well as the most distinguished ladies of Washington have been in daily attendance.”¹ Police officers were stationed at the doors to hold back the crowd, which was “continually asking questions, making appeals, and muttering threats.” On May 6, when Representative John Bingham finished summarizing the prosecution’s case, spectators caused such an uproar that the sergeant at arms was forced to clear the galleries. As reported in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, “the clapping of hands, the waving of handkerchiefs, the tumult of excited approbation, presented a scene not often associated with the history of parliamentary proceedings.”² 🌀

¹“The Impeachment Trial,” *Harper’s Weekly*, 18 April 1868, 244.

²“The Impeachment Trial, Washington, D.C.—Remarkable Scene in the U.S. Senate, May 6th,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, 23 May 1868, 151.



The Ladies’ Gallery of the Senate during the Impeachment Trial.

William S.L. Jewett
Harper’s Weekly, 04/18/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9 1/16 x 13 1/16 inches (23.0 x 34.8 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00086.002



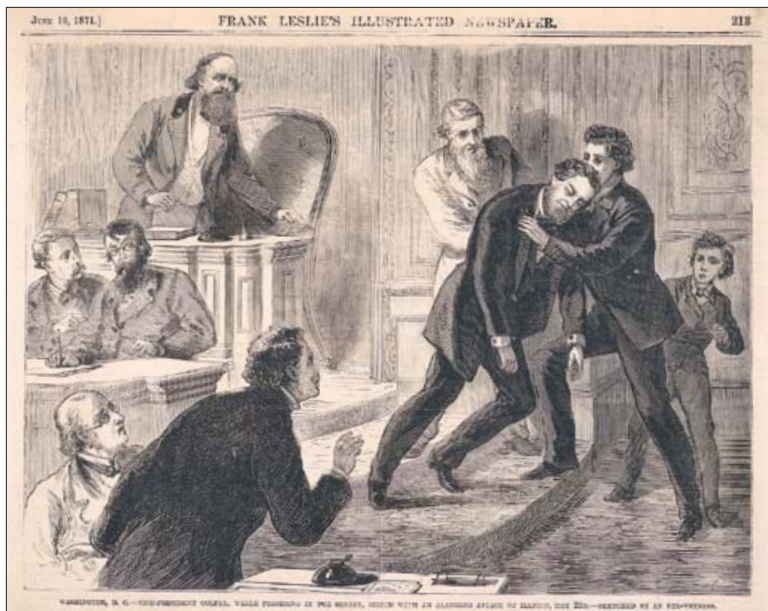
The Impeachment Trial, Washington, D.C.—Remarkable Scene in the United States Senate, May 6th —The Audience in the Galleries Applauding at the Close of Manager Bingham’s Speech.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, 05/23/1868
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9 5/8 x 14 1/4 inches (24.4 x 36.2 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00365.001



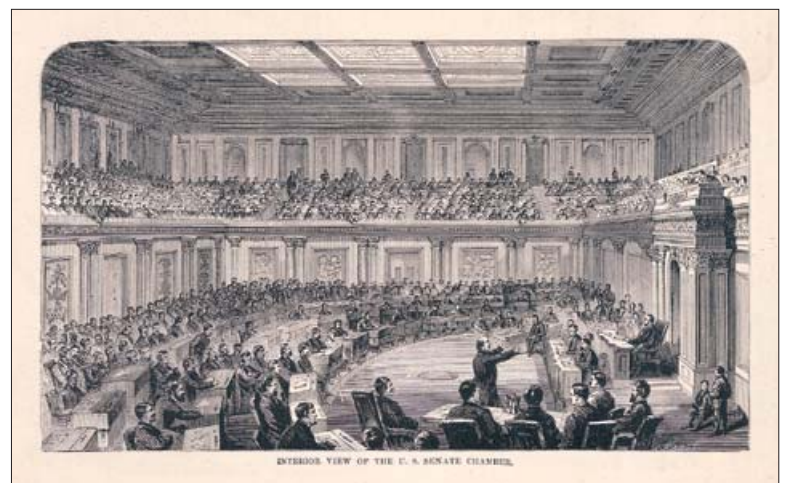
The Senate of the United States.

Unidentified
Every Saturday, 02/11/1871
Wood engraving, black and white
12 1/2 x 18 1/2 inches (31.8 x 47.0 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00003.002



Washington, D.C.—Vice-President Colfax, While Presiding in the Senate, Seized with an Alarming Attack of Illness, May 22d.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 06/10/1871
Wood engraving, black and white
7 3/16 x 9 1/8 inches (18.3 x 23.2 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00381.001



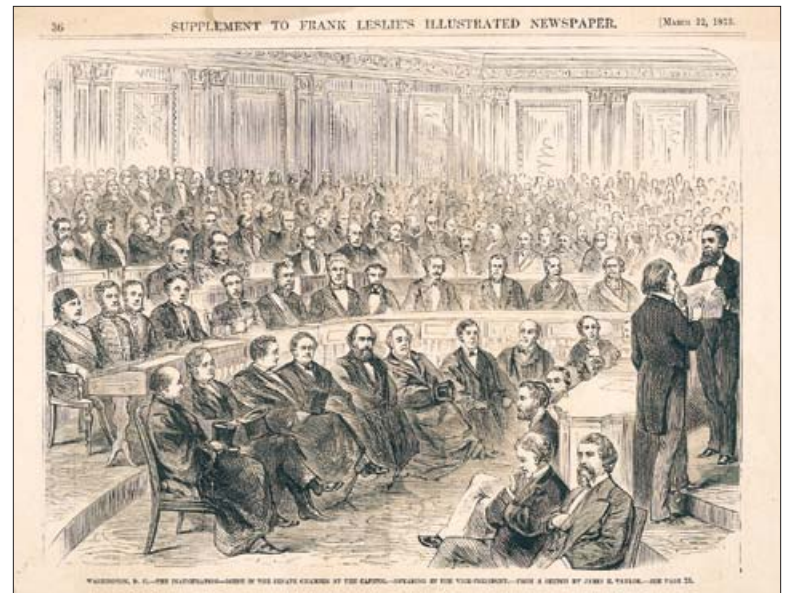
Interior View of the U.S. Senate Chamber.

Unidentified after John Karst
Unidentified, ca. 1872
Wood engraving, black and white
4 x 6 11/16 inches (10.2 x 17.0 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00690.001



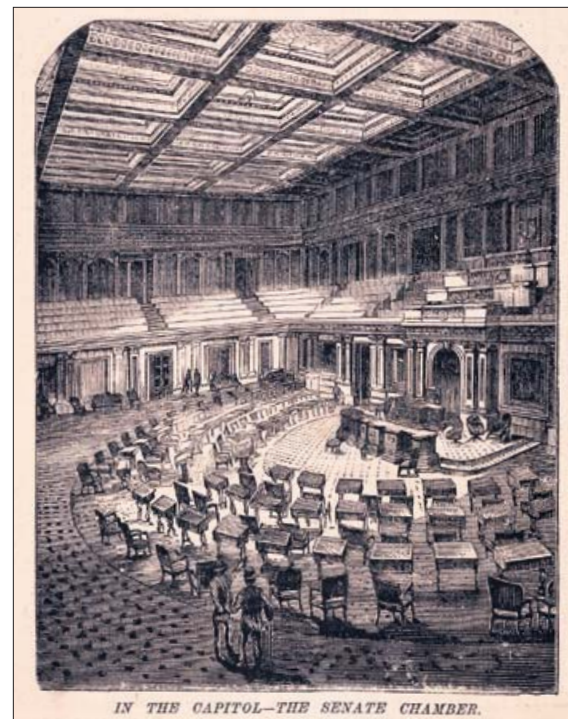
Vice-President Wade Administering the Oath to Schuyler Colfax.

Unidentified after Alfred R. Waud
Harper's Weekly, 03/20/1869
 Wood engraving, black and white
 11 1/8 x 9 1/16 inches (28.3 x 23.0 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00394.002



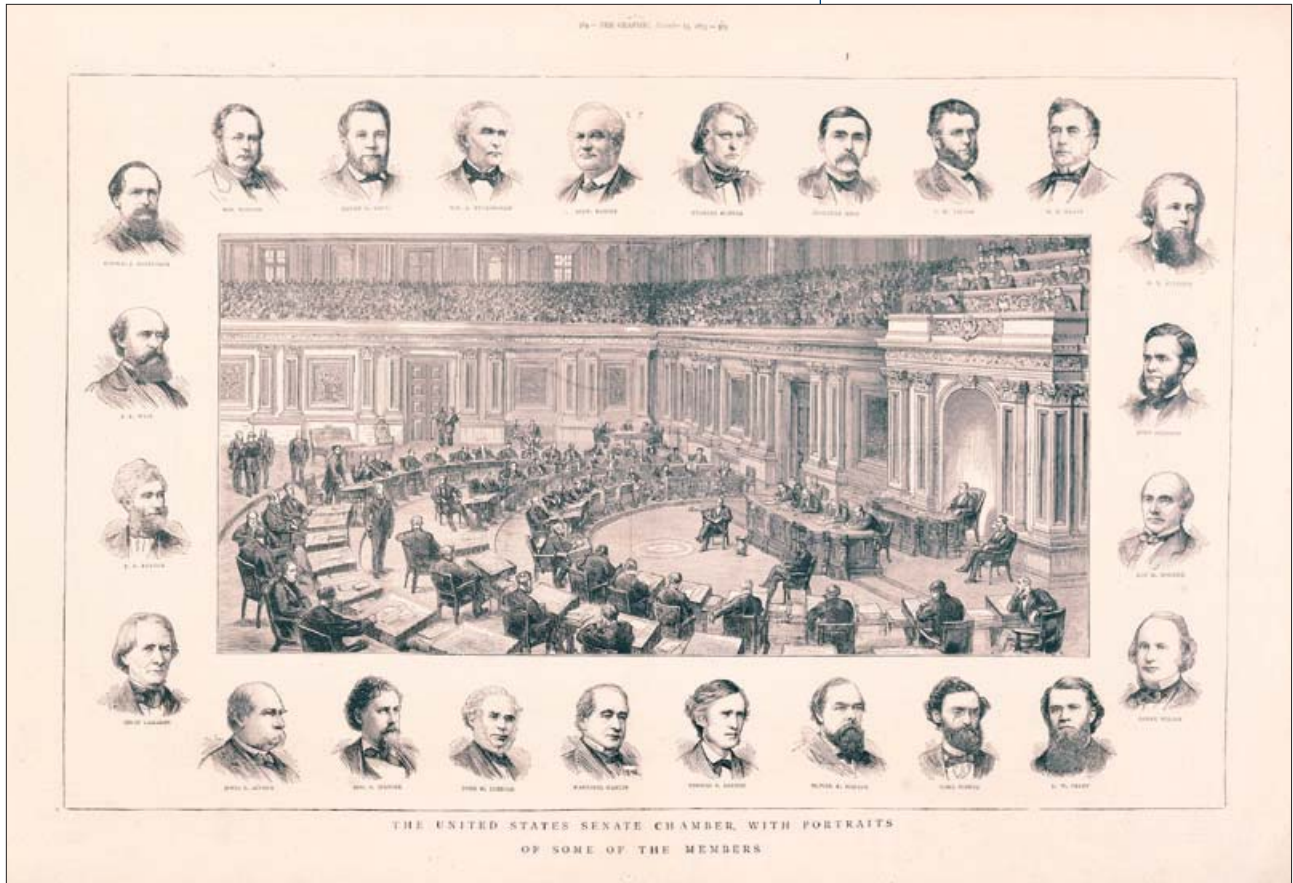
Washington, D.C.—The Inauguration—Scene in the Senate Chamber at the Capitol—Swearing in the Vice-President.

Unidentified after James E. Taylor
Supplement to Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/22/1873
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7 1/8 x 9 1/4 inches (18.1 x 23.5 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00850.001c



In the Capitol—The Senate Chamber.

Unidentified after Henri H. Lovie
Hearth and Home, 09/13/1873
 Wood engraving, black and white
 4 1/2 x 3 5/16 inches (11.4 x 8.4 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00975.001a



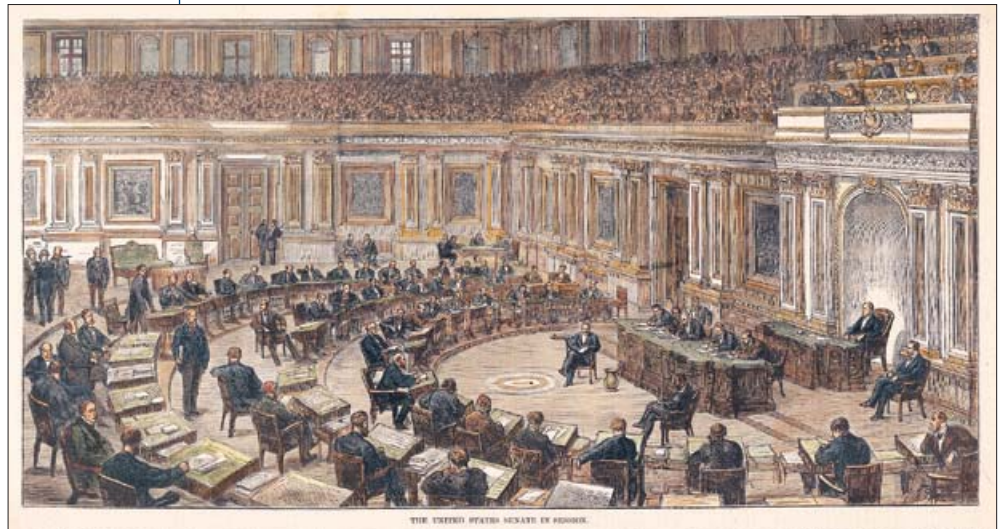
The United States Senate Chamber, with Portraits of Some of the Members

Unidentified
The Graphic, 12/13/1873
Wood engraving, black and white
13 ¼ x 19 ¾ inches (33.7 x 50.2 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00242.002



The Vacant Chair.

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis
Harper's Weekly, 04/04/1874
Wood engraving, black and white
3 ⅝ x 4 ⅞ inches (9.2 x 11.6 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00225.001a



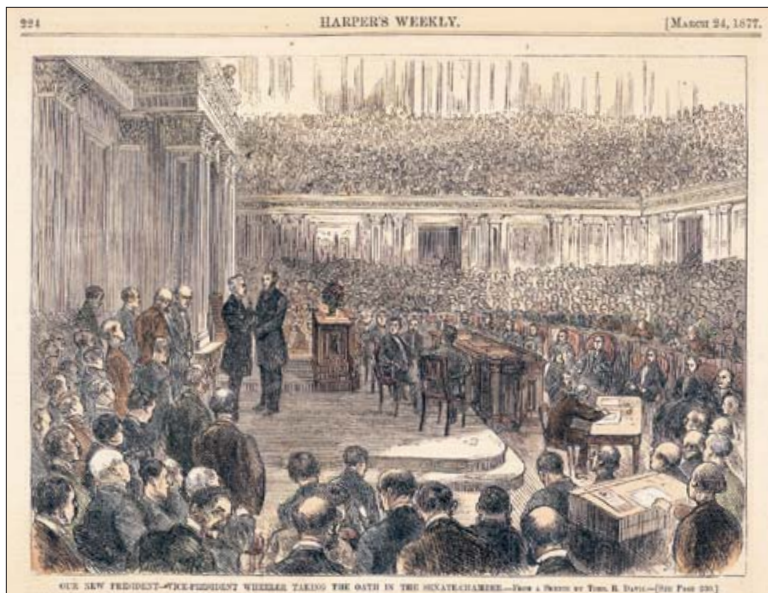
The United States Senate in Session.

Unidentified
Harper's Weekly, 01/03/1874
Wood engraving, hand-colored
7 ⅞ x 14 ⅞ inches (18.9 x 35.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00004.002



Washington, D.C.—Funeral Service over the Remains of the Late Vice-President Henry Wilson, in the United States Senate Chamber, Friday, November 26th.

Unidentified after Harry Ogden
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 12/11/1875
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7 1/16 x 9 1/4 inches (17.9 x 23.5 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00288.002b



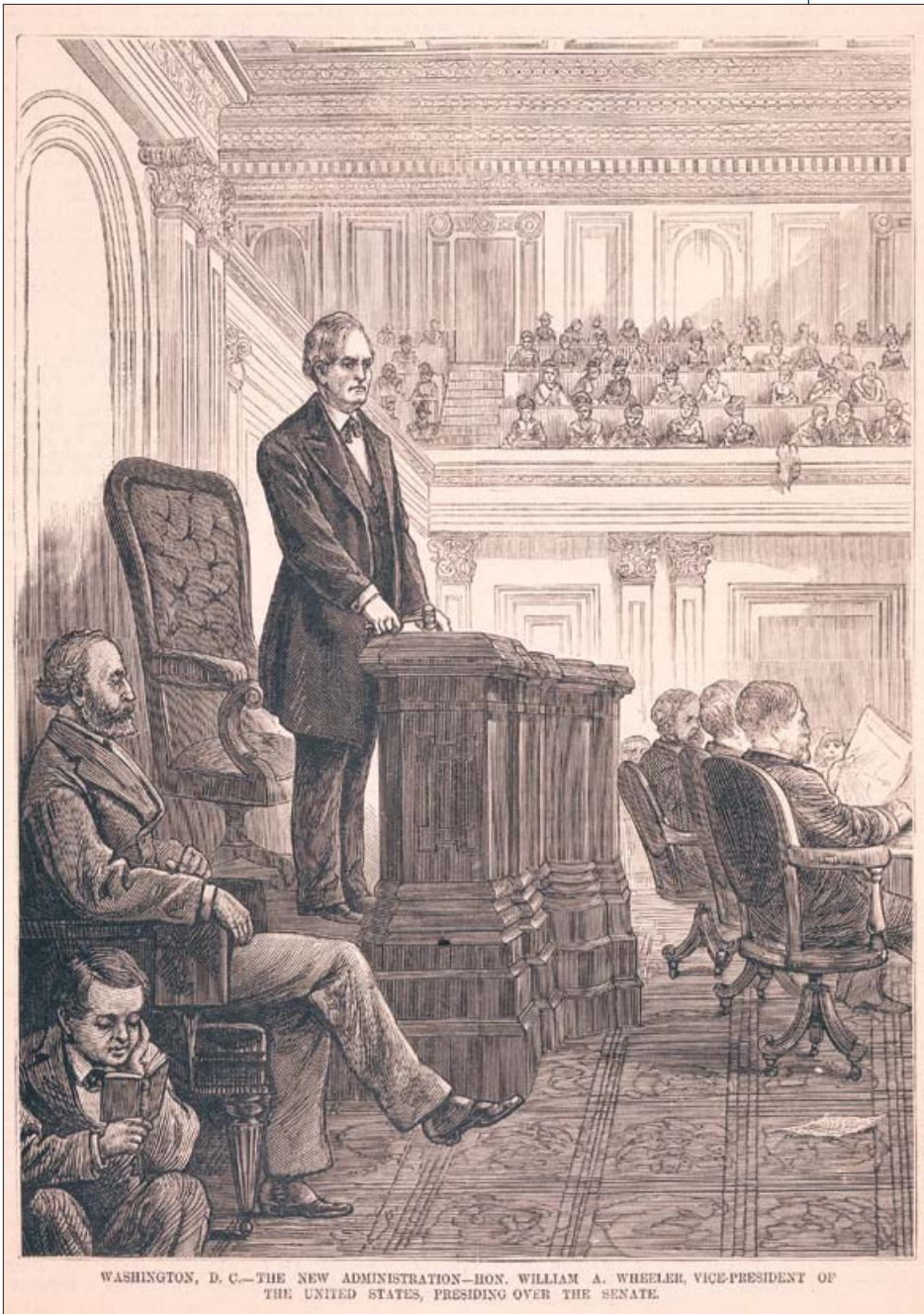
Our New President—Vice-President Wheeler Taking the Oath in the Senate-Chamber.

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis
Harper's Weekly, 03/24/1877
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 6 3/4 x 9 inches (17.1 x 22.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00036.002a



The Inauguration—Vice-President Wheeler Taking the Oath of Office in the Senate Chamber.

Unidentified after Harper after photographs by Mathew B. Brady
The Daily Graphic, 03/12/1877
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 15 x 12 inches (38.1 x 30.5 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00969.001



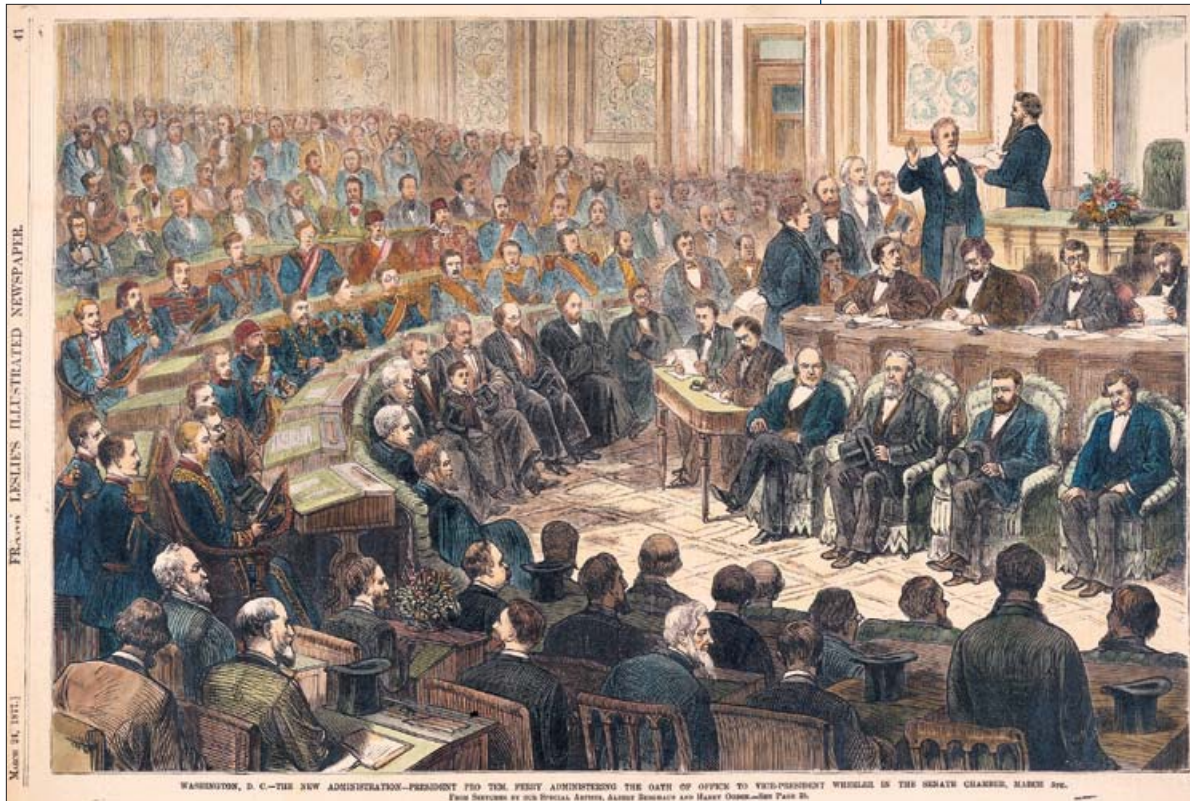
Washington, D.C.—The New Administration—Hon. William A. Wheeler, Vice-President of the United States, Presiding over the Senate.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/31/1877
Wood engraving, black and white
9 3/4 x 6 13/16 inches (24.8 x 17.3 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00558.002



Washington, D.C.—The Extra Session of the Senate—President Pro Tem. Ferry Bowing Down Mr. Kellogg of Louisiana, March 6th. After Objections Had Been Raised to His Taking the Oath of Office.

Unidentified after Albert Berghaus and Harry Ogden
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/24/1877
Wood engraving, black and white
6 x 4 5/8 inches (15.2 x 11.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00397.001



Washington, D.C.—The New Administration—President Pro Tem. Ferry Administering the Oath of Office to Vice-President Wheeler in the Senate Chamber, March 5th.

Unidentified after Albert Berghaus and Harry Ogden
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 03/24/1877
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 9 5/8 x 13 7/8 inches (24.4 x 35.2 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00014.001



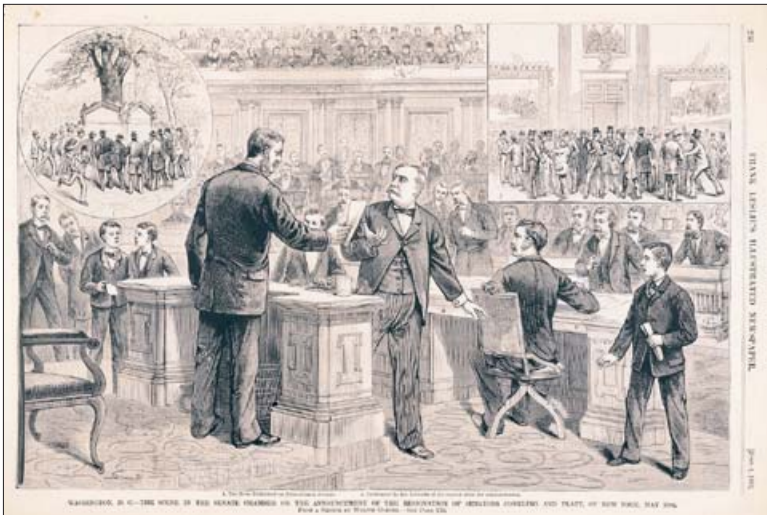
[U.S. Senate Chamber]

Unidentified after Thomas Doney
 Unidentified, ca. 1880
 Lithograph, black and white
 6 11/16 x 5 7/8 inches (17.0 x 14.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00540.001



Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol

Unidentified
 John F. Jarvis, ca. 1880
 Photograph, black and white
 5 x 8 1/8 inches (12.7 x 20.6 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00130.001



Washington, D.C.—The Scene in the Senate Chamber on the Announcement of the Resignation of Senators Conkling and Platt, of New York, May 16th.

Unidentified after Walter Goater
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 06/04/1881
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9 7/8 x 14 1/8 inches (25.1 x 35.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00218.002



Washington, D.C.—Resignation der new-yorker Bundes-Senatoren R. Conkling und T. C. Platt am 16. Mei 1881.—Vizepräsident Arthur legt die Briefe derselben dem Senate vor.—Aufregung in Washington.

Unidentified [after Walter Goater]
Frank Leslie's Illustrirte Zeitung, 06/04/1881
 Wood engraving, hand-colored
 9 1/4 x 14 inches (23.5 x 35.6 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00970.001



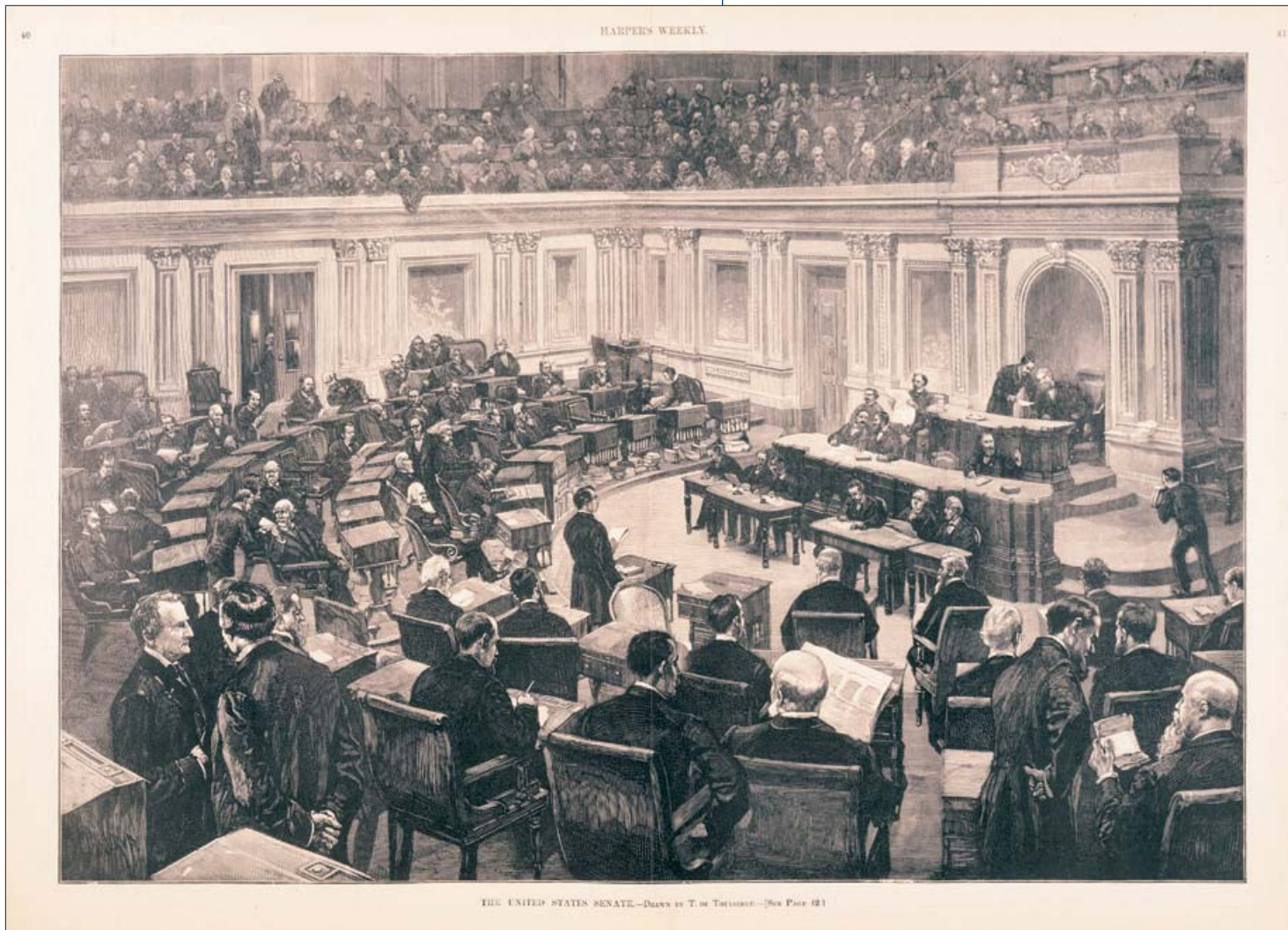
An Artist's Rambles in Washington.—No. 5: The Introduction of Bills in the U.S. Senate.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 02/09/1884
 Wood engraving, black and white
 7 x 9 1/4 inches (17.8 x 23.5 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00874.001



Expulsion of Senator Bright from the United States Senate for Disloyalty. His Final Defence [sic].

Unidentified after M. Lumley
Pictorial Battles of the Civil War, 1885
 Wood engraving, black and white
 9 1/2 x 13 13/16 inches (24.1 x 35.4 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00252.001



The United States Senate.


Unidentified after Thure de Thulstrup
Harper's Weekly, 01/16/1886
 Wood engraving, black and white
 14 ¼ x 19 ½ inches (36.2 x 49.5 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00025.002



[U.S. Senate Chamber]

Unidentified
 Unidentified, ca. 1865-1885
 Photograph, black and white
 3 x 6 inches (7.6 x 15.2 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00707.001



Isaac Bassett worked in the Senate as a page, messenger, and assistant doorkeeper from 1831 to 1895. His most abiding legacy is a manuscript he wrote, recording some of the more dramatic incidents and personalities in the Senate's history, and providing an unparalleled chronicle of the institution in the 19th century. According to his account, his most celebrated and unusual duty began on March 4, 1845, the last day of the 28th Congress. President pro tempore Willie Mangum, fearing that an appropriations bill would not pass before the Senate was scheduled to adjourn, instructed Bassett to turn the hands of the Senate Chamber clock back 10 minutes. The senator stated, "I know of no one who could do it better than you."¹ While Bassett continued to carry out this task for over half a century, in his memoir he expressed dismay, particularly when senators—some jovial, others not—called into question the constitutionality of the action. Bassett recounted, "I have been called often by all of the presiding officers of the Senate since to move the clock back. There have been many instances when it was absolutely necessary to have it done. Many an extra ordinary [sic] session has been saved when I have moved the hands back."² 

¹Papers of Isaac Bassett, Office of the Curator, U.S. Senate, 11 C 36–37.

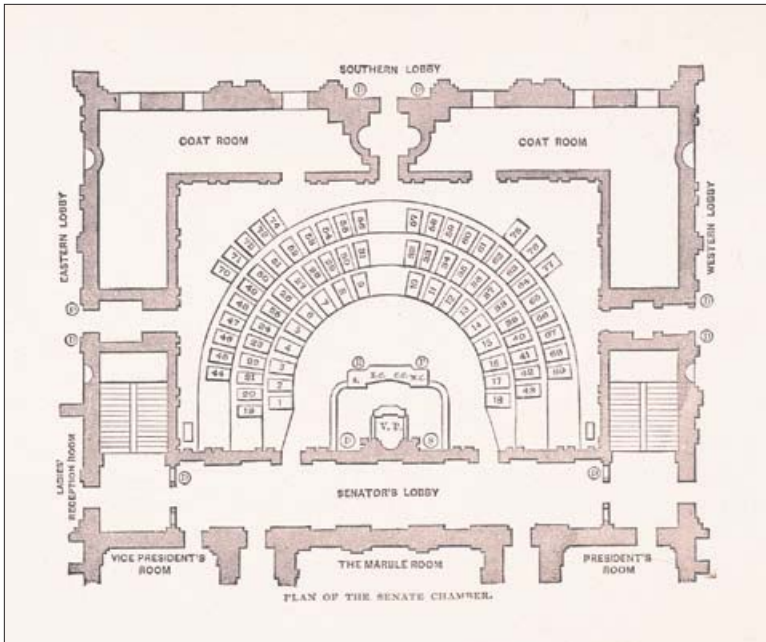
²Ibid., 11 C 38.



Capt. Isaac Bassett

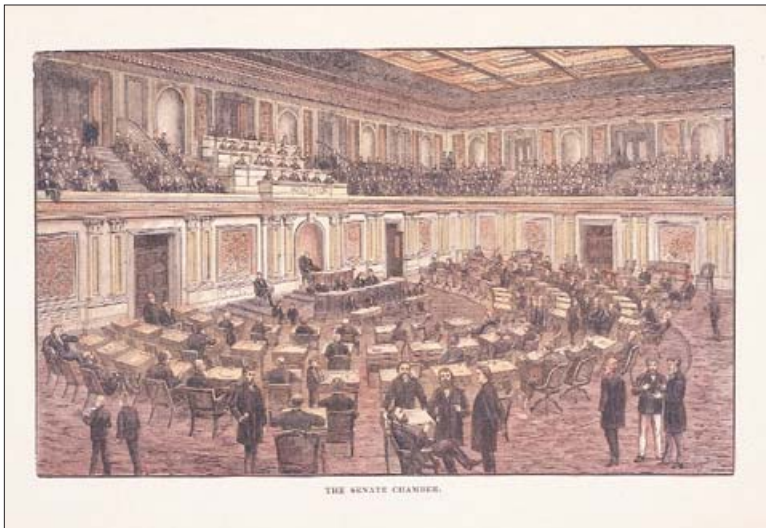
Harry O. Hall
 Unidentified, ca. 1890
 Photograph, black and white
 4 1/16 x 5 13/16 inches (10.3 x 15.1 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00502.001

Senate Chamber



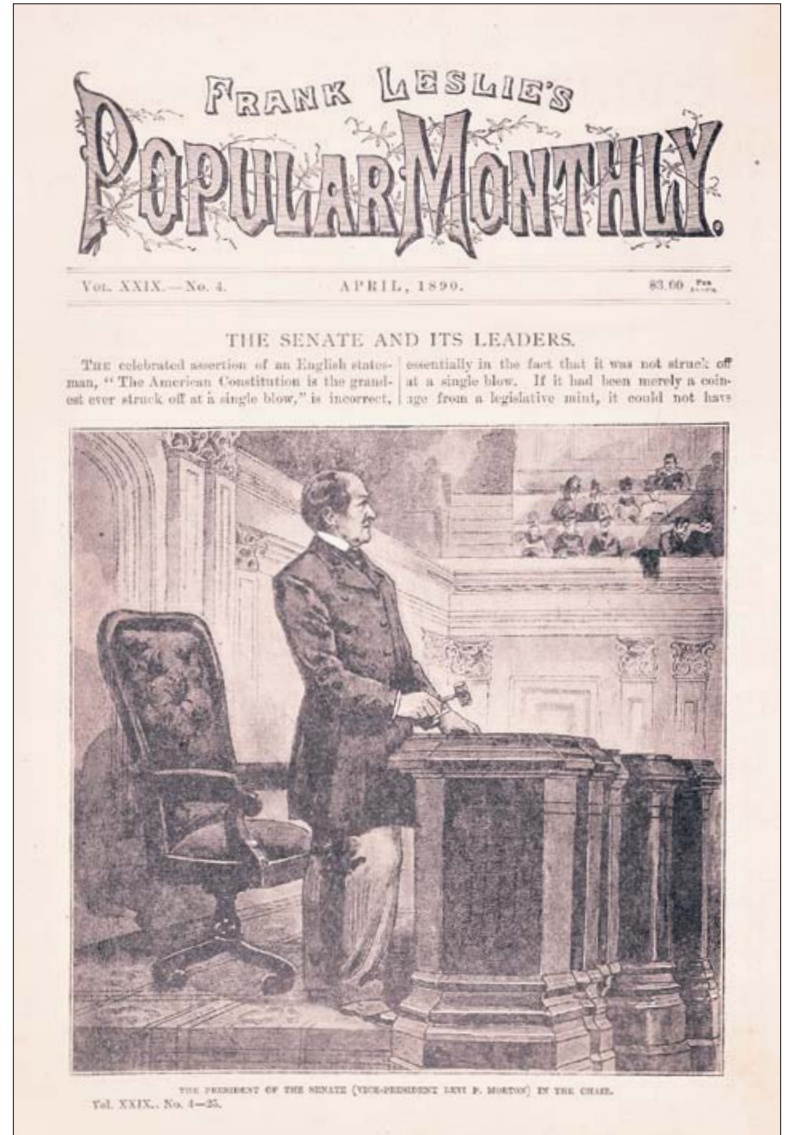
Plan of the Senate Chamber.

Unidentified
Picturesque Washington, 1888
Wood engraving, black and white
4 5/8 x 5 3/8 inches (11.7 x 14.3 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00556.001



The Senate Chamber.

Unidentified after S. S. Kilburn
Picturesque Washington, ca. 1889
Wood engraving, hand-colored
5 x 7 3/8 inches (12.7 x 18.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00645.001



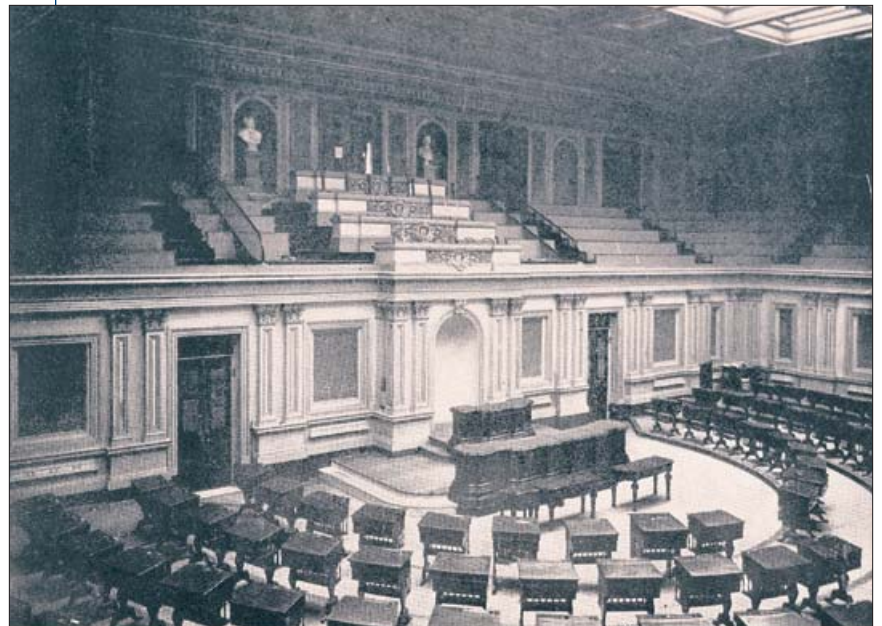
The President of the Senate (Vice-President Levi P. Morton) in the Chair.

Unidentified
Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, 04/1890
Halftone, black and white
6 1/4 x 6 inches (15.9 x 15.2 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00507.001



[U.S. Senate Chamber with Isaac Bassett and Pages]

Unidentified
Unidentified, ca. 1890
Photograph, black and white
7⁷/₁₆ x 9⁵/₈ inches (19.2 x 24.4 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00503.001

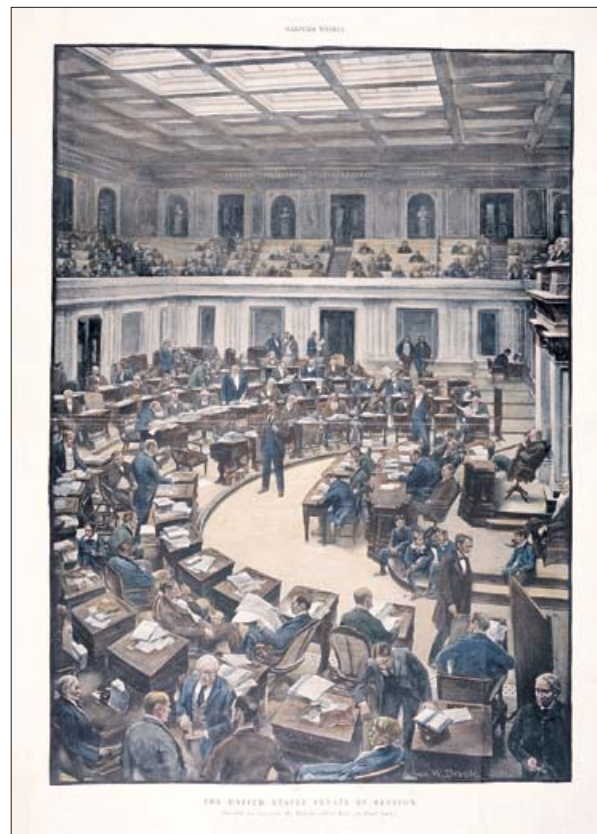


Washington . . . Senate Chamber.

Unidentified
Unidentified, ca. 1895
Halftone, black and white
3³/₄ x 5 inches (9.5 x 12.7 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00872.001



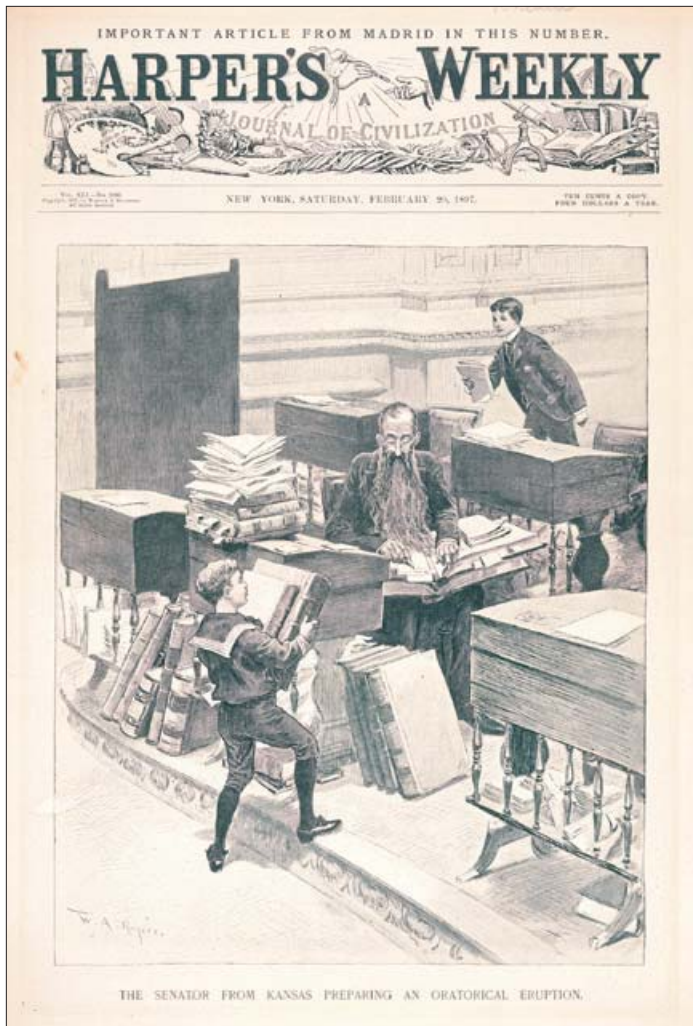
This 1894 engraving shows the Senate Chamber during a typical session in the late 19th century. Senators occupy their desks, some listening to the proceedings, while others talk with one another or attend to business. During this time, only powerful committee chairmen had personal offices, and thus members spent much of their day at their desks doing work. Senate pages can be seen sitting at the rostrum awaiting a call from a member. The position of Senate page was first created in 1829. By the turn of the century, the Senate employed at least 17 young boys as pages. Dressed in knickers and jackets, they spent their days running errands for the senators, announcing impending votes, placing papers and pens on the senators' desks, and delivering messages throughout the city. Visitors watch the proceedings from the galleries, and three press reporters can be seen above the presiding officer's desk taking notes. The elaborate 19th-century Victorian interior shown in this image was significantly changed as part of a 1950s renovation. The original stained glass ceiling was found to be dangerously weak and had to be replaced; at the same time, the interior was altered to reflect a Federal-period look. 🌀



The United States Senate in Session.

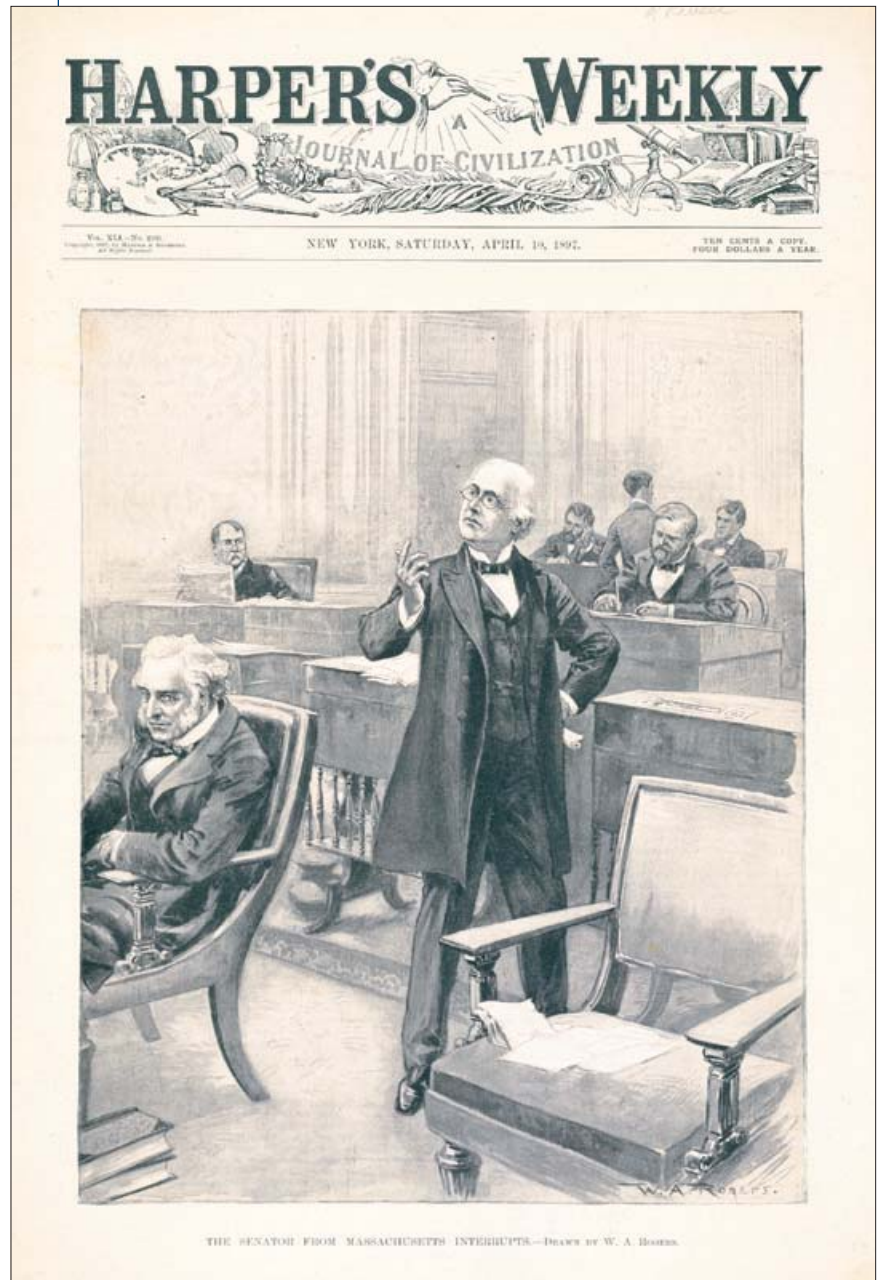
Unidentified after George W. Breck after photograph
by William Kurtz
Harper's Weekly, 09/22/1894
Halftone, colored
19 ½ x 13 ¾ inches (49.5 x 34.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00032.005

See appendix p. 481 for key



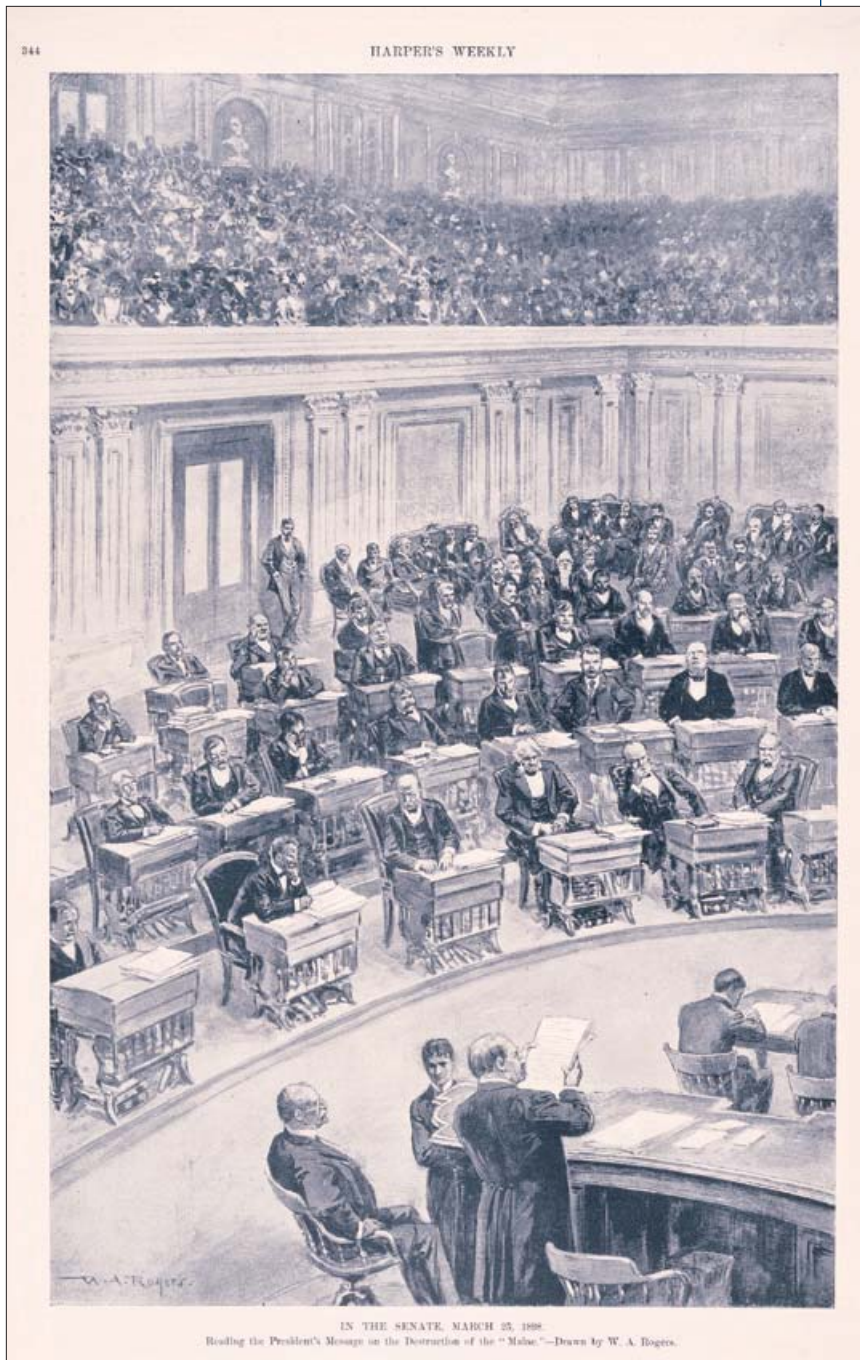
The Senator from Kansas Preparing an Oratorical Eruption.

Unidentified after William Allen Rogers
Harper's Weekly, 02/20/1897
Halftone, black and white
11 x 8⁷/₁₆ inches (27.9 x 21.4 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00140.001



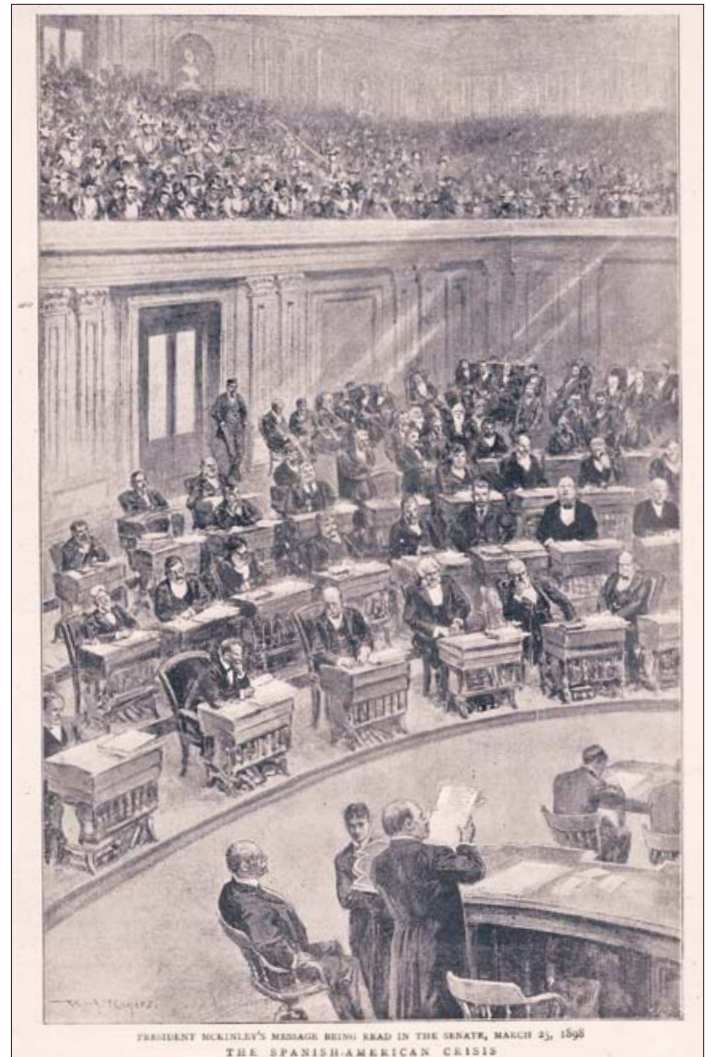
The Senator from Massachusetts Interrupts.

Unidentified after William Allen Rogers
Harper's Weekly, 04/10/1897
Halftone, black and white
11 1/8 x 8 1/2 inches (28.3 x 21.6 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00142.001



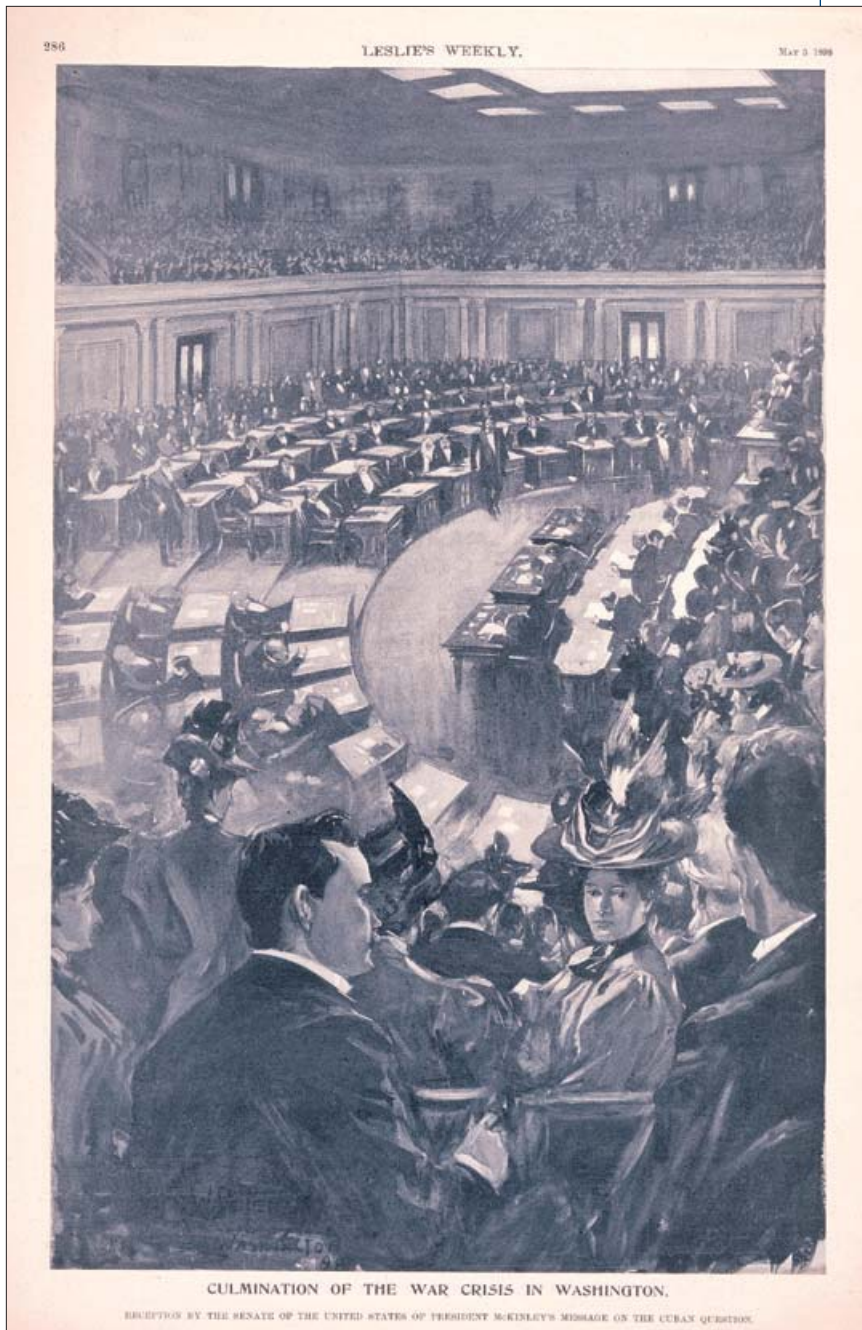
In the Senate, March 25, 1898.

Unidentified after William Allen Rogers
Harper's Weekly, 04/09/1898
 Halftone, black and white
 14 x 8½ inches (35.6 x 21.6 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00212.001



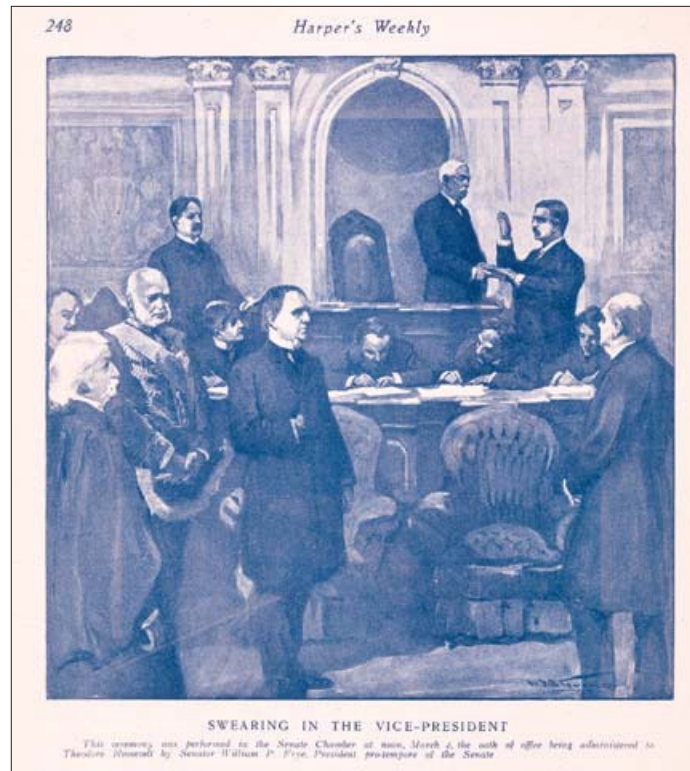
**President McKinley's Message Being Read in the Senate,
 March 25, 1898 / The Spanish-American Crisis**

Unidentified after William Allen Rogers
The Graphic, 04/23/1898
 Halftone, black and white
 9¼ x 5 11/16 inches (23.5 x 14.4 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00385.001



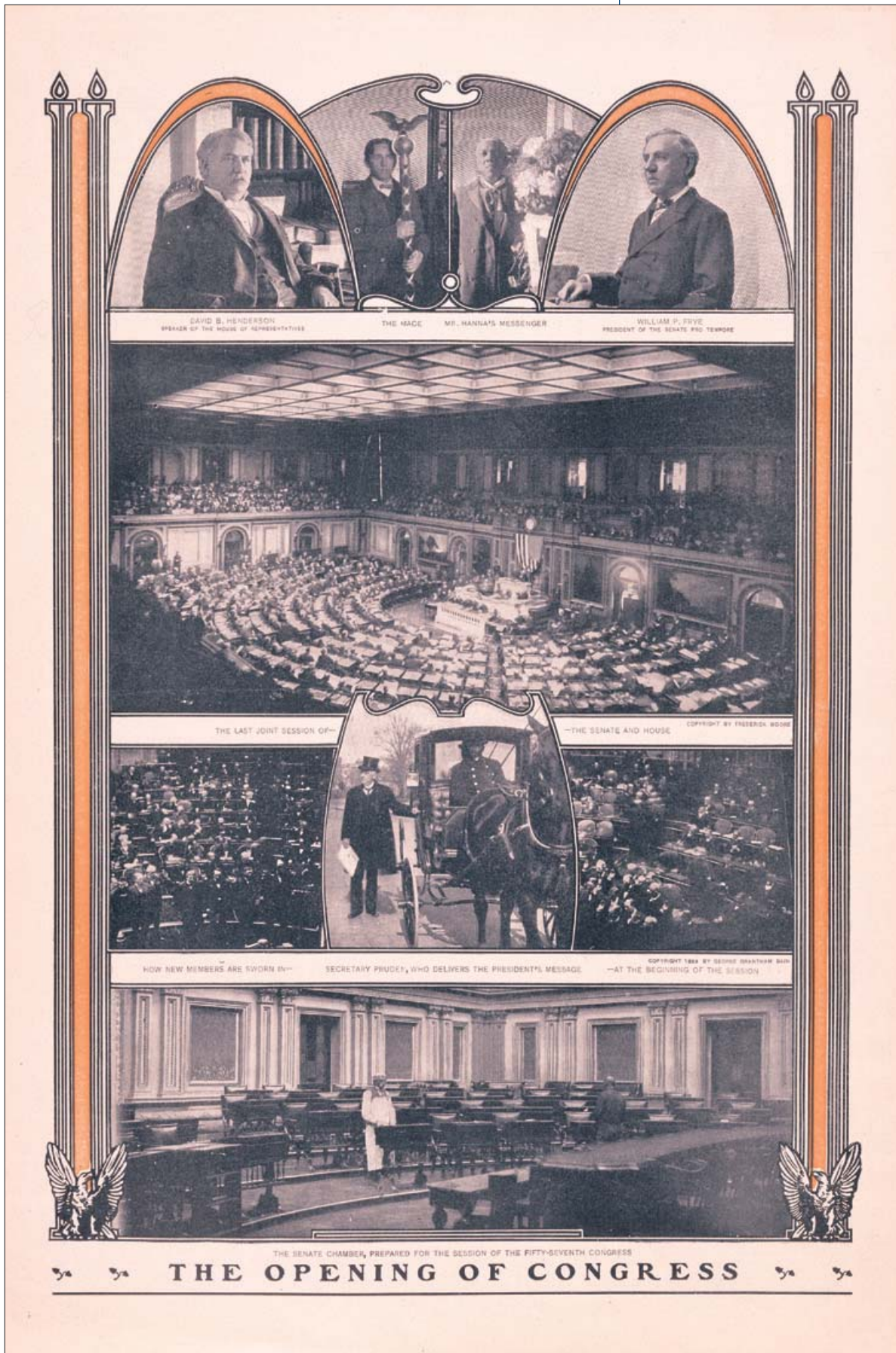
Culmination of the War Crisis in Washington.

Unidentified after G. W. Peters
Leslie's Weekly, 05/05/1898
Lithograph, black and white
14 3/4 x 9 inches (37.5 x 22.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00234.001



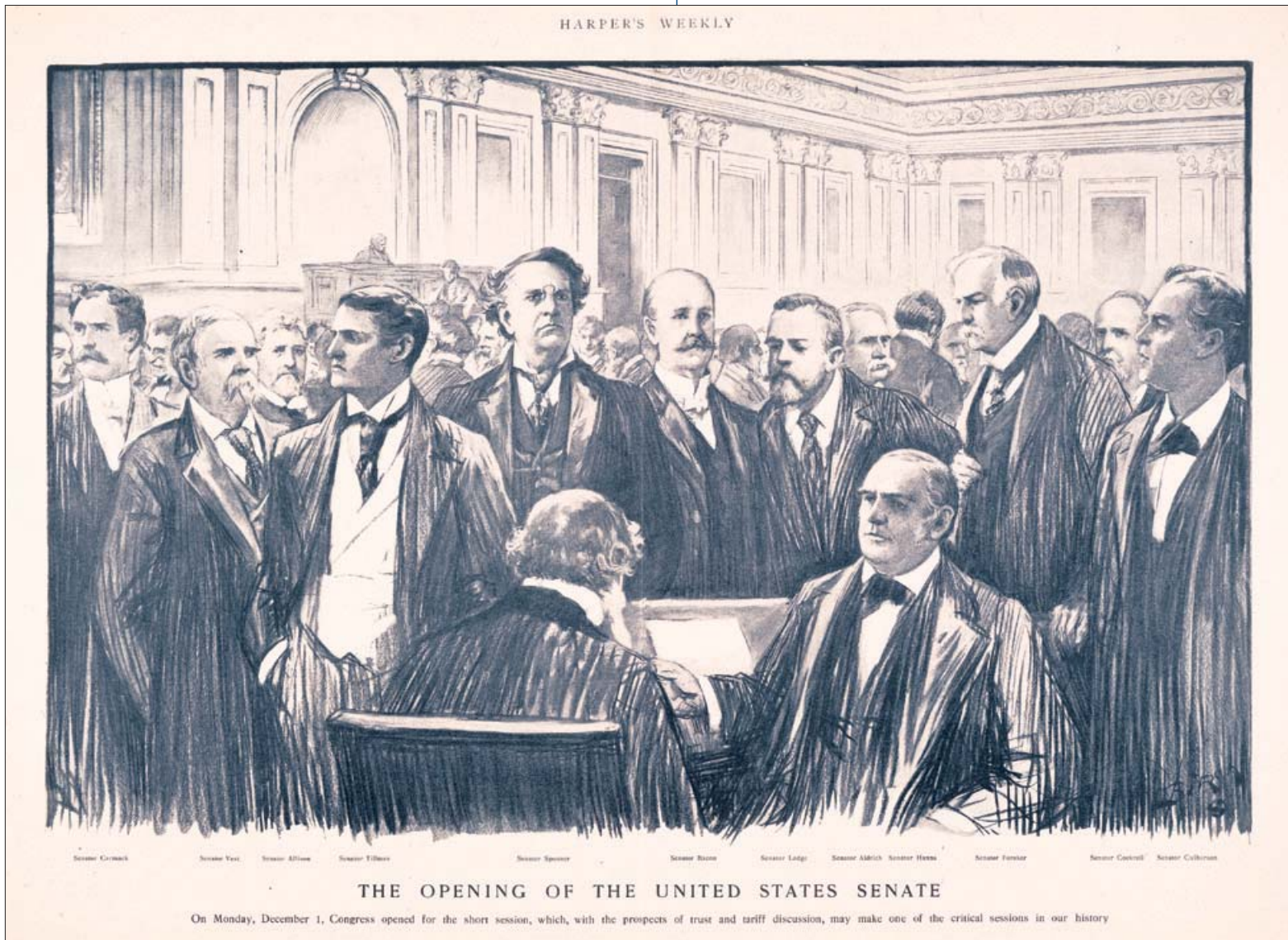
Swearing in the Vice-President

Unidentified after William D. Stevens
Harper's Weekly, 03/09/1901
Halftone, blue and white
10 1/4 x 9 inches (26.0 x 22.9 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00591.001



The Opening of Congress

Unidentified
Collier's, 11/30/1901
Half-tone, colored
14 1/4 x 9 1/4 inches (36.2 x 23.5 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00650.001



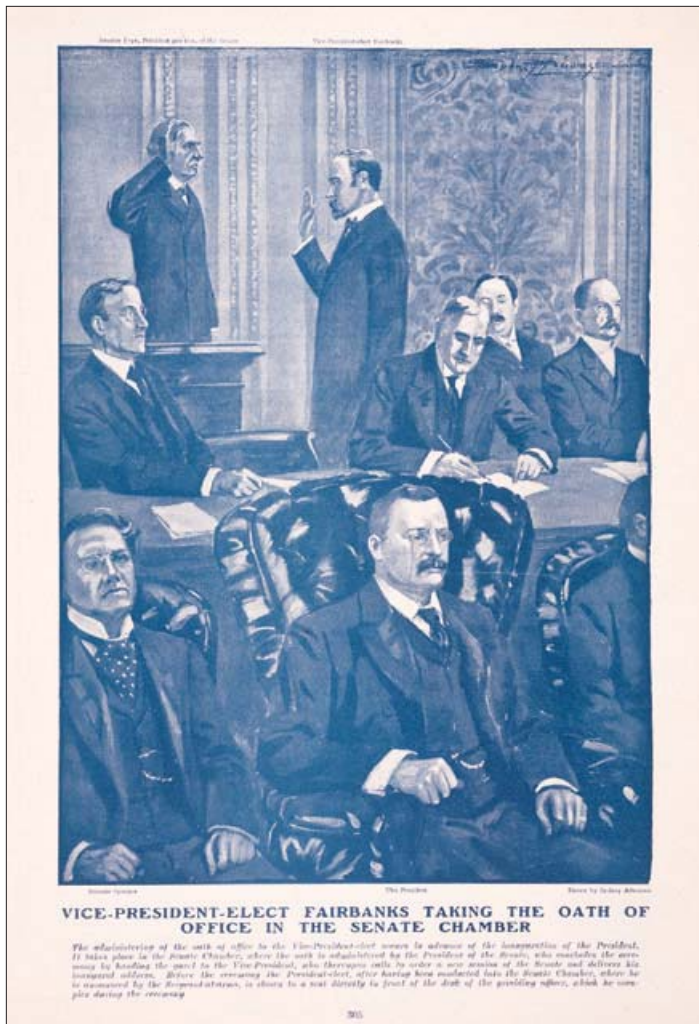
The Opening of the United States Senate

Unidentified after Birch
Harper's Weekly, 12/13/1902
Halftone, black and white
11 3/8 x 15 7/8 inches (28.9 x 40.3 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00135.001



Senate Chamber in the Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Unidentified
H.C. White Co., 1901
Photograph, black and white
3 3/8 x 6 1/8 inches (8.6 x 15.6 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00711.001



Vice-President-Elect Fairbanks Taking the Oath of Office in the Senate Chamber

Unidentified after Sydney Adamson
Harper's Weekly, 03/04/1905
 Halftone, blue and white
 11 x 7 ¼ inches (27.9 x 18.4 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00590.001



Opening the Senate of the United States with Prayer. The Rev. Edward Everett Hale, the Venerable Chaplain, Invoking the Daily Blessing on the Members of the Upper Branch of the American Congress.

Unidentified after T. Dart Walker
Leslie's Weekly, 01/12/1905
 Halftone, colored
 13 ½ x 9 inches (34.3 x 22.9 cm)
 Cat. no. 38.00972.001