



The first restaurant in the Capitol, known as the “Hole in the Wall,” was provided for the exclusive use of the members of Congress. In this tiny, circular room, measuring only 10 feet in diameter, Senators Webster, Clay, and Calhoun, as well as others, continued their debates over “ham and bread and . . . simple eatables.”<sup>1</sup> Oysters—raw, fried, steamed, or baked—were a speciality. By the late 1850s, when the current Senate and House wings were occupied, senators could dine at several restaurants in the Capitol, in various committee rooms, “where they kept such refreshments as they desired,” and at counters provided for them near the Senate Chamber.<sup>2</sup> In the 1860s, Downing’s Restaurant, located on the first floor and occupying two rooms, served the members, their guests, and visitors. Managed by George T. Downing, the restaurant prepared dishes “in a style which would not shame Delmonico himself.”<sup>3</sup> This engraving appeared during the Andrew Johnson impeachment trial, to add a human-interest story to the proceedings. The publication noted that “the grave and reverend Senators are not so much engrossed with their Impeachment responsibilities as to neglect the material comforts of the inner man.”<sup>4</sup> 🌀

<sup>1</sup> Papers of Isaac Bassett, Office of the Curator, U.S. Senate, 20 F 158.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> John B. Ellis, *The Sights and Secrets of the National Capital* (Chicago: Jones, Junkin, 1869), 112.

<sup>4</sup> “The Refectory of the Senate, Washington, D.C.—Senators and Their Friends at Luncheon,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, 16 May 1868, 139.



**The Refectory of the Senate, Washington, D.C.—Senators and Their Friends at Luncheon.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, 05/16/1868  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 7 1/8 x 9 3/8 inches (18.1 x 23.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00725.001



**Chief-Justice Chase Donning His Judicial Robes in the Vice-President's Room, in the Capitol, at Washington, D.C.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 04/18/1868  
Wood engraving, black and white  
6¼ x 4½ inches (15.9 x 11.4 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00429.001a



**The Impeachment Trial—The Senate in Consultation in the Ladies' Parlor.**

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis  
*Harper's Weekly*, 04/18/1868  
Wood engraving, black and white  
7½ x 9½ inches (18.1 x 23.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00309.001b



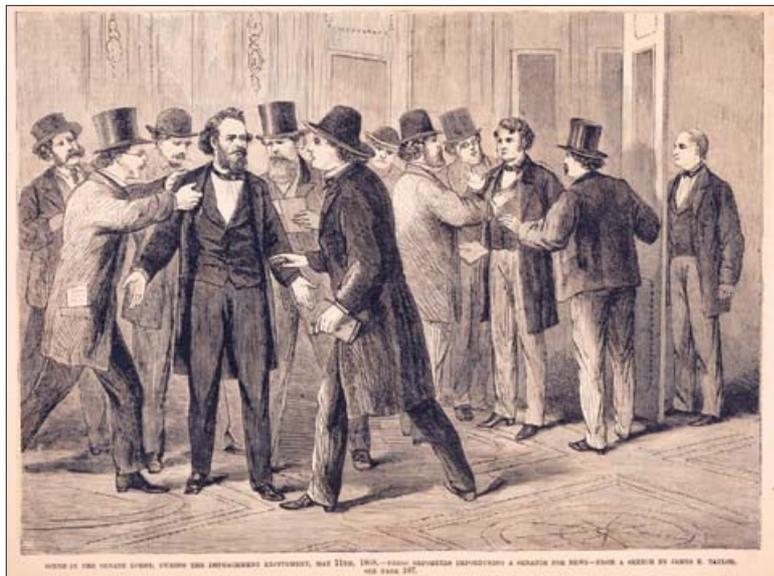
**Impeachment—Reporters and Citizens in the Senate Lobby Seeking Information during the Secret Session.**

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis  
*Harper's Weekly*, 05/30/1868  
Wood engraving, black and white  
7½ x 9½ inches (20.2 x 23.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00426.001b



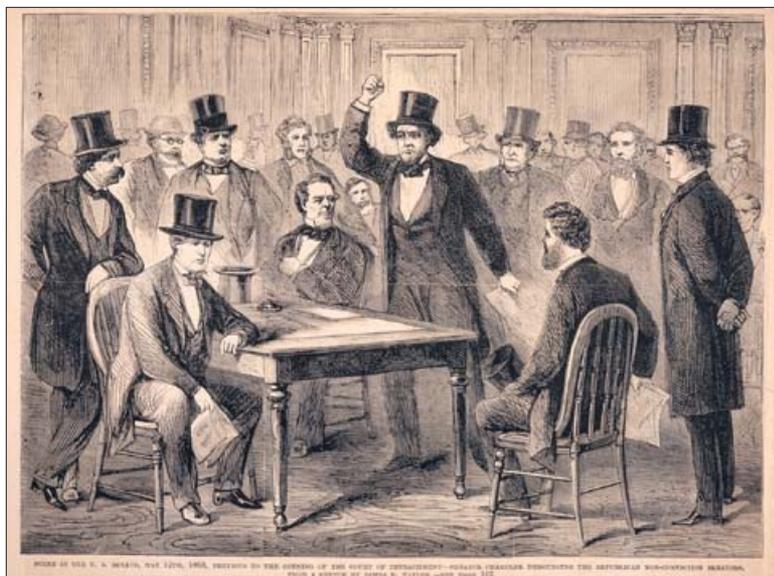
**Hon. B. F. Wade Awaiting the Senate Hour, in the Vice-President's Room, in the Capitol, Washington, D.C.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 04/18/1868  
Wood engraving, black and white  
6¼ x 4½ inches (15.9 x 11.4 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00429.001b



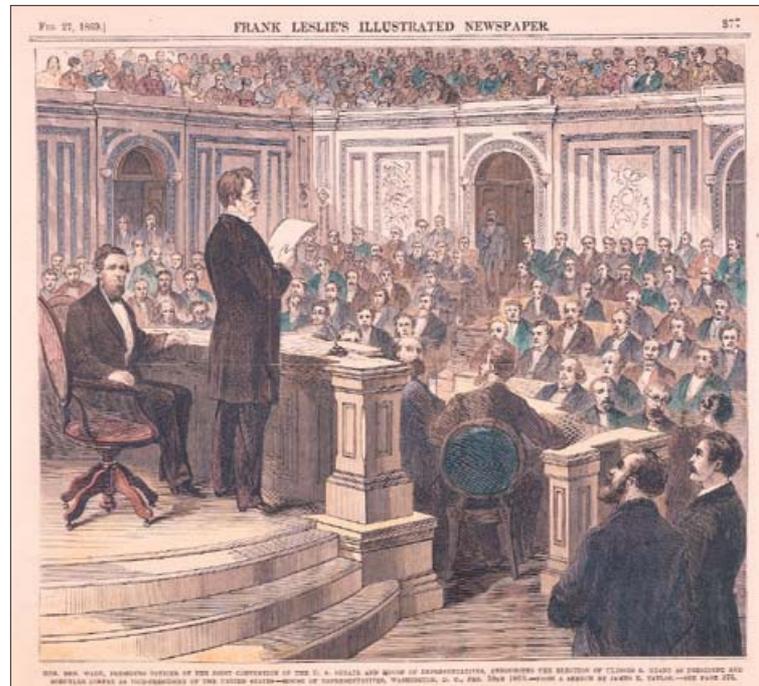
**Scene in the Senate Lobby, during the Impeachment Excitement, May 11th, 1868.—Press Reporters Importuning a Senator for News**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 05/30/1868  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 7¼ x 9⅞ inches (18.4 x 24.0 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00374.001b



**Scene in the U.S. Senate, May 12th, 1868, Previous to the Opening of the Court of Impeachment—Senator Chandler Denouncing the Republican Non-Conviction Senators.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 05/30/1868  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 7¼ x 9⅞ inches (18.4 x 23.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00374.001a



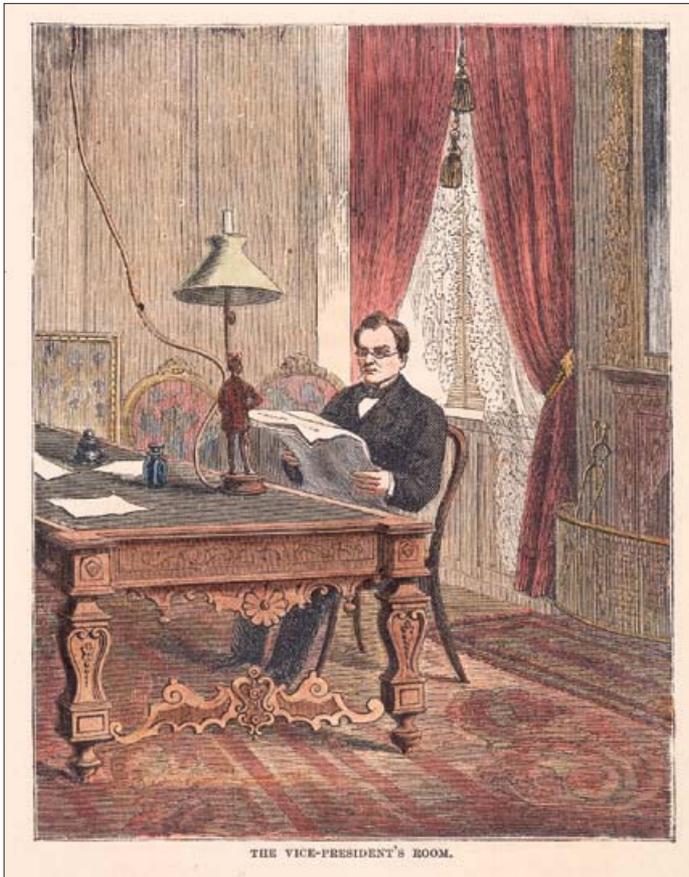
**Hon. Ben. Wade, Presiding Officer of the Joint Convention of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Announcing the Election of Ulysses S. Grant as President and Schuyler Colfax as Vice-President of the United States—House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., Feb. 10th 1869.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 02/27/1869  
 Wood engraving, hand-colored  
 8¼ x 9¼ inches (21.0 x 23.5 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00331.002



**Congressional Pests—Lady Lobbyists Importuning Senators, at the Capitol, Washington, D.C.**

Unidentified after James E. Taylor  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/06/1869  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 6½ x 9½ inches (15.6 x 24.1 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00289.001



**The Vice-President's Room.**

Unidentified [after James E. Taylor]  
Jones, Junkin & Co., ca. 1869  
Wood engraving, hand-colored  
6 1/8 x 4 7/16 inches (15.6 x 11.6 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00103.001



**[Vice President's Room, U.S. Capitol]**

Unidentified  
Unidentified, ca. 1870  
Photograph, black and white  
3 3/4 x 6 3/8 inches (9.5 x 16.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00193.001



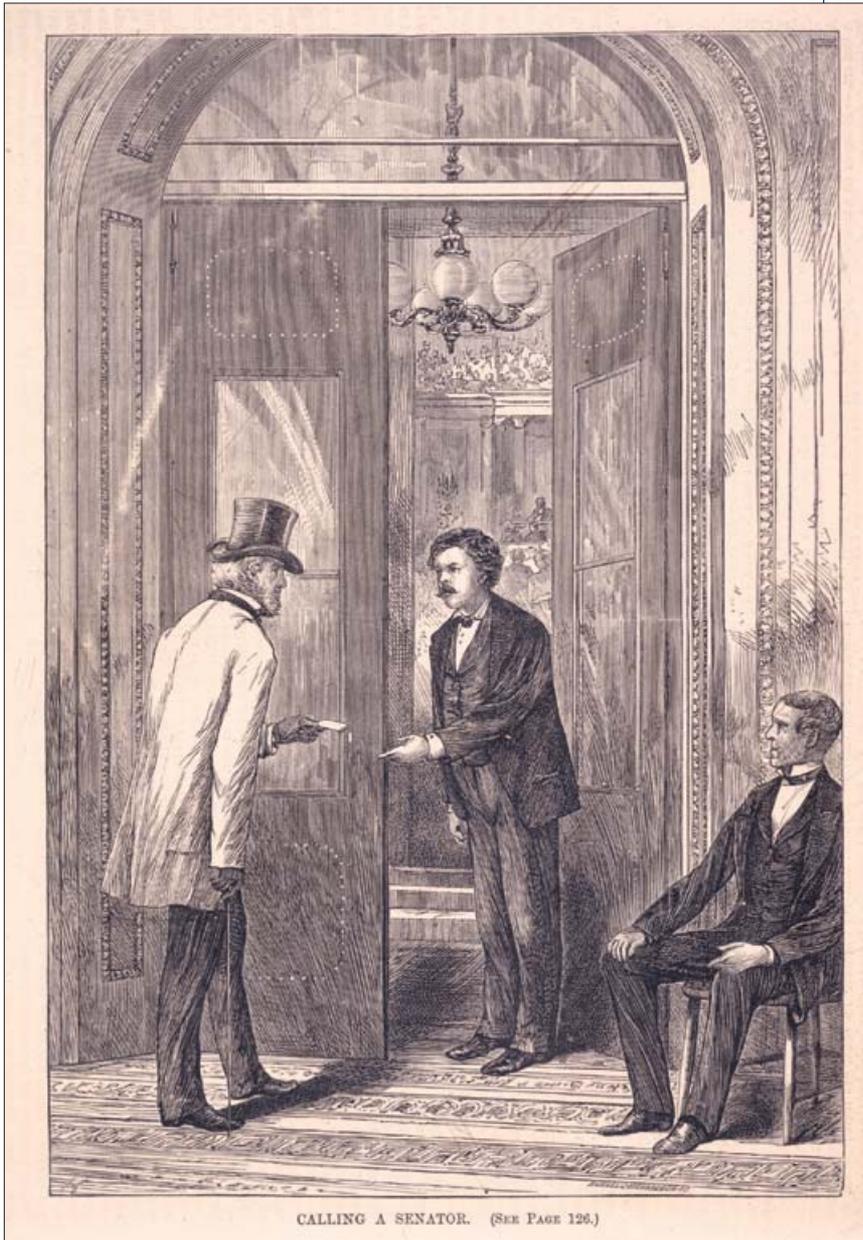
**The Congressional Library, Capitol, Washington.**

Unidentified after photograph by Bell and Brothers  
*Harper's Weekly*, 01/21/1871  
Wood engraving, hand-colored  
7 1/8 x 9 1/8 inches (18.1 x 23.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00541.001



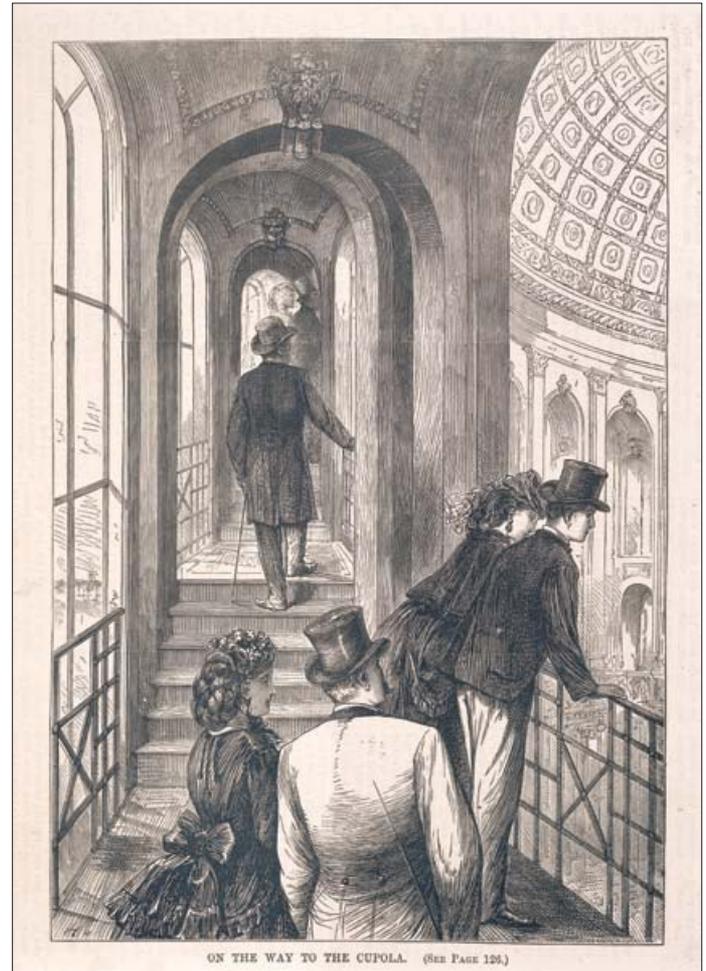
**The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in Session.**

Unidentified  
*Every Saturday*, 02/11/1871  
Wood engraving, black and white  
9 1/4 x 11 3/4 inches (23.5 x 29.8 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00216.001



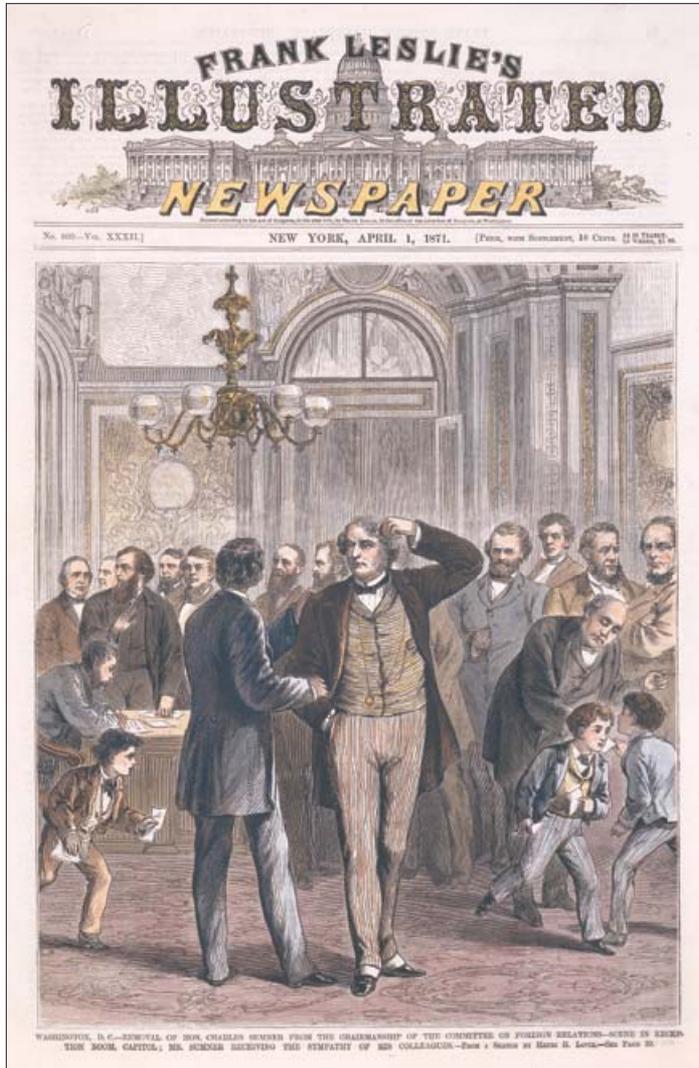
**Calling a Senator.**

Russell C. Richardson after H.  
*Every Saturday*, 02/11/1871  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 9 x 5 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches (22.9 x 15.1 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00266.002a



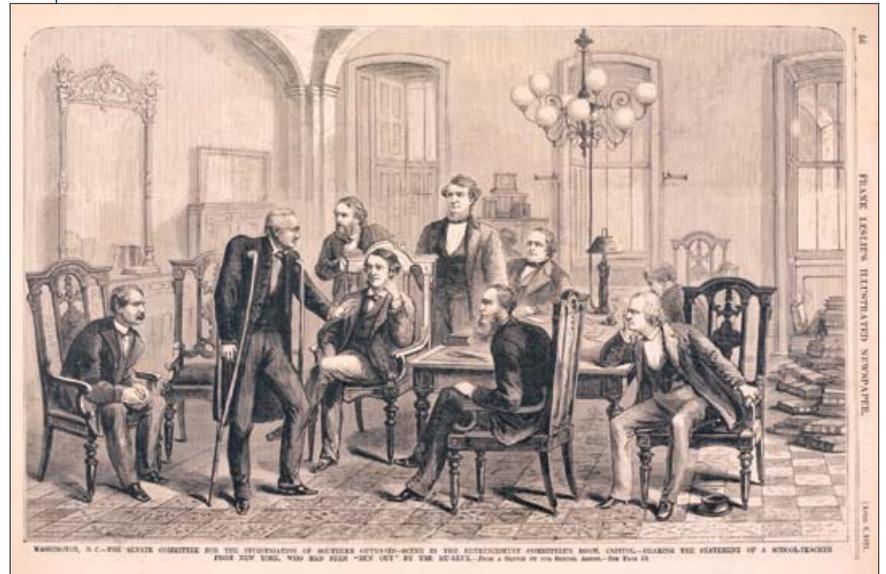
**On the Way to the Cupola.**

John Andrew and Son after H.  
*Every Saturday*, 02/11/1871  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 8 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 5 <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches (22.7 x 14.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00266.002b



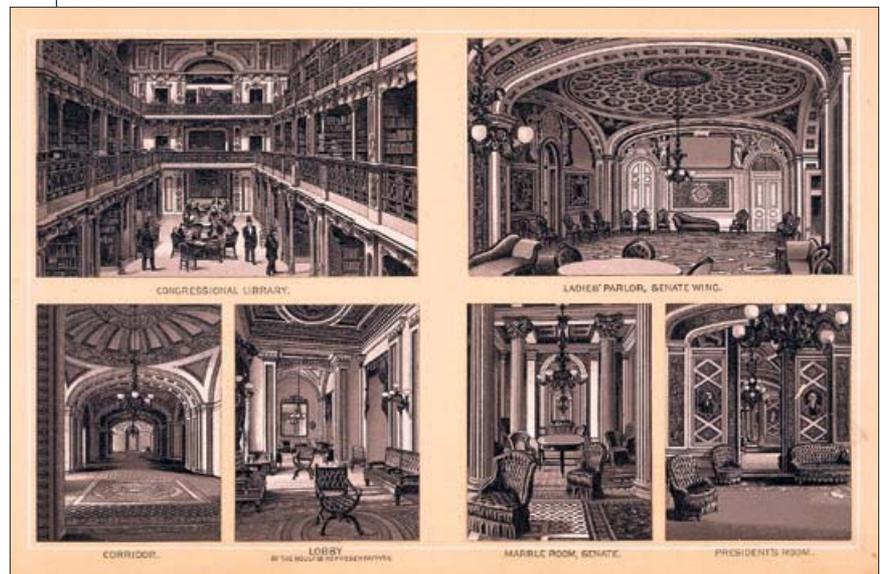
**Washington, D.C.—Removal of Hon. Charles Sumner from the Chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations—Scene in Reception Room, Capitol; Mr. Sumner Receiving the Sympathy of His Colleagues.**

Unidentified after Henri H. Lovie  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 04/01/1871  
 Wood engraving, hand-colored  
 11 ½ x 9 ¼ inches (29.2 x 23.5 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00968.001



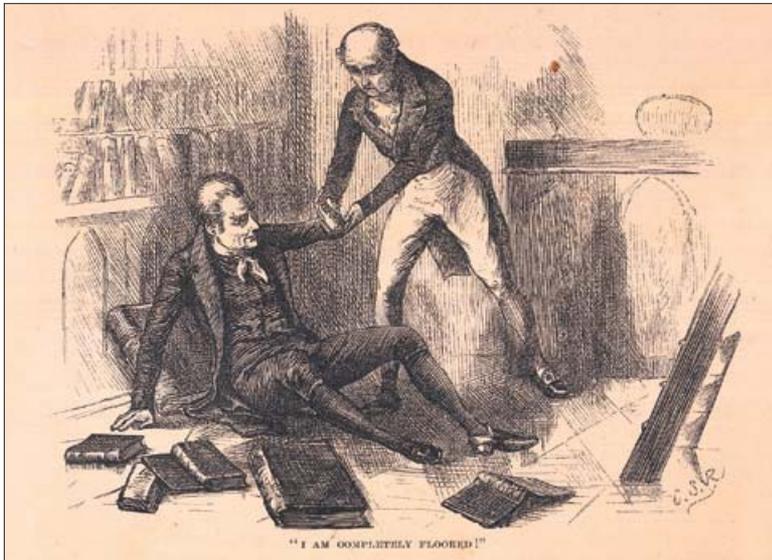
**Washington, D.C.—The Senate Committee for the Investigation of Southern Outrages—Scene in the Retrenchment Committee's Room, Capitol.—Hearing the Statement of a School-Teacher from New York, Who Had Been "Run Out" by the Ku-Klux.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 04/08/1871  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 9 ½ x 14 ¾ inches (24.1 x 36.4 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00382.001



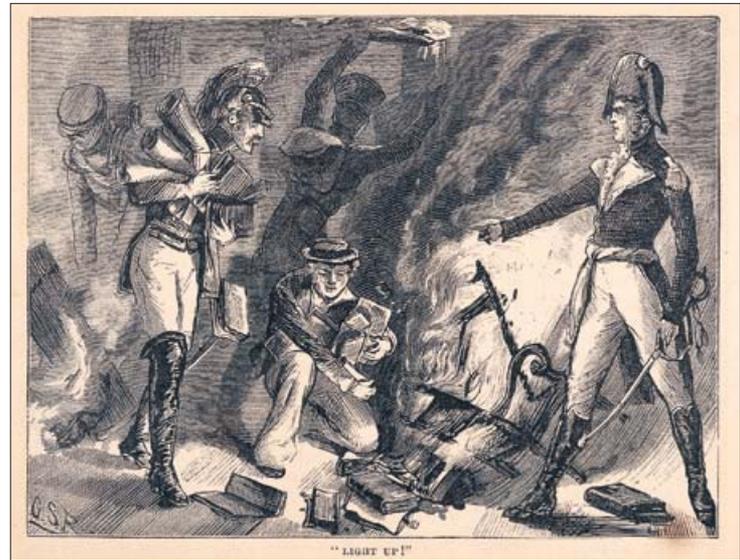
**[U.S. Capitol Interiors]**

Unidentified  
 Unidentified, ca. 1871  
 Engraving, black and white  
 8 ¼ x 5 ¾ inches (21.0 x 13.7 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00834.001



**"I Am Completely Floored!" [—Chief Justice John Marshall]**

Unidentified after Charles S. Reinhart  
*Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 12/1872  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 3 1/6 x 4 1/2 inches (7.8 x 11.4 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00017.001



**"Light Up!" [The British Burn the U.S. Capitol]**

Unidentified after Charles S. Reinhart  
*Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 12/1872  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 3 5/8 x 4 1/2 inches (9.2 x 11.4 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00028.001



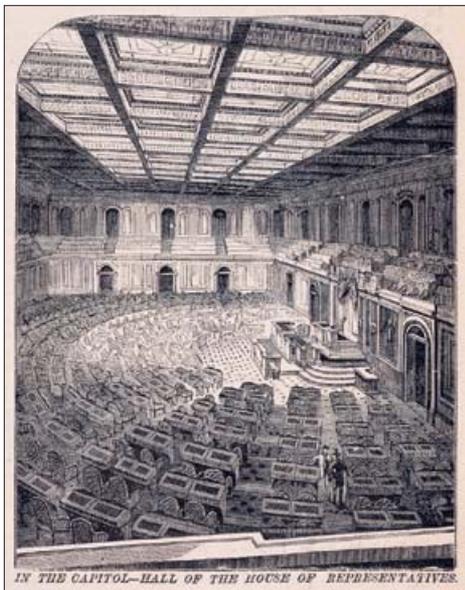
**Washington D.C.—The Inauguration—The Procession from the Senate Chamber Passing through the Rotunda to the East Steps of the Capitol.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/15/1873  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 5 1/4 x 6 7/8 inches (13.3 x 17.5 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00979.001



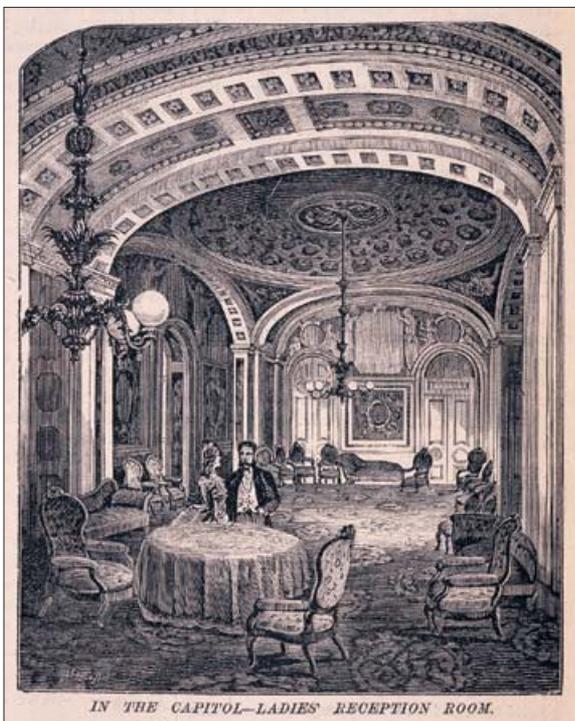
**In the Capitol—Central Room, Congressional Library.**

Unidentified  
*Hearth and Home*, 09/13/1873  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 4 9/16 x 3 5/16 inches (11.6 x 8.4 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00649.001b



**In the Capitol—Hall of the House of Representatives.**

Unidentified after Henri H. Lovie  
*Hearth and Home*, 09/13/1873  
Wood engraving, black and white  
4½ x 3⅜ inches (11.4 x 8.6 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00975.001c



**In the Capitol—Ladies' Reception Room.**

Unidentified after Henri H. Lovie  
*Hearth and Home*, 09/13/1873  
Wood engraving, black and white  
4½ x 3⅜ inches (11.4 x 8.7 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00975.001b



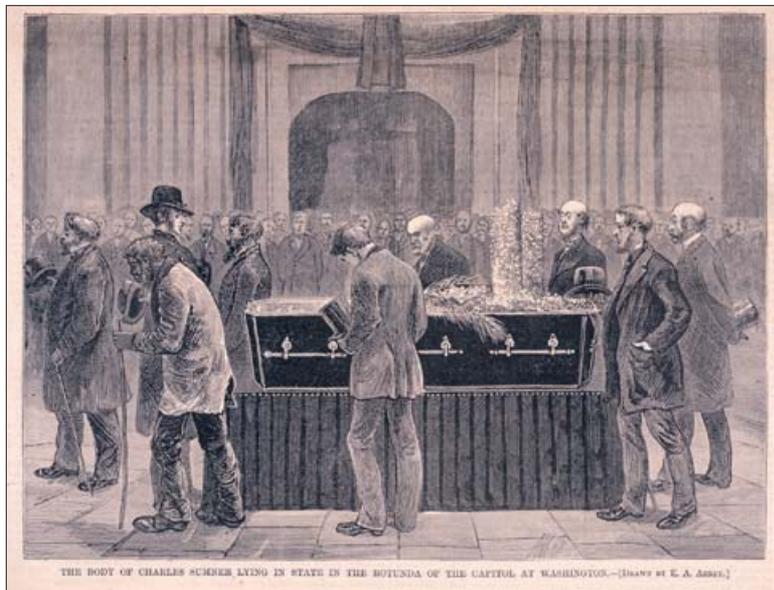
**In the Capitol—Lobby of the Senate.**

Unidentified  
*Hearth and Home*, 09/13/1873  
Wood engraving, black and white  
4⅞ x 3⅝ inches (11.6 x 8.4 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00649.001c



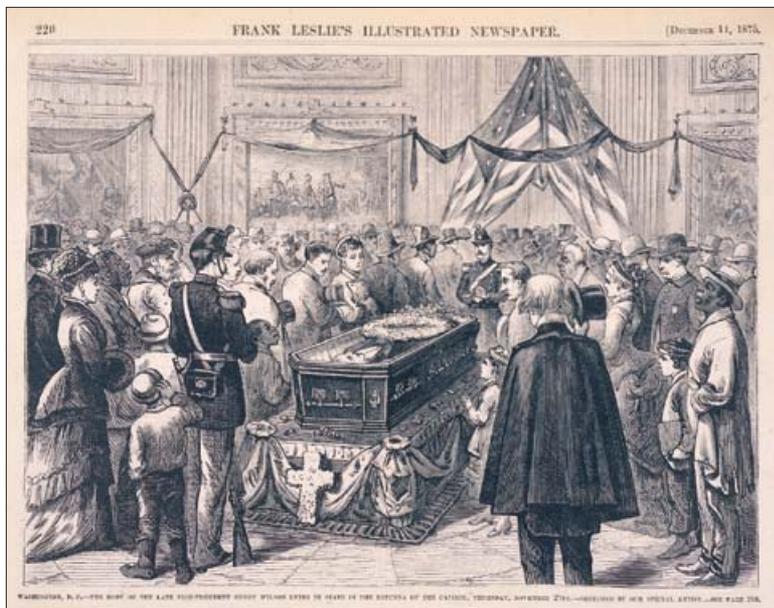
**In the Capitol—Marble Hall.**

Unidentified after Henri H. Lovie  
*Hearth and Home*, 09/13/1873  
Wood engraving, black and white  
4⅞ x 3⅝ inches (11.6 x 8.4 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00649.001a



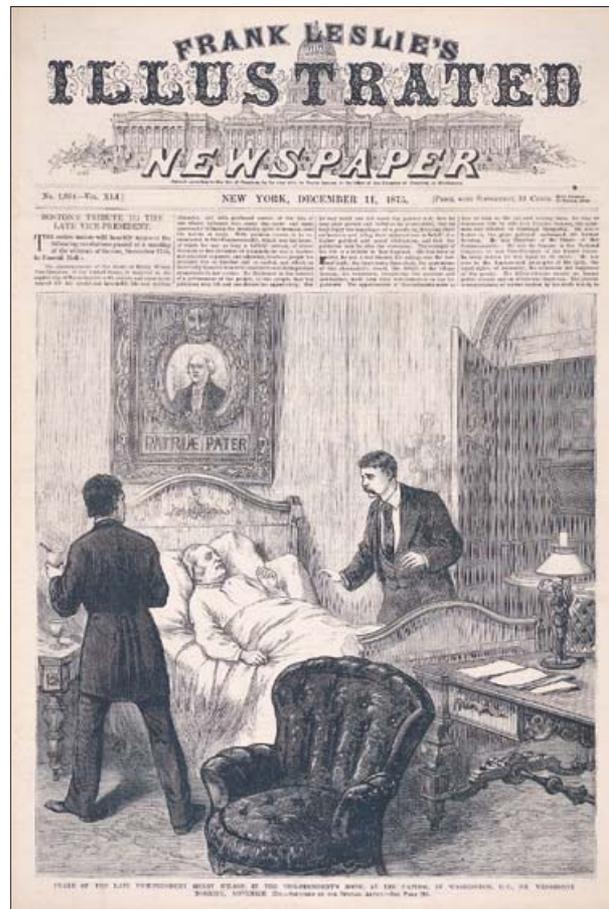
**The Body of Charles Sumner Lying in State in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington.**

Unidentified after Edwin A. Abbey  
*Harper's Weekly*, 04/04/1874  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 7 x 9 ½ inches (17.8 x 24.1 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00225.001b



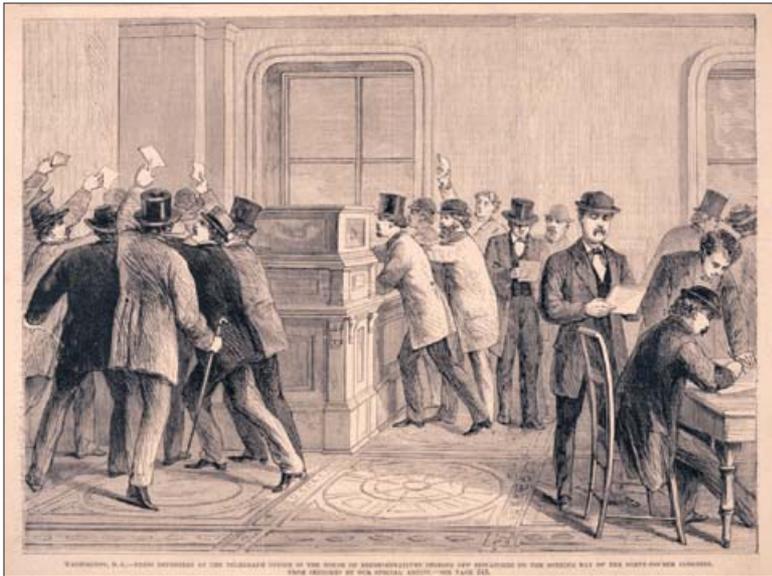
**Washington, D.C.—The Body of the Late Vice-President Henry Wilson Lying in State in the Rotunda of the Capitol, Thursday, November 25th.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 12/11/1875  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 7 x 9 ⅜ inches (17.8 x 23.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00288.002a



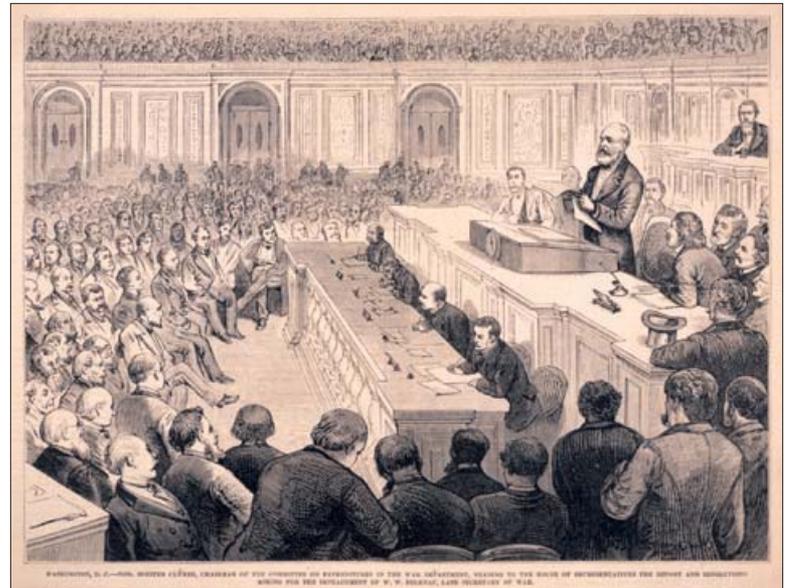
**Death of the Late Vice-President Henry Wilson, in the Vice-President's Room, at the Capitol, in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday Morning, November 22d.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 12/11/1875  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 10 ¼ x 9 ¼ inches (26.0 x 23.5 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00411.001



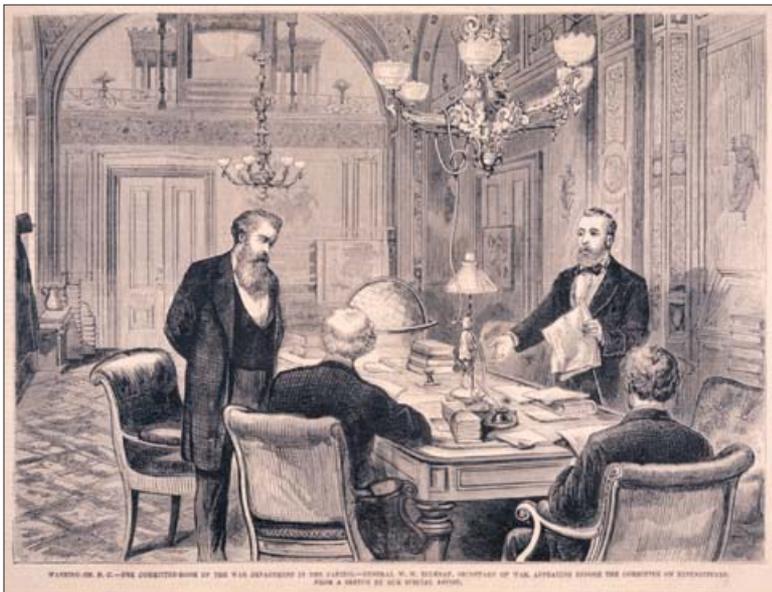
**Washington, D.C.—Press Reporters at the Telegraph Office in the House of Representatives Sending Off Dispatches on the Opening Day of the Forty-Fourth Congress.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 12/18/1875  
Wood engraving, black and white  
7¼ x 9¼ inches (18.4 x 23.5 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00409.001



**Washington, D.C.—Hon. Hiester Clymer, Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, Reading to the House of Representatives the Report and Resolutions Asking for the Impeachment of W. W. Belknap, Late Secretary of War.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/18/1876  
Wood engraving, black and white  
7⅝ x 9¼ inches (18.3 x 23.5 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00403.001a



**Washington, D.C.—The Committee-Room of the War Department in the Capitol—General W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, Appearing before the Committee on Expenditures.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/18/1876  
Wood engraving, black and white  
6⅞ x 9¼ inches (17.5 x 23.5 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00405.001



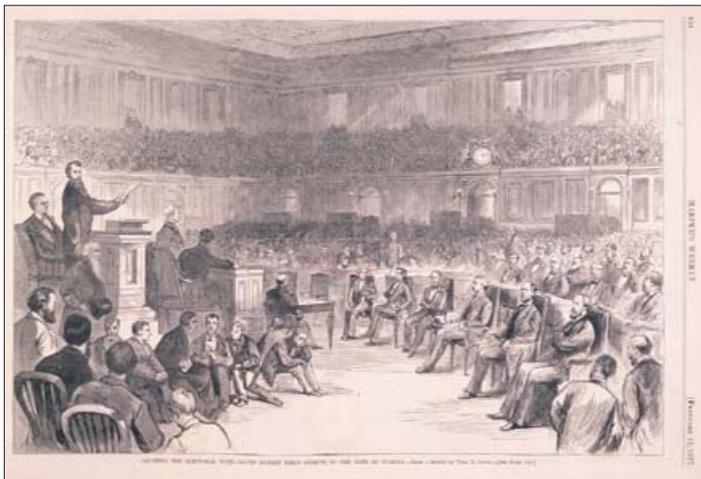
**American Sketches: Scene in the Rotunda, Washington.**

J. B. after Felix Elie Regamey  
*The Illustrated London News*, 04/15/1876  
Wood engraving, hand-colored  
8¾ x 11¼ inches (22.2 x 29.8 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00238.002



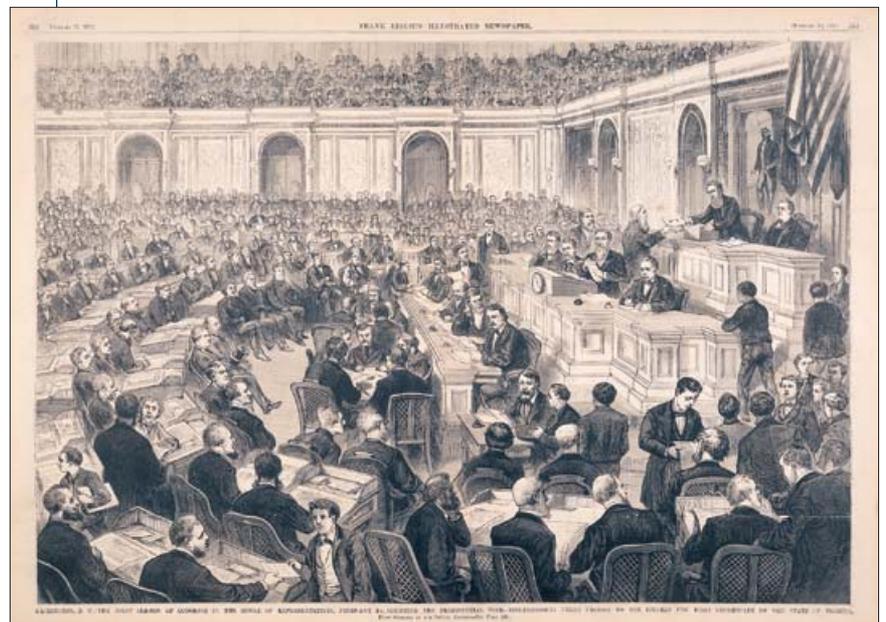
**The Electoral Commission in Session in the Supreme Court Chamber.**

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis  
*Harper's Weekly*, 02/17/1877  
 Wood engraving, hand-colored  
 13 3/4 x 20 1/4 inches (34.9 x 51.4 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00271.002



**Counting the Electoral Vote—David Dudley Field Objects to the Vote of Florida.**

Unidentified after Theodore R. Davis  
*Harper's Weekly*, 02/17/1877  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 9 5/16 x 13 1/2 inches (23.7 x 34.3 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00435.001



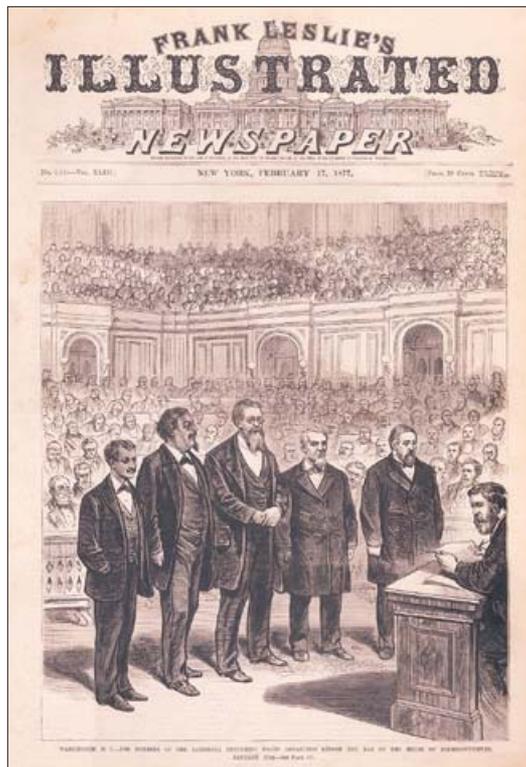
**Washington, D.C.—The Joint Session of Congress in the House of Representatives, February 1st, Counting the Presidential Vote—Vice-President Ferry Passing to the Tellers the First Certificate of the State of Florida.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 02/17/1877  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 14 1/8 x 20 inches (35.9 x 50.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00412.001



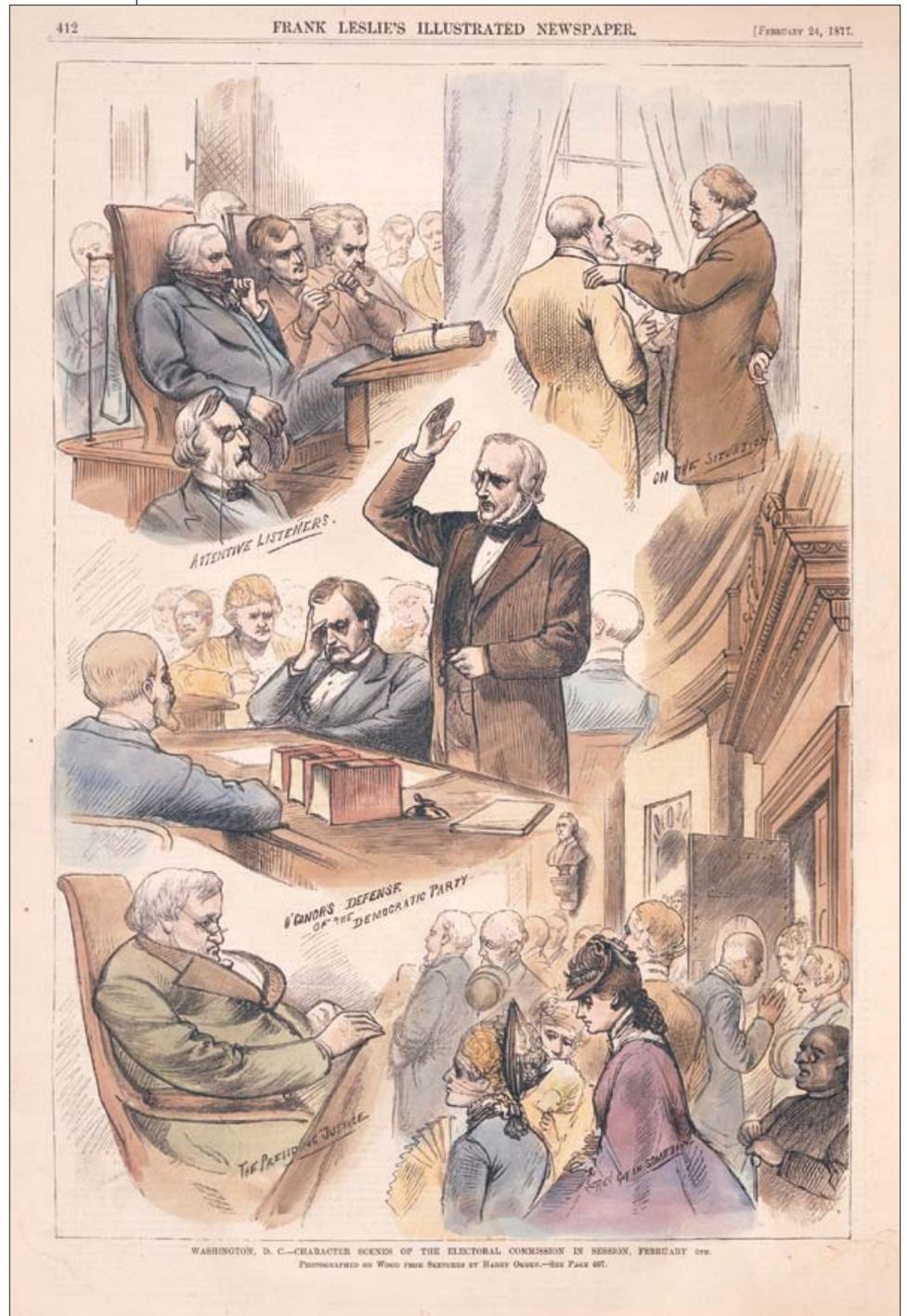
**Washington, D.C.—Messrs. Wells and Anderson, the Two White Members of the Louisiana Returning Board, Confined in the “Bastille” in the Capitol Building.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 02/17/1877  
Wood engraving, black and white  
7 1/8 x 9 1/4 inches (18.1 x 23.5 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00396.001b



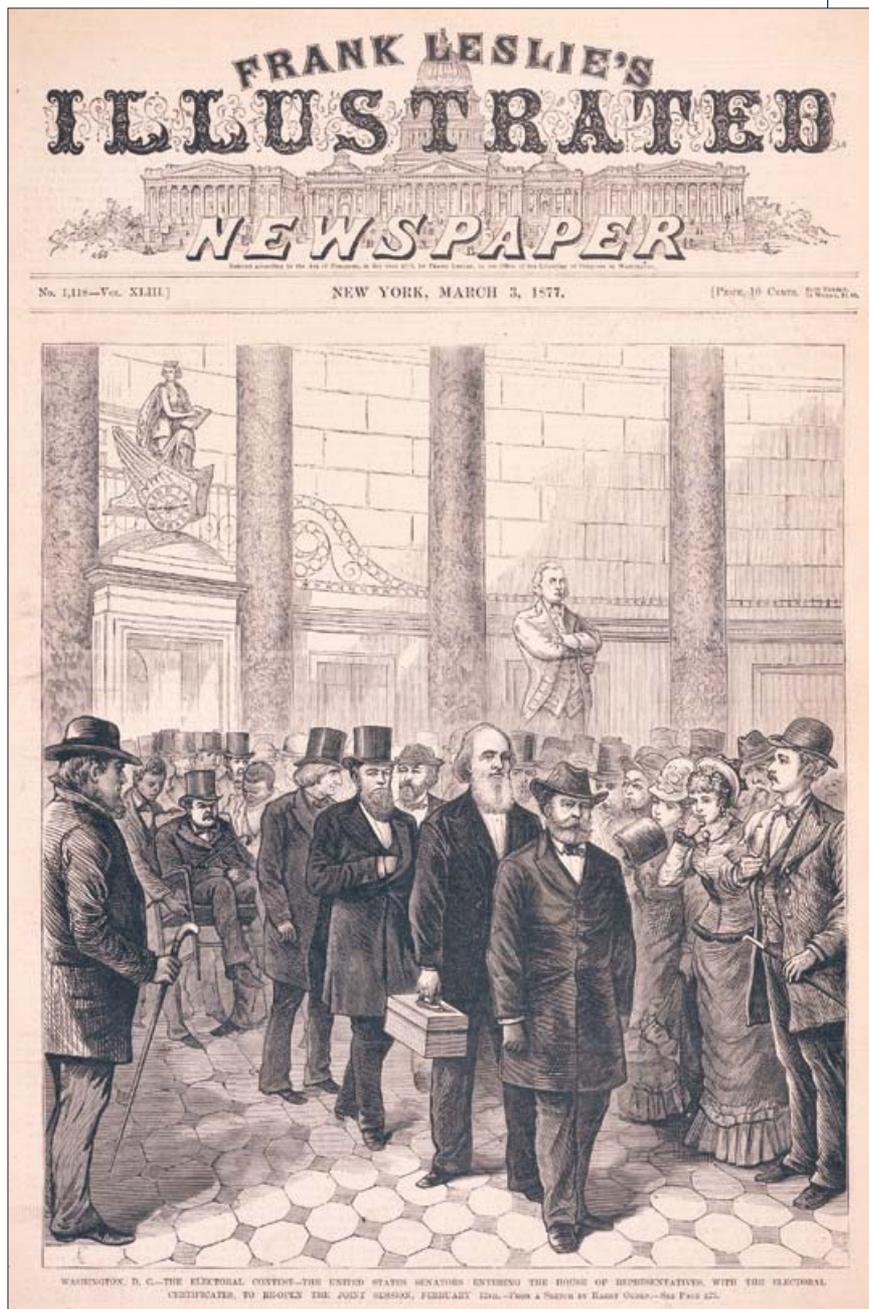
**Washington, D.C.—The Members of the Louisiana Returning Board Arraigned before the Bar of the House of Representatives, January 27th.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 02/17/1877  
Wood engraving, black and white  
11 1/16 x 9 1/8 inches (28.1 x 23.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00557.001



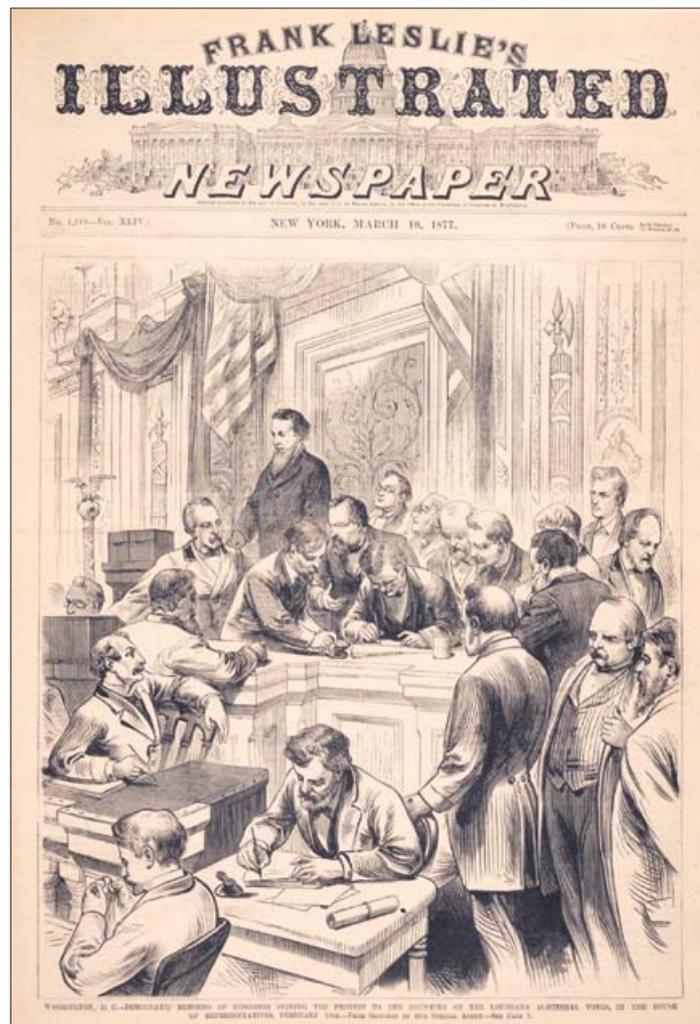
**Washington, D.C.—Character Scenes of the Electoral Commission in Session, February 6th**

Unidentified after Harry Ogden  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 02/24/1877  
Wood engraving, hand-colored  
14 x 9 1/8 inches (35.6 x 23.2 cm)  
Cat. no. 38.00876.002



**Washington, D.C.—The Electoral Contest—The United States Senators Entering the House of Representatives, with the Electoral Certificates, to Re-Open the Joint Session, February 12th.**

Unidentified after Harry Ogden  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/03/1877  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 11 x 9 1/6 inches (27.9 x 23.0 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00245.002



**Washington, D.C.—Democratic Members of Congress Signing the Protest to the Counting of the Louisiana Electoral Votes, in the House of Representatives, February 19th.**

Unidentified  
*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 03/10/1877  
 Wood engraving, black and white  
 11 1/4 x 9 3/8 inches (28.6 x 23.8 cm)  
 Cat. no. 38.00399.001