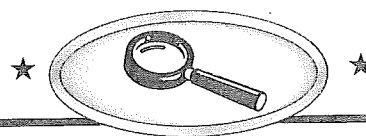


# ★ Enrichment Activity 3

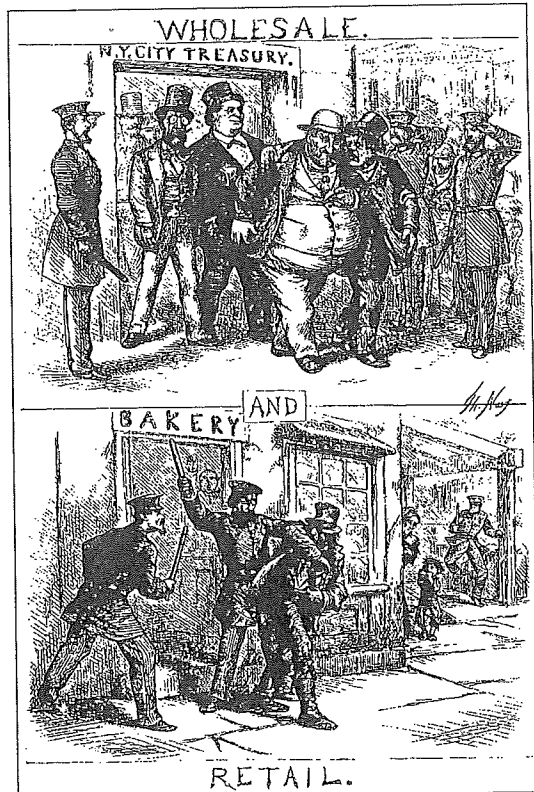


## Cartooning for Justice

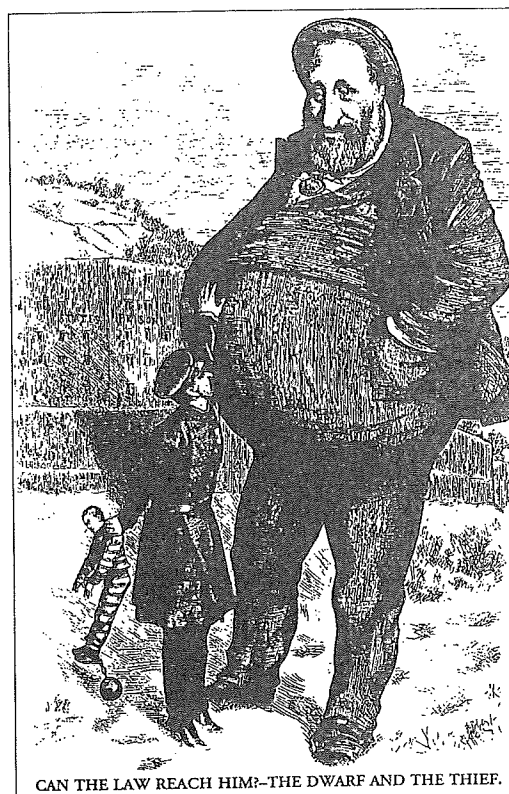
Thomas Nast's attacks on the Tweed Ring in the pages of *Harper's Weekly* contributed most to Nast's fame as a political cartoonist. As head of the New York Commission of Public Works, "Boss" Tweed gave contracts to his cronies in return for "kickbacks." An audit of a city account later disclosed that Tweed's gang stole \$200 million from New York's citizens. Among the gang's notorious tactics in draining the city's funds were billing the city \$50,000 a day for a

plasterer's wages and charging \$180,000 for three tables and forty chairs. Tweed attempted to use bribery to "silence" cartoonist Nast, but his tactics were unsuccessful. Tweed and his cronies were ultimately convicted and forced from office. Tweed was sentenced to a one-year jail term, but his unsavory saga did not conclude there. Tweed fled to Spain and attempted to hide out there. However, he was eventually extradited and imprisoned.

**DIRECTIONS:** Examine the two cartoons depicting Boss Tweed, and then answer the questions that follow.

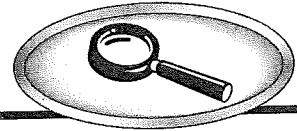


Thomas Nast, *Harper's Weekly*, September 16, 1871.



Thomas Nast, *Harper's Weekly*, January 6, 1872.

# ★ Enrichment Activity 3 *(continued)* ★



1. Who are the three figures in the cartoon on the right? What is the center figure doing?

---

---

2. Why has Nast drawn the figures in this cartoon of such differing sizes?

---

---

3. What actions do the two frames of the cartoon on the left depict?

---

---

---

4. What are the woman, child, and baby in frame two suffering from, and who might they be?

---

---

---

5. Why might Nast have labeled the two frames of the cartoon WHOLESALE and RETAIL?

---

---

---

6. Why might cartoons like these have prompted Tweed to say, "I don't care a straw for your newspaper articles; my people don't know how to read, but they can't help seeing them . . . pictures"?

---

---

---

7. **GO A STEP FURTHER** ➤ Find a political cartoon in a recent newspaper. Interpret the meaning of the cartoon. Find newspaper articles about the event being portrayed in the cartoon. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoon? Why?

---

---

---

---