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Editorial Cartoons

by Joe Escobar – Friday, January 22, 2016, 9:29 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Editorial Cartoons topic.

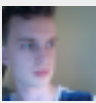
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At The South: Abolitionist Irony

by Peter Mixon – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 11:20 PM

At The South is a strangely ambiguous cartoon when viewed without its proper cultural context. It could have meant different things depending on whether it was published in the north or the south. However, it seems most likely to me that it is an anti-slavery cartoon published in the north. The main statement appears to be abolitionist in nature, and the cartoonist chose to convey his message through the use of extreme irony.

The cartoon shows a black (presumably slave) mother admonishing her child to behave better with the threat of the “big ole Bobolitionist” who will come and run away with the boy if he doesn’t. The setting of the scene appears strangely genteel and white-upper-class. The mother’s clothes seem fashionable, and she is seated in front of a fire in extremely luxurious slave quarters (if indeed they are). Any subtle clues in the objects in the room (a bottle and glass, banjo hanging on the wall, coat hanging on a hook, poster on the wall, etc.) are lost on me I have no knowledge of the particular figures or references that were common at this time.

The main irony lies in the admonition of the mother. The little boy being taken away (presumably to freedom in the north) by an abolitionist seems a positive rather than negative thing, thus turning the trope of “mother threatens child with exaggerated and/or mythical harm if they disobey” on its head. Other than the color of the characters’ skin, the scene is identical to any “regular” scene of its type, in which a white, middle-class mother might be warning the child against the bogeyman.

The true message of the author appears to be to expose the negativity of slavery by showing how slaves felt about abolitionists. He does this ironically by illustrating the ridiculousness of a scenario in which slaves perceived abolitionists in negative, frightening light. He shows how slaves feel by illustrating how they do *not* feel. The reader, being struck with the absurdity of what the mother is saying, is thereby encouraged to compare how slaves felt about slave owners versus abolitionists, and to come to the conclusion that abolitionists were, in fact, the ones of whom the slaves thought well. So, in a roundabout way, this comic is a statement of slave sentiment toward slave owners.

It took me a few minutes to sort out the details of this cartoon, as I was at first very confused by the caption.

After realizing that either it was blatant pro-slavery propaganda or highly ironic, I ruled out the literal meaning based on the strangely un-realistic conditions of the house and characters, which were instantly reminiscent of an established scene with which most readers would probably have been familiar.

To me the meaning of this cartoon is completely up for debate, as it has multiple possible interpretations without its proper context. I am sure a member of its target audience would have understood it, but we are left with the interesting job of doing our best to decipher its meaning.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: At The South: Abolitionist Irony
by Kyler Paselk – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 12:31 PM

I agree with the observation that this cartoon was most likely written by someone in the North. However, I have come to a slightly different interpretation of the cartoons intended message.

To me, this picture shows how the people of the south have convinced the southern black slaves into believing that they are meant to be enslaved people. Early Southerners preached that it was a slaves christian duty to be a loyal and obedient servant to their masters. I believe that this is displayed by the mother threatening to let the abolitionists come and take the boy away if he doesn't behave. The attitude surrounding this illustration is that the black people of the south were convinced through religion to have a negative view of the north because their duties as a "good christian" was to serve their masters.

The author was trying to express how the Southerners have convinced some of the slaves to have a negative view of the Northern abolitionist for trying to impede on their "christian duties".

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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At The South
by Shawn Jenkins – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 5:22 PM

The conclusion I have drawn from this cartoon is that it must have been drawn by a very pro-slavery anti-abolitionist writer. What i believe the author is showing us is a mother using the idea of freedom as a punishment for the child's misbehavior. This idea, and the illustration showing us that the mother and child appear to live comfortably and in good clothing, gives me the impression that the author believes that slaves are treated very well. The fact that the author doesn't even spell abolitionist correctly shows disdain. Also that he or she believes there is no need for abolition.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: At The South
by Aidan Middleton – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 11:43 PM

I absolutely agree with you. It’s hard to imagine this being anything but a part of the anti-abolitionist agenda. The way the people are portrayed and the way they talk about the abolitionists makes a clear statement. This cartoonist definitely supported and/or practiced slavery.

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by Zachary Sielicky – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 7:22 PM

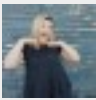
Scale Political Cartoon

The political cartoon that shows a scale that says black on one side with a black man sitting on it and on the opposing side says white with a white monkey looking man on it is depicting the nativism in the North and South. On the black side it says south at the top and on the white side it says North. This is demonstrating that the equivalent to the racial hatred in the South is equal (even scale) to the hatred of Irishmen (Irishmen were

portrayed as monkeys) in the North. Through out the 1800’s both blacks and Irish were hated through out the country. Though the North were against the slavery in the South and deemed it not only inhumane but wrong to treat them differently because of the color of their skin, people in the North hated and looked down upon people of Irish descent.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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"Am I Not a Man"

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 12:38 PM

The cartoon that stuck out the most to me was “Am I Not a Man.” I think the authors point towards to cartoon was to show that race didn't matter. I think that the author wanted to show the people that this is what the so called “Land of the Free” was about. There was no land of the free because African Americans were owned. I saw this because the man was on his knees pleading while being in chains. This shows a vulnerable and weak state that our country made African Americans feel. I defiantly think the north supported this cartoon. Mainly because the northerners were the free states and they could have been on side with how the cartoon was portrayed. This cartoon was most likely very effective. I think this because seeing it now, makes me feel uptight about how the south had a reputation about slave owners. In our culture today, there is no slavery and everyone is equal, yet there is still the idea that whites are better than everyone else. It shows that we might all be equal on paper, but not personally.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: "Am I Not a Man"

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 9:31 PM

I don't think everyone is equal today, maybe in regards to rights but not on a personal and national level. I'm not sure I would go as far as saying that there is an idea that whites are better than everyone else, but in certain cases I can see where your coming from. I think it all revolves around how we were brought up, honestly. In china schooling is much more strict, with much longer hours. This is how they were taught, and sometimes they come to America and excel scholastically, so we're under interpretation it is just their race? Many NBA stars today in interviews discuss their up bringing's, in the ghettos, on outdoor courts, and now look where they are. This again, is a small example in my belief of why we have these "inequalities"today. It's not necessarily that any one race is better than the other, we were just all brought up differently and shaped into who we are because of it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I not a man and a brother?

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 3:21 PM

I chose this cartoon, "Am I not a man and a brother?" because it is obviously a big part of what we have been discussing in class, slavery. I conclude that the political cartoonist of this cartoon was against slavery and believed that these slaves are just like any white man, they are a MAN and they are a brother, or a father, or a friend. I think he wants to show that they are more than just another slave. Nat Turner would have supported this message, being that he himself went through the struggles of being an African American and preached to others that they are more than just a slave.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons "Am I Not A Man"

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 3:48 PM

Of the Cartoons the one titled "Am I Not A Man" was the on that I most understood. In my opinion this cartoon was clearly done from an abolitionists point of view. The black man who is clearly a slave appears to be begging and asking if he himself is also not a man and a brother. I think the cartoonist main point is that yes black slaves are also men and being treated as if they are not. The cartoonist in my opinion portrays a lot of sympathy and

sorrow in this cartoon. Obviously the opposing point of view for this cartoon is that no blacks are just slaves and property that do not have the rights. In the eyes of many southerners during this time a slave was nothing more than property and a way of getting hard labor done. I think this cartoon was probably very effective in the 19th century. It raises a very good question that I think people in America were starting to realize. And that was is that blacks were also people, not just property. Today as a student and learning about this time period makes this cartoon also very effective. Because it shows the attitude starting to change during this time that would eventually lead to the end of slavery.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons "Am I Not A Man"
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 1:01 AM

I think this is an excellent depiction of the cartoon. I think that the shackles that also give off a sense of being trapped and treated like property, which gives this cartoon so much more power. The fact that while he is shackled he is looking up to the sky in a praying position gives me a sense that the creator of this cartoon wanted to give off the idea that this slave is equal to the white men of the south, in the sense that he believes in the same god and that makes those white men his brothers. How could they shackle him and treat him like he is less than human.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Promised Land.
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 5:35 PM

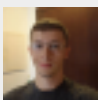
The author clearly shows that he is opposed to the European immigrants bringing their foreign religions to the United States. This cartoon depicts many greedy looking religious heads plotting to come and take the promised land from the people of the United States. This is depicted by the shorter man in the middle rubbing his hands together while grinning greedily. The different types of weapons in the back of the building show that these people are coming to take what they believe is theirs, possible with force. This piece suggests that the immigrants want too come over to our land and mess with our culture and religion. The attitude toward the european people is quite hostile and probably had a large effect on the impressions toward Europeans felt by the American people.

This post most likely either influenced or supported what the majority of americans were already feeling. The display of hostile immigrants coming to ruin the culture of the people with their differing religions were probably taken quite seriously.

I think this issue is very similar to what is happening to the people in Syria, although for different reasons. It seems that a big chunk of the United States and other parts of the world are against Syrian people coming to their country to seek refuge. I don't know why, but it seems like we have a hostile attitude towards anyone bringing foreign beliefs, values, or cultures into their homes. This cartoon shows that this attitude existed in the past, and that it is still a relevant feeling today.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The Promised Land.
by [David Adsit](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 10:09 AM

This is so funny, when I summarized this same editorial cartoon I said nearly the exact same thing word for word. Great minds think alike! I also made the connection between how Americans viewed the Catholics then and what's going on today with the refugees or even just immigrants from Mexico, illegal or otherwise. The comparisons are pretty resounding.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons: The Scale
by [Jeb Harper](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 6:11 PM

"The scale" cartoon to me represents the fact that the Irish were sort of looked at as equal to slaves. You can notice that at the top of each character's scale it reads "south" for the slave and "north" for the Irish. To me that communicates that the north saw the Irish like the south saw slaves. Also looks like they're both drawn to look like monkeys which clearly is attempting to dehumanize them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale

by [Brian Hunter](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 5:59 PM

I agree with your perception that the cartoonist feels that black and Irish men are equals,that is equally less than American white men. The way the cartoonist drew these men shows that he believes black and Irish men are beasts among men,and that the blacks are the beasts in the south, and the Irish are the beasts of the north. I am sure that this cartoonist beliefs coincide with Edward A. Freeman, an Oxford professor of history, who in the U.S. lecture tour in 1881 said "The best remedy for what is amiss in America would be if every Irishman should kill a negro, and be hanged for it". The cartoonist is an obvious democratic Southerner who hates abolitionists and whigs.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Keefer George](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:33 PM

Holy Horror.

It seems to me that the cartoonist was of the opinion that all people are equal regardless of skin color. It looks like the main point of the cartoon is that the most outrageous and disgusting behavior on display in the cartoon isn't the fact that a black woman is riding the street car. It's the ridiculous and hateful look on Mrs. McCaffraty's face as she looks at the black woman. I noticed Mrs. McCaffraty is drawn as overweight with a large basket of food on her lap perhaps showing she has plenty in life and doesn't need to be wearing such a hateful expression on her face towards the black lady sitting next to her. This coupled with the fact the black lady has no food on her lap, appears to be thinner and has a gentle look on her face lead my earlier conclusion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Justin Sheffield](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 4:01 PM

Looking at the cartoon and trying to make weight of it in my own opinion I find it easy to notice your view and interpretation of the cartoon. Mrs. McCaffraty is definitely drawn to appear in horror of what is taking place by having to sit next to what appears to be a middle class black woman when her husband clearly voted against "negro suffrage."

Another perspective I can also see is how it could be that the person "viewing" this horror is actually the individual witnessing this take place; the person drawing the picture sitting across from both an Irish more than likely Catholic woman (based on how she is drawn in a hideous manner) as well as a black woman and is off-put by having to sit in a street car with both of these women when her husband and presumably her herself don't believe in the rights of these two.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:11 AM

You both made very valid points that are very intriguing. I most certainly agree that Mrs. McCaffarty has an abundance of money as is well off. I also find it very interesting that the black woman is wearing such nice clothing. I think on top of her riding in the street car, being well dressed and being of a different race made Mrs. McCaffarty even more displeased with what she was seeing.

This could have been easily made by someone that was either for or against equality in the races. For the for, I could see it being made point to where they are all equal and they can do as they please, but people may be uncomfortable with it. But I also believe it could be where they author was against equality in the the races because there was the line of power in the race and power that white americans hold over all other ethnicities. Women's suffrage was a political stand and I can see that the author would be against it just because of the belief that two women of different races cannot ride along together.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Keefer George](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:42 PM

Yeah, I think the most telling symbol of Mrs. McCaffraty's wealth in the cartoon is the food basket. I'd bet there were few who could afford a huge, overflowing basket of fresh looking foods like that. I'm having a really hard time telling if the black lady on the right is dressed in nice clothes or not, the shoulder of her outfit looks tattered to me but maybe that was a style at the time. I think this cartoon must have been created by an abolitionist and for abolitionists who would understand the comical contrast in Mrs. McCaffraty's beliefs and behavior.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:23 AM

This was a very confusing cartoon for me, but after reading your guys post i can see exactly where both of you are coming from

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 7:08 PM

Holy Horror Reply

First off, i'm not even sure what race either of the two women are. The woman on the right could be black, but she could also be a white american. If you look at her hands they are white. Maybe she is wearing white gloves. To me its hard to tell if she is black, or a white woman with a shadow on her face. Also, it's not clear to me if the woman on the left is supposed to be an Irish woman or if she is supposed to be portrayed as an ugly, racist, white woman.

If what you said is true about the woman on the left being a spoiled, racist white woman, and the woman on the right being a black woman, then I agree with what you said.

However, if the woman on the right is supposed to be a white american woman and the woman on the left is supposed to be an Irish woman then I think the scenario is a lot different. I believe that this cartoon would have been drawn by a Northerner. The author might be trying to depict how the Irish harass and interfere with the every day lives the innocent American people that are just minding themselves. The Irish woman is depicted as ugly, slobbish, and disgusting. She even brought smelly fish to wherever they are sitting.

If the woman on the left is a white spoiled american woman and the woman on the right is a black woman then things are a bit different. I still think that this cartoon would have been drawn by a Northerner. The author was probably intending on showing how badly we treated free black people for just trying to live their lives.

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A Different View on Slavery
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 8:37 PM

The political cartoon “The Scale”, depicts an interesting view on slavery. The cartoonist opinion is that slaves

were equal to the poor whites of the north. And further, that many black slaves were better off than some whites in the north. The cartoonist is showing the view of white southerners who are pro slavery.

An opposing view of this issue would be one that was against slavery. That would believed that even though slaves and poor northerners had some similarities, the slaves were much worse off in that they had no freedom. As well as, the slaves were considered property and were not granted the right to vote. Therefore even poor white northerners had it better than black slave.

I believe this cartoon was very effective in the south to promote slavery. For students today the cartoon helps to see a different perspective on slavery. Which is a fair rationalization of slavery based on living standards. In our culture today there are similar situations of fair rationalization. Just as was done with slavery, today our national debt is rationalized. An increasing number of money is being borrowed and not being payed off. This is being justified as necessary and okay, just as slavery had in the 19th century.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: A Different View on Slavery
by *David Adsit* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:41 AM

I don't think that's just a poor white person on the scale, I think that's suppose to be an Irish man. I believe this is just saying that the blacks and the Irish were equal in their rankings in the US. I think this artist clearly doesn't like slaves, nor the Irish.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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The Promised Land
by *David Adsit* – Monday, January 25, 2016, 9:51 PM

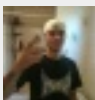
The Promised Land editorial cartoon I feel I understood the most. In this photo you've got the Pope and many other church folk standing on top of the Vatican looking over the Atlantic Ocean at the United States. This was clearly made by someone who feared the Catholic influence on the United States. The Pope himself looks like a menacing character with his greedy expression on his face while casting his hand towards the States. What I find interesting is the artist decided to put weapons in the background, almost like to foreshadow it. So I know that those types of weapons are strictly for show these days, and the Vatican guard still do carry them but for ceremonial use only, but it would be interesting if the artist was hinting that if people didn't take this problem(the catholic problem) seriously it could grow into another crusade. A crusade in the Americas. This I feel would be SUPER effective in the 19th century United States. The initial settlers were protestants looking to escape the catholic church by going to the new world in the first place. To now tell them all that the scary Catholics are now coming for them in America would for sure ruffle some feathers. While not all religions got along in America I'm sure this is one they could all collectively resist.

As I was writing this down I could not help but see the similarities between how Americans felt towards the Catholics then and how some people feel towards the Muslims today. Just like then there is a cultural scare towards a different religion. Yes, there are some major difference but I think in the long run we'll look back and see a closer resemblance then we do today. Who else thinks there are some connections between then and now? Let me know.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: The Promised Land
by *Justin Sheffield* – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 7:13 PM

"What I find interesting is the artist decided to put weapons in the background, almost like to foreshadow it. So I know that those types of weapons are strictly for show these days, and the Vatican guard still do carry them but for ceremonial use only, but it would be interesting if the artist was hinting that if people didn't take this problem(the catholic problem) seriously it could grow into another crusade. A crusade in the Americas."

I had the same conclusion as to these weapons in the background, I just didn't elaborate it as you did and I like how you did. In my opinion it was definitely a shot at the Catholic religion and those who follow it, as he tried to make his readers view the Irish and other Catholic immigrants as crusaders against Protestant America.

And I also agree with the your comparison of the views of the Muslim refugees today and how it definitely resembles the views

of the "Catholic invaders" of the 19th century. I actually know a few people who view these refugees in almost this same exact manner with the religious aspects of the "invasion."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Promised Land
by [David Adsit](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:46 AM

I really think this whole refugee thing really just ties into the nativism of this country. The idea that if you weren't born here, or if you aren't a citizen, you don't belong here. That thought process has been around for centuries it seems as we look back at our history.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Keefer George](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:28 PM

I agree theres a parallel with todays world.

I think nativism is a natural human reaction that we have to work against if we want to treat all people fairly.

I'd bet a similar cartoon would be a hit in Europe right now if you replaced the Catholic priests with Muslim imams and the cathedral roof with a mosque roof. Look at how quickly European countries today are switching from recieving refugees with open arms to wanting to close borders and deport people. Granted I do believe they are getting a lot of economic migrants taking advantage of the European welfare system and claiming to be "refugees" from syria when in reality they are from somewhere in North Africa/Central Asia and looking for a way out of the third world and into a modern country. They're also facing an obviously serious risk from terrorists sneaking in with the migrants.

The cartoon shows weapons in the background seemingly signifying that the Catholics are rallying for another crusade.... this time in the US. This cartoon must have been a hit at the time with the vast majority of Protestant americans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Emma Knutson](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 1:59 PM

Both of you made very good points about the weapons that I would have never noticed. I think it is actually very funny about how you said the weapons were a hint. But in my honest opinion, the Catholics weren't a problem. It was truly the Americans that were already civilized. I see this back then where our country was trying to create problems out of nothing just so there was something to fight about in war so we could win. And the Muslim resemblance is most certainly a thing between then and now. And not only Muslims but every other ethnicity either coming to the United States or having anything to do with the United States. I might be wrong with thinking that in retrospect the United States has always been the problem with things like this but that is just how I see it.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: The Promised Land
by [Justin Sheffield](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 4:09 PM

That could be true as well with the Catholics not being the problem. This artist could have been a Catholic himself and view America as a place that needs "saving," by means of bringing Catholicism to the American "Promised Land" by any means necessary (even by means of war depicted by the weapons in the background). I didn't draw this possible conclusion until you brought that up. But I believe this is a Protestant cartoonist attempting to depict the Catholics as war mongers themselves.



Re: The Promised Land
by [Brock Hinds](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 3:44 AM

There were actually many immigrants coming to the United States with all kinds of different religious backgrounds. "Jews, Protestants, and even some Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists—arrived in the successive waves of massive immigration to the United States starting in the 1840's all the way to the 1900's even."(<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nromcath.htm>) But Catholics came from various nations over to the United States and they were the most noticed religion in the wave of immigration to the United States in the 19th century. I think that this cartoon holds significant value and meaning. Catholics in Italy, Poland, and, parts of Germany saw work opportunity in America this is one thing I believe cause a wave of Catholic immigration. Catholic citizens saw this a chance to live poverty free and free from an oppressive government.

Sources:

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/nromcath.htm>



Re: The Promised Land
by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 4:50 PM

I thought your view of the weapons in the background was very interesting and valid. I notices the weapons in the background as well but was not exactly sure what to make of them. However after reading your post I went back and looked at the cartoon again and came up with a similar conclusion. To me the weapons were a sign by the author that (along with the greedy looks on the faces pf the pope and preist) the catholics were not simply migrating to American, but coming to take over. I think the author of this cartoon felt that at the time the catholics were coming in too large of numbers and came unwilling to adapt to a new culture. Clearly the author had a big prejudice against the catholics.

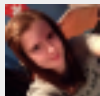


Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Angelina Rivas](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 9:52 PM

With the Scale cartoon it's saying that the Irish in the North is the same as the slaves in the South. That both races are just as equal in the way that they are both inferior to the Americans. The scale and the way how the black man smiled at the Irish man, even though the Irish man was frowning is what made me think that the Irish was on the same level as the slaves.

The possible opposing point may be either the Irish isn't as bad or worse than the slaves in the south. I'm not sure which nineteenth century politician would support the message, but it would probably be because they are hypocritical, they wouldn't like the slave situation, but hate the idea of having Irishmen in their establishments. I think this cartoon would have people start political conversations in the nineteenth century between the Irish especially seeing that is one of the populations that can read and understand what is stated in the political cartoon.

I think that seeing this now just shows how hypocritical the US is. The fact that the US welcomes everybody, but hates anybody who crosses the border and de-humanize them in ways that are insane. I feel like if this cartoon was recreated as maybe a Muslim female and a Mexican male it would cause the same level of controversy, because the muslims right now are being persecuted in the US; as well as the Mexican people in the US for "taking" all the jobs from the citizens. I only say that because those two not to offend anyone seeing I am half-Mexican and half-Salvadorean, and I am friends with a person of Islamic decent. They are just the black and Irish of our society.



Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 9:35 PM

Similar to what you said, I agree that the whole point of the scale is to show that both the blacks and Irish were pretty much equal. Both races were persecuted and considered inferior to white Americans. I liked your analogy of the muslim and mexicans being considered below the white Americans today and how it is still an issue. Theres still controversy over other races being treated as less than Americans. I believe the scale depiction is still beneficial today in showing history and present issues.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Angelina Rivas](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 10:26 PM

Technically it's not just Mexicans, it's all of Latin America that seems to be inferior to to White United States. As I am a person of Latin decent, I can say that most people think of Latinos only coming from Mexico, when there are people from El Salvador, Venezuela, Columbia, and so forth. It's a generalization that a lot of people make, because that is what society says. It's the same when people think of the Islamic people. My friend has Iranian decent, and most people would think she's from Saudia Arabia because she looks middle eastern. It's like that one comic shown in class; the one that classified Blacks and Irish as different races. In today's age if a political comic came out like "The Scale" there would be an outrage of people calling others racists. It would be true, they are racists but that is besides the point, they would just be following what society has painted them as. Our society today is just as hypocritical as it was in the nineteen hundreds. We want something to happen and when it does we denounce that we wanted it. Like Americans are all Immigrants, besides Native Americans, but we hate when people actually immigrate from their country to ours.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Brock Hinds](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 1:47 PM

Good point Angelina on making the connection with the scale cartoon and applying to what we see today in our country. I feel as almost nothing has changed when it comes to the U.S. We are very hypocritical when it comes to our immigration today you did get that right. I feel like it is still a problem in our country, and it needs to be resolved. It is a shame to see all the controversy over the Muslims this election especially the ones that were born on American Soil. (Birth Right Citizenship) You can even connect this cartoon to the Am I Not A Man And A Brother cartoon through the race aspect. That cartoon conveys the message that all people are created equal and we should have brotherly love for one and other, this is what verses in the bible state. So in a way I can see a connection between the two cartoons over race problems that we have had in our country. I think that it is crazy that in the 19th century they were having a lot of the same problems with race that we continue to still have to this day in our country. I hope that I am not the only one that sees this!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Am I not a man and a brother?
by [Brian Hunter](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:41 PM

The cartoonist's opinion is of a northern, abolitionist against slavery, trying to use the teachings of the bible to prove that their perspective on slavery is the correct one. The bible says that all men are created equal, and we are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of the lord. The cartoonist opinion is very clear.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Daniel Padilla](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:49 PM

"THE SCALE"

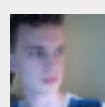
With this cartoon Thomas Nast wanted to show how people in the 19th Century believed that both black people and Irish people were worth the same. He tried to do this but putting depictions of both people on a scale and having the scale balanced.

Even during the 19th century I am sure there was a lot of opposing views to this belief, specially from people from the North or Abolitionists. The type of person that would have supported this cartoon would have been a Southern plantation owner or a non-Irish from both the North and the South.

I believe this cartoon was very effective during the 19th century, specially during rebellions by slaves.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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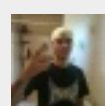
Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Peter Mixon](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 4:19 PM

I definitely agree that the point of this cartoon is to show how the Irish were to the north what black slaves were to the South: considered less than human, marginalized, treated poorly, etc. I'm just not sure whether an anti-Irish and -black cartoonist would have publicized his views this way. It seems more like a cartoon written by someone who was trying to draw attention either to the hypocrisy of the North for decrying slavery while mistreating the Irish, or simply the fact that the North was not devoid of people needing help and civil rights. The fact that the slave and the Irishman are on an evenly balanced scale of North and South seems to convey the idea either of political balance or of equal guilt. I'm still trying to figure out the political balance side of the cartoon, but if the artist's point was to illustrate that the North had just as much of a marginalization problem as the south, I think he made the point well.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Promised Land and Question set 1

by [Justin Sheffield](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:01 PM

From what I can read from the cartoon is that the artists opinion is low on the Catholic religion and its followers. Attempting to show them in a view of conquerors and imperialists rather than a peaceful religion.

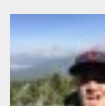
In my opinion the main point is to show how the cartoonist believes that the Catholics have set their eyes upon a new area to conquer, to send their "troops" so to speak and begin the takeover.

Leaders of military powers are typically depicted with followers about them while standing in a power pose and in this case on a high position of the top of the church making the rest of the world seem like nothing. The leader (I assume the pope), with an arm extended pointing towards what he wishes to conquer, the monk peering through the telescope surveying the next area of conquest and the route across the ocean that needs to be crossed. The troops in the background ready to march on order and conquer the land designated by the leader.

I am all about conversation over views of this and how you might interpret this cartoon or something that I may have missed myself that helps my opinion and interpretation of it so please chime in and let me hear it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Promised Land and Question set 1

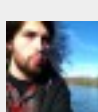
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 10:34 PM

I agree with this, definitely a bigoted view by the illustrator. This cartoon demonstrates how chauvinistic America was during the 1840's and 50's toward followers of the Catholic church. The spears and weapons that appear behind the cross gives off the sense of a military type invasion. I think your post is spot on!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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"Promised Land"



by [Aidan Middleton](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:27 PM

I chose to focus on the cartoon “Promised Land”. This cartoon had a very clear message, that the evil Catholics see the US as ripe for conquering. The artist conveyed this anti-Catholic message, which is a tenant of American nativism, by depicting the Catholics as obese with hungry and sinister looks on their. The position of the Atlantic Ocean shows that the Catholics are Europeans, whose religious persecution was the driving force behind the colonization of America. Many immigrants arriving in America in the 19th century, especially the Irish, would probably see this cartoon as a direct attack and take offense to it. This cartoon does a good job of playing off people’s fears at the time. The nativist movement was strong and cartoons like this helped fuel anti-Catholic sentiment. I see this cartoon as effective because it has an unambiguous message that is likely to resonate with people. Seeing this cartoon reminds me of Pope Francis, and how’s he received very mixed reactions on his visit to the Senate.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

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Re: "Promised Land"

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 4:09 PM

I think this is a great explanation for The Promised Land cartoon! The look that is portrayed on their faces do make them look evil, and the fact that they are drawn overweight gives them a bad look. Another thing I noticed is the weapons in the background you can see which gives me the idea that the illustrator wanted viewers to think that not only are Catholics coming here but they intend to take over the Protestant America. I get a sense that he (the illustrator) wants Americans to think that Catholics are this big violent religion that intends to take away their land, and the Pope is at the head of the command.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Scale

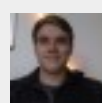
by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 4:04 PM

In this political cartoon I see a demonstration of the similarities between blacks and Irishmen in the fact that both men are treated unfairly and are equally looked down upon. Something that I wasn't totally away of before this class was how much the Irishmen were also mistreated and degraded. This illustration does a good job of showing that blacks weren't the only race looked down on. The monkey face white man represents an Irishmen while the barefoot black on the left represents a slave.

In my opinion this cartoon was very effective in the 19th century because it clearly portrays the hatred between not only blacks and whites but whites and the Irishmen (and even though not shown here, also a hatred toward German's and other races) that went on a daily basis. Even though it is not nearly as bad in today's world as this was in the 19th century, I still believe it is well worth knowing as a student and is very effective in our understanding of how the United States became what it is today, because it describes to us how we got where we are today and I think students really appreciate that. I think this ties into 2016 because even today, there is plenty of hatred and inequality throughout the world.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Scale

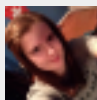
by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 3:25 PM

You do a fantastic job explaining that the Americans viewed the Irish and the blacks in equally horrible ways. One thing that i could add is that this cartoon shows the hypocrisy of the north. Most Northerners were against slavery. They disliked the Southerners for still wanting to keep the institution of slavery alive and growing. The North wanted to get rid of slavery and acknowledge blacks as real people and even citizens. The hypocrisy comes in play due to the way they treated the Irish (and other European immigrants). Although these people weren't enslaved, they were still mostly kept to working hard labor jobs for little pay. They were discriminated against, and even kept from working jobs other than hard labor. (Escobar showed us the "No Irish need apply" photo in class). Oh yeah, the Irish were even thought by the Americans to be a different

species of human. This just goes to show that even though the Irish weren't bound in chains, they were still forced into a life of misery by the American North. The Irish people were also viewed by Great Britain as "white negroes". The Irish were also decimated by the British caused Great Potato Famine. This was caused by less of a natural disaster and more of a complex set of social conditions created by British and owners. (www.racismreview.com/blog/2010/03/17/irish-americans-racism-and-the-persuit-of-whiteness/)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Scale

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 11:40 AM

I support the arguments you make about this cartoon. The main point of the cartoon is to show the unfair treatment of both blacks and the Irish. Both races were considered unequal to the white Americans. The cartoon makes a powerful statement of the moral wrongdoings that are common in this era. I believe that it was probably pretty influential in the 19th century and its message was one that especially southern slaveholders would disagree on. I think the cartoon today is beneficial in showing that slaves were not the only ones being mistreated in the 19th century. Immigrants were having a difficult time as well.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 1:27 AM

In the cartoon titled, “Am I Not a Man,” is very much created by a cartoonist who supports the abolition of slavery. To me the most symbolic element of the whole cartoon is the position that he is in. He is shackled, down on one knee looking up to the sky with his hands in a praying position. To me this demonstrates a very theological sentiment. The slave lives in a culture that has a very Protestant which is filled with reading of books and bibles with liturgy and hymns that emphasize brotherly love between one another. Yet he is looking up to God while shackled asking, “Am I not a Man or a Brother?” This sends a message to slave sympathizers a sense of commonality with slaves through religion. How could a slave holder shackle and look at his “brother” like property. The treatment of slaves impedes on the views of brotherly love in the Bible.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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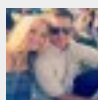
Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 10:29 AM

I really like that you pointed out the looking up and praising God aspect. My question is, where were the salves at with their faith? I feel like you captured it by saying they they were in a praying position. It symbolizes that they either wanted to plead and pray to God to free them, or it could have been where they were questioning why they were slaves. So I thought that was a very relevant topic to point out!!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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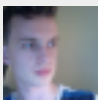
Re: Editorial Cartoons "The Promised Land"

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 4:35 PM

The First conclusion I came to while looking at this cartoon was that the cartoonist was against the migration of catholics to America. The point was clearly made that these voyagers were catholic due to the type of hats they were wearing which we discussed in class with the "alligators" coming to shore while kids were being thrown over the wall. Another image that I found interesting was the look on on the head priest face as he pointed toward America. I interpreted this as if the cartoonist were saying the catholics came to America trying to take over and were unwilling to adapt to a new culture. In my opinion the two head priests depicted in the cartoon almost appear to be scheming. I think all native born Americans were probably supported of this cartoon in the 19th century. I also think the cartoonist was a nativist, clearly due to the nature of this cartoon. I think this was very popular in the 19th century with native born Americans because of the amount of immigrant catholics coming to America as well as how much dispute and controversy arose between them. This relates in 2016 with

all the immigrants coming across the border from Mexico. There is a lot of tension and problems that are happening in California and many other states. And if you think things aren't changing or being affected in Oregon as well, start paying attention to how many things have an English as well as Spanish version.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons "The Promised Land"

by [Peter Mixon](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 5:24 PM

Well put, Benjamin. I definitely see the link between Promised Land and the cartoon Joe showed us in class. The depictions of Catholics as scheming invaders or ravenous crocodiles are both equally strong in their warning against Catholicism, and since this was the era of huge numbers of catholic immigrants I think it's safe to say that this cartoon definitely expresses the nationalist agenda. Something that I find puzzling, though, is the caption of the cartoon. I usually think of the promised land as an element of Judaism, so I'm not entirely sure what the connection is. However, the pikes in the background seem reminiscent of Spanish conquistadors, and the turret from which these people are surveying America is similar to a ship's crow's nest. The telescope that the friar is looking through as well as the waving hat seem almost to indicate a shipboard feel, which makes this scene eerily similar to the idea of Columbus discovering the new world. In the same way that Columbus and the Spaniards saw the new world as a new place for the spread of Catholicism, is it possible that the insinuation is that the Vatican, has its eye on America as the target of another Catholic invasion? This might explain the caption, as it makes sense that Columbus and the explorers who followed him probably in some sense viewed the new world as a promised land of sorts, full of riches and resources ripe for the taking. Imagine how frightening it would be to 19th century Americans to consider that the Vatican had its eye on them in the same way.

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How I Interpret 19th Century Political Cartoons

by [Brock Hinds](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 5:48 PM

Am I Not A Man And A Brother? Cartoon:



There is a lot to say about this cartoon and what I got from it. I would say that the artist of this cartoon was defiantly against slavery possibly even an abolitionist. This cartoon also leads me to the conclusion: that this cartoon was more than likely featured in William Lloyd Garrisons published newspaper “The Liberator”.

The reason that I believe this cartoon was featured in The Liberator was because of the message the artist was trying to convey. Whoever was the artist of this cartoon supported birth right citizenship as well as immediate emancipation of slaves and complete abolishment of slavery in the union. This was the message that I got from this cartoon I hope somebody else agrees with me on this message I got from the artist. If somebody sees a similar message, I would like to hear your opinion as well.

There were a few specific items that lead to my interpretation of this cartoon. I took a look at the message in the banner and came to understand it. I was also able to find out what the authors standpoint in the slavery issue leading up to the civil war. All the items that I noticed lead me to my conclusion and interpretation of this cartoon. That all slaves be freed immediately and granted citizenship and rights. And the abolishment of slavery throughout the whole union.

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Re: How I Interpret 19th Century Political Cartoons

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 1:03 PM

I could see this being printed in the Liberator, I think that the slave is praying to a god asking "am I not a man or brother," which is referring to the Protestant Bible and the importance of brotherly love.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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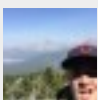
Re: How I Interpret 19th Century Political Cartoons

by [Brock Hinds](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 3:17 AM

That is a great observation Zach I never thought about the praying aspect! That would make complete sense that he would be praying, slaves would have had that brotherly love for their fellow brethren. Religion would have been a very strong aspect that all slaves shared during this time period as well. Do you also think that the saying on the banner has some connection to birth right citizenship like Professor Escobar was discussing with us in class?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: How I Interpret 19th Century Political Cartoons

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:25 AM

Yeah, the birth right citizenship could be a major part of what this cartoon is trying to depict. Good point!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The Scale

by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 9:56 PM

This cartoon just goes to show that the American people weren't only horribly racist against the blacks in the south, but to the Irish in the north. Both the black and Irish men are drawn to be hideous and frightening. This represents that whoever drew this wasn't too fond of either ethnicity. The scale shows that the Irish people are worth just about as much as the blacks. Considering the blacks were kept as slaves and that they didn't have any rights means that whoever drew this cartoon really didn't like the Irish either.

Another interpretation that I had is that the scale represents the law. This could mean that legally the blacks and the Irish were treated and viewed equally horribly in the eye of the law. I think it is clearly expressed in the other cartoons that the American view of the blacks and Irish wasn't a positive one.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Scale

by [Aidan Middleton](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 3:03 PM

I agree with your interpretation of the cartoon. I assumed that this was by a cartoonist from the North, which wasn't devoid of racism despite outlawing slavery. It's probably from a Northerner because of the obvious fact that the majority of Irish immigrants were in the North. I think you're right about the scale representing justice, which leads me to believe it might be a satirical piece. It's possible the cartoon doesn't reflect the artist's own views on race, but an attack on popular racist thought of the time.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Unequal

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 8:29 PM

I believe the cartoonist felt slavery was morally wrong and that he was strongly against it. The main point is to show that slaves were being considered as property and not as equal individuals. The chains on the black man

show that he is not free and is being treated as less than the white Americans.

An opposing view would be that of southern slave owners. They felt slavery was necessary and that they indeed did treat their slaves properly. William Lloyd Garrison would have most likely supported this message. In that he was an abolitionist and was against slaves being treated poorly.

The cartoon was probably pretty effective in the north, by showing the strong inequalities slaves were being subjected to. As well as, how dehumanizing it was for them to be considered property and not as people. For us today, I think it does a worthy job showcases the vast suffrage that slaves felt and how brutal it was for them to be not considered men.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Unequal

by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 10:44 PM

Am I Not A Man reply.

I totally agree with you. This cartoon was probably drawn by a northern abolitionist. I could see this cartoon being one of the ones that the south got upset at. This cartoon could have caused the South to try and stop Northern news coming into the South post stations.

The message that that this cartoon delivers is a powerful one. The Northern author was trying to challenge the view that southerners had on their slaves. The statement "Am I not a man and a brother?" is asking the slave owners and the southern people to question their current way of thinking.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Unequal

by [Brock Hinds](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 1:32 PM

I can also see the message in this cartoon has a religious meaning to it as well. "Am I Not A Man and a Brother" could also be pointing out the religious beliefs of the slaves in the south. There are many verses in the bible that clearly state to not harm our fellow brethren. The bible also has verses describing brotherly love and how everybody should have it for their brethren. If you think about it southern slaves and northern abolitionist more than likely were trying to point out to southern slaveholders that keeping slaves was a sin against the bible. This cartoon is no exception that is for sure it delivers a very strong message. And the religious meaning behind the cartoon can be just as strong as the message. Good point made Kyler, if would not suprise me if the south was trying to stop northern news from coming into the south because of the slavery issue and everything that was being published in newspapers from northern abolitionist.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons: Holy Horror

by [Jeb Harper](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 3:14 PM

This cartoon took me awhile to try and come up with some ideas of what it could possibly be representing but after some thought I began to notice how distinctly different the two women are. The woman on the right seems to be a women of color that looks very civilized and upperclass. And the woman on the left seems to be light colored and almost depicted to have ape like features which would make me think maybe she's Irish or possibly southern because of the produce and clothes she's wearing. She also has two bottles of wine or, I'm assuming some sort of alcohol, which would fit right along with the Irish stereotypes. Then the obvious words at the bottom say that they're in a street passenger car and that the light colored women's husband voted against negro suffrage so I kind of think they made her look more uncivilized so it would look like she's representing the kind of people who would vote against negro suffrage.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons: Am I Not a Man and a Brother

by [Jeb Harper](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 3:42 PM

A couple ideas come to mind when I first saw this cartoon. Either he's asking God, "Am I Not a Man and a Brother", or someone from the north drew this to send a message to southern plantation owners. I personally think he's almost angry at God because he's looking up to the sky with his hands together like he's praying. Also the Bible refers to those who are of the household of faith as a family so its almost like he's crying out to God.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Scale Cartoon

by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:23 PM

3. What about our culture in 2016 most influences your position on this cartoon drawn in another age?

I am observing the scale cartoon. I believe this cartoon was created by a northerner in support of equal rights focusing on northern white men against equal rights. This may be focused on a person in political power at the time. I do feel like the cartoon would be more specific if it was about a white political figure. What I believe to be the main point of this cartoon is that black men and white men are equal. In the cartoon, you can see that the southern black man is very joyful about being equal in comparison to the white northern man on the opposite side of the scale.

An opposing point of view on this issue could be white northern men in favor of equal rights feeling like others are getting the wrong impression of them. Which could mean that this is created by a southern white man in favor of slavery to make it seem like the white northern men aren't all that great. Although I do believe abolitionists would be in favor of this cartoon because it shows that men are created equal.

I am not sure of how effective this cartoon was in the 19th century because it does come off a little confusing. Its lack of words really leave it up in the air to what side of the authors view is on, which is why I believe it's also a little confusing for a student to observe in today's time. I think in our culture in 2016 we still face so many issues on equal rights that this cartoon still applies. I think if it didn't have any words labeled anywhere it would be very similar to the ever going struggle for equal rights.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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