

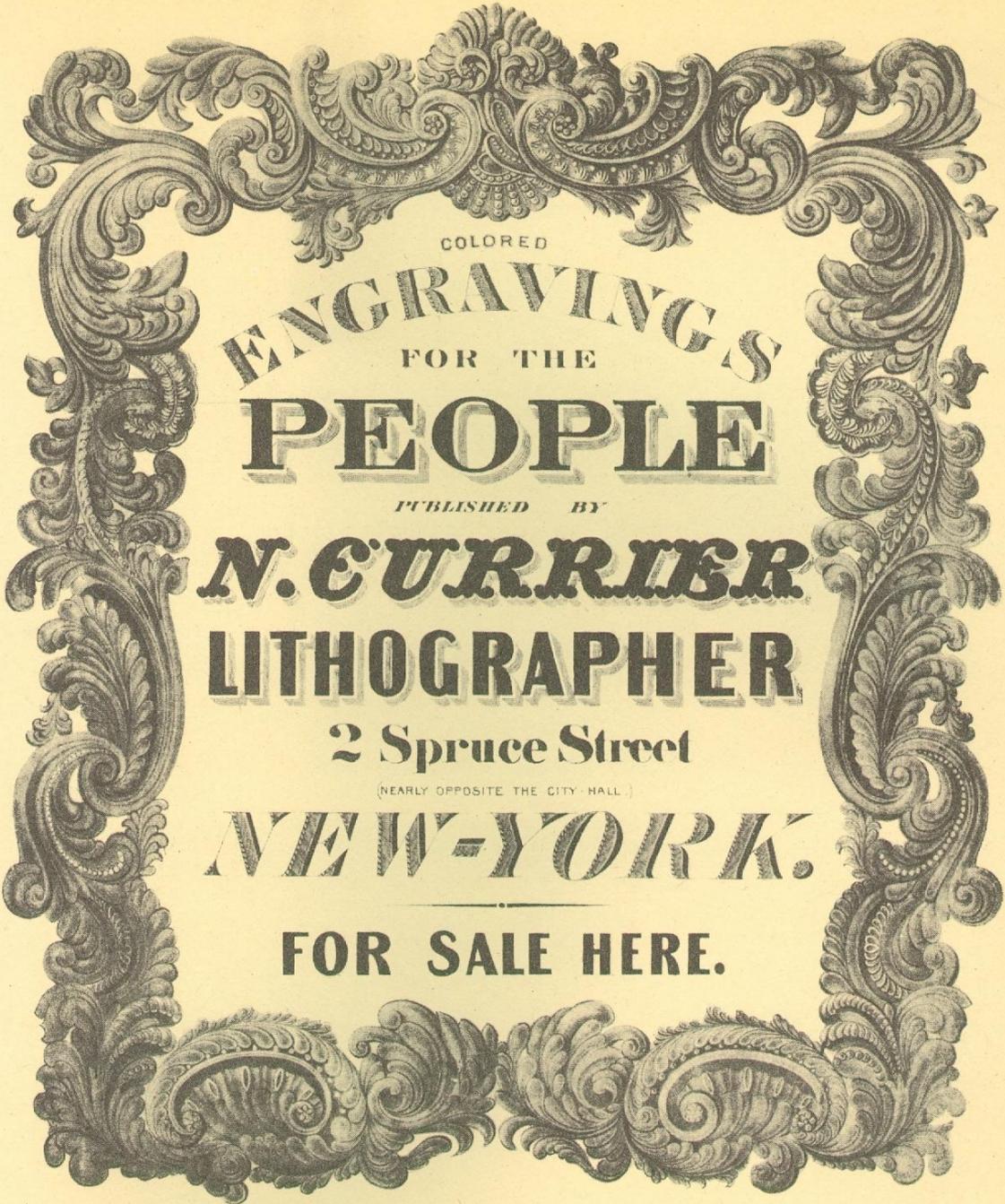
American History Through Art
by Gordon Hurst

Currier & Ives

Currier & Ives prints covered a wide variety of subject matter, from comics to reproductions of oil paintings, sentimental scenes to portraits of famous people, from disasters and shipwrecks to war and naval battles, from clipper and whaling ships to railroads and fires, even political cartoons and mockery of various people.

- **In 1834, Nathaniel Currier formed his first partnership. Andrew Jackson was President, the South was full of slaves, Texas still belonged to Mexico, the Great West was still a wilderness and American was still agricultural not industrial.**
- **In 1888, when Currier died, he left a country spanned from coast to coast with railroads, a nation still reeling from a Civil War, industrial growth in the North and a conquered West.**

- **Nathaniel Currier had a difficult start to his career in printing. He began in 1834 and by 1835 had an office at 1 Wall Street. In 1836, he established himself in Lower Manhattan (152 Nassau Street as his office and later at 2 Spruce Street as his factory), later moving to 33 Spruce Street.**
- **His first business associate was his brother Charles but he lacked ambition and motivation.**
- **In 1852, James Merritt Ives became the company bookkeeper and his expertise made the company quickly expand, allowing him five years later to become a partner.**



COLORED

ENGRAVING'S
FOR THE
PEOPLE

PUBLISHED BY

N. CURRIER
LITHOGRAPHER

2 Spruce Street

(NEARLY OPPOSITE THE CITY HALL)

NEW-YORK.

FOR SALE HERE.

- They created over 7,000 prints, their first best seller being printed in an “EXTRA” of the *New York Sun* captioned “*Awful Conflagration of the Steam Boat ‘Lexington’ in Long Island Sound on Monday Eveg. Jany. 13th 1840, by which melancholy occurrence over 100 persons perished.*”
- The Extra Sun” was a sensation; their presses ran night and day to supply the demand. They were now an American success story.

This was not the first wreck that Currier & Ives printed. Below is the shipwreck of the Mexico, off Long Beach, New York in 1837



Drawn on the Spot by H. Sevel.

Printed by Currier's Lith. Co. at Nassau St. Spruce St.

Dreadful **WRECK** of the **MEXICO** on **HEMPSTEAD BEACH**. .Jany. 2nd 1837: As now Exhibiting at

HAYINGTON'S DIORAMAS.

(Copy Right Secured.)

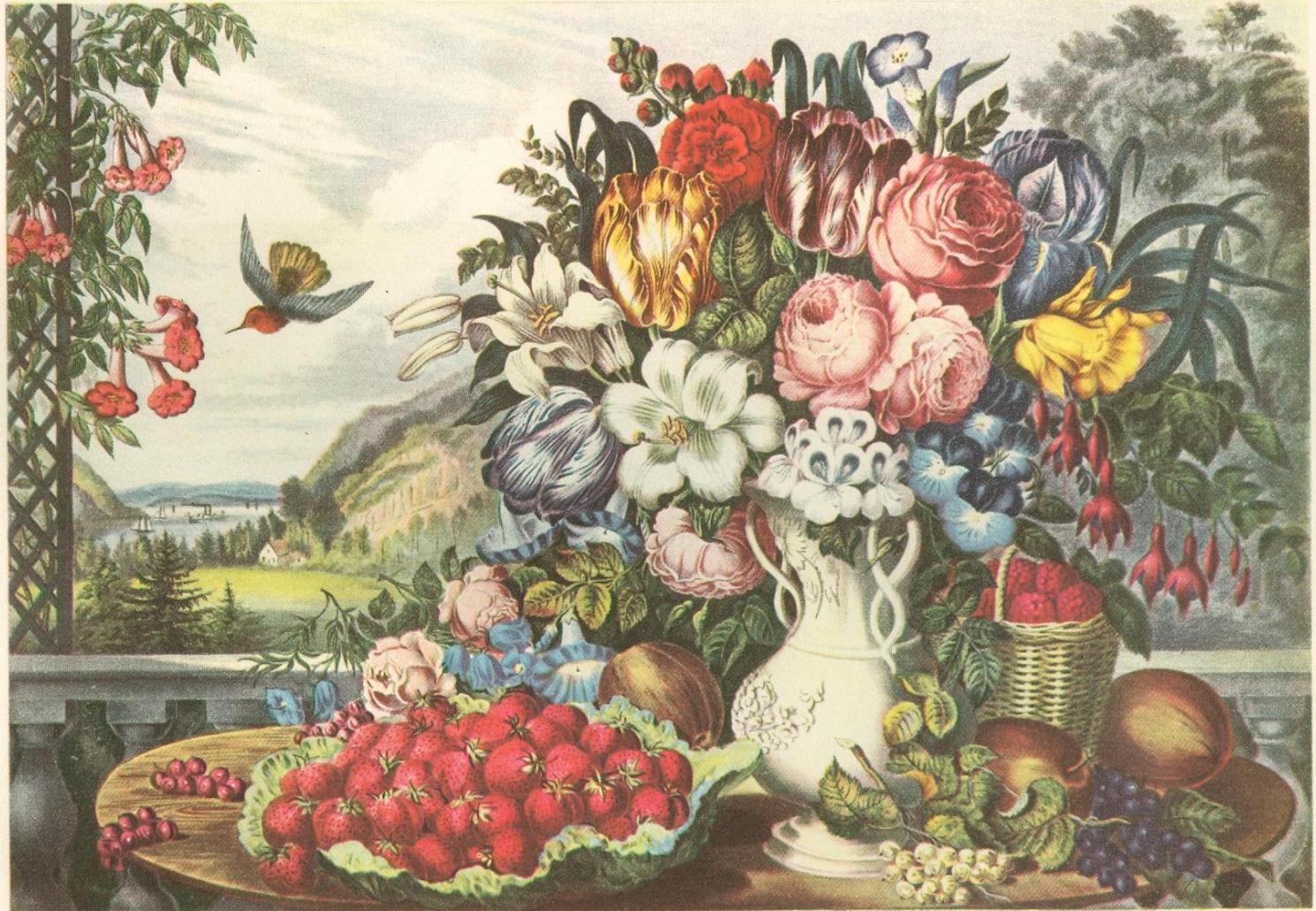
Pub^d at the Sun Office by Blitay

Perished in all—115 Souls.

The following are some of their prints. I have tried to choose a wide variety depicting American history as well as those in color to give the viewer a better perspective of their art. The small prints sold for between 15 to 25 cents each (wholesale 6 cents each). They were about 2.8 ins. x 4.8 ins. each. The larger pictures cost between \$1.50 to \$3.00 each. They were sized 18 ins. x 27 ins.

Several artists worked for Currier & Ives including Louis Maurer, Thomas Worth, Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, Fanny Palmer, George Henry Durrie and Charles Parsons

Part 1 – America and its People



LANDSCAPE, FRUIT AND FLOWERS.

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURTIS & PEASE, 152 NASSAU ST.



THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

EMIGRANTS CROSSING THE FLAINS.



1174. & PUB. BY N. CURRIER. *Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1848 by Henry B. Meyer, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of N.Y.* 1175 HASSAU BY COR. OF SPRUCE N. Y.

SINGLE.



1174. & PUB. BY N. CURRIER. *Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1848 by N. Currier, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of N.Y.* 1175 HASSAU BY COR. OF SPRUCE N. Y.

MARRIED.



L I F E O N T H E P R A I R I E .
The "Buffalo Hunt".

NEW YORK PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVEY, 157 NASSAU STREET.



G. H. Durrie
1866

Engraved according to Act of Congress, in 1807, by Currier & Ives, in an Engraving Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of N.Y.

Copyright 1866 by G. H. Durrie

HOME TO THANKSGIVING.

NEW YORK PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 157 NASSAU STREET



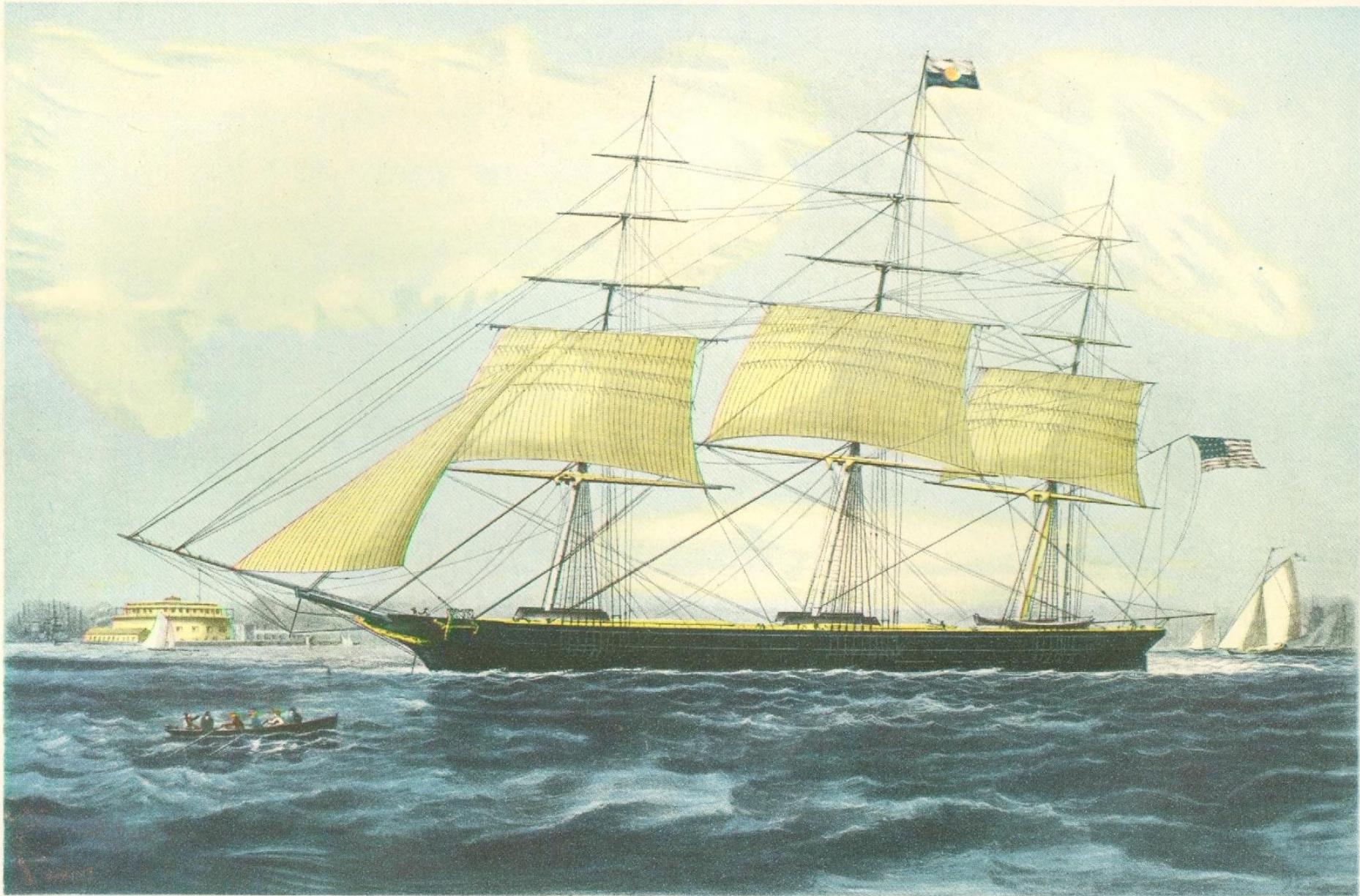
1. WINTER 1878

Reproduced according to Act of Congress in the year 1878, by the Director of the District Office of the District Court of the Southern District of New York.

1878 1/2 1/2

THE ROAD, - WINTER.

PUBLISHED BY W. CURRIER, 155 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK.



C. FANSDORF DEL.

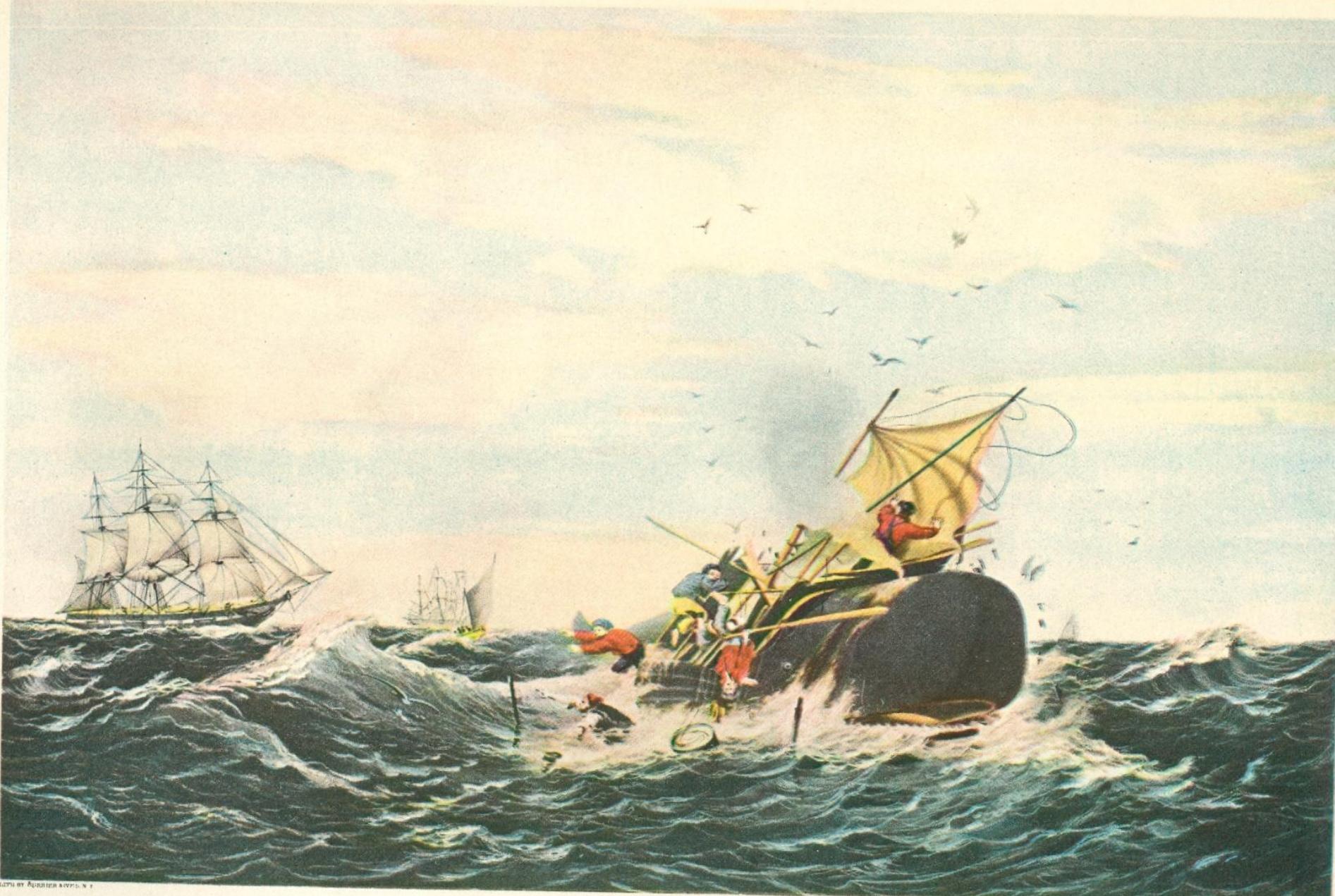
Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1866, by H. Corbin, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of N. Y.

LITH. BY H. CORBIN

CLIPPER SHIP "NIGHTINGALE"

GETTING UNDER WELGH OFF THE PATTERY NEW YORK.

NEW YORK PUBLISHED, BY H. CORBIN 155 NASSAU STREET



1876 BY AURICHA & W.P.L.N.F.

THE WHALE FISHERY.
THE SPERM WHALE "IN A FLURRY".

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 152 NASSAU ST.

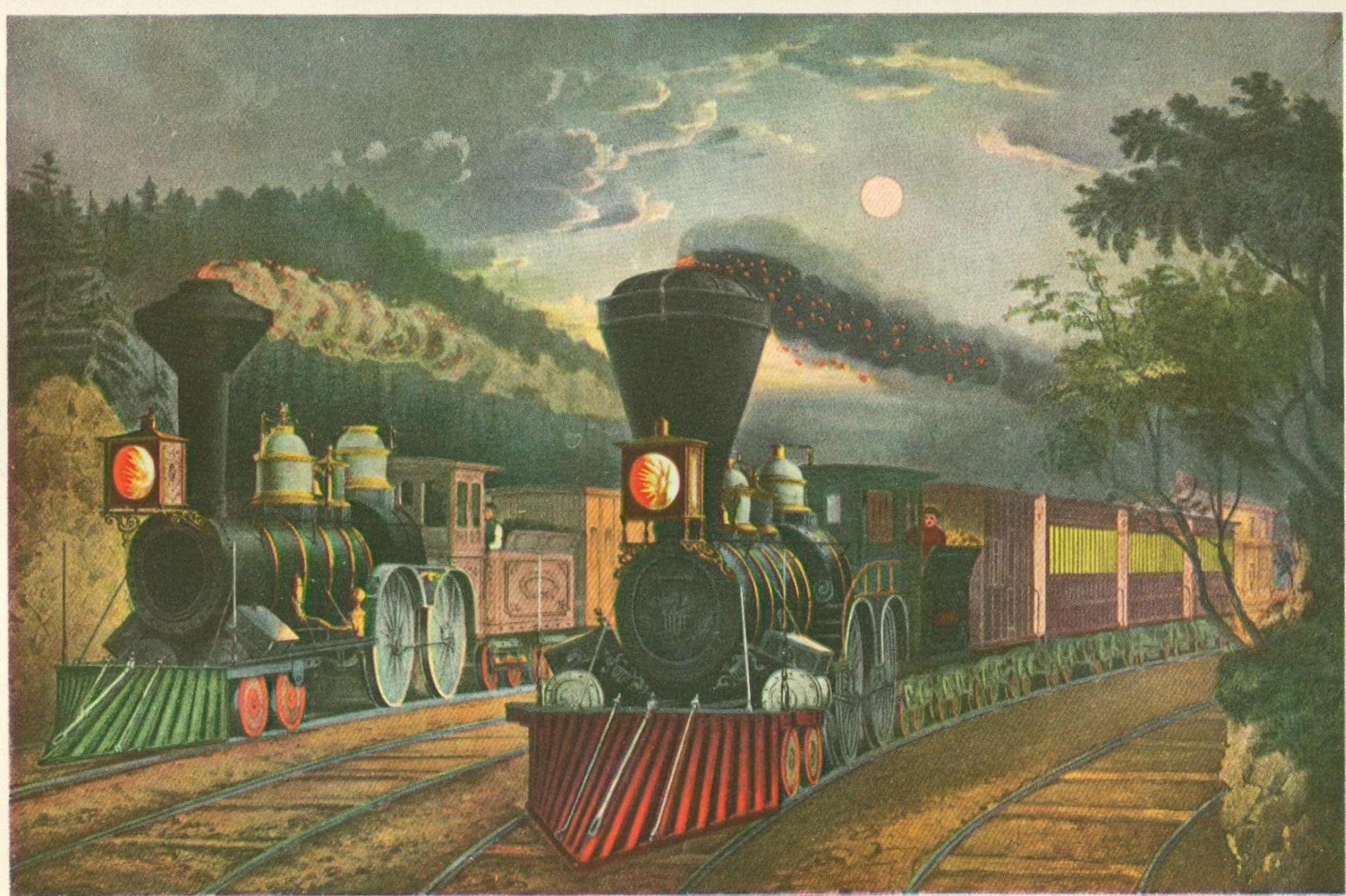


THE STRAITS BY P. PAULSEN. Clifton Park. Blaine Creek. Rabbit Valley. *Small sailing vessels in the year 1850 by St. Francis, in the Bay of the Pacific Ocean of the Southern Coast of N.Y.* Long Wharf (loading). Pacific St. Wharf (building). Aquila Warehouse. *1850. A.P.S. BY A. GERRISH, THE MASTER OF ONE OF THE U.S. SURVEYING EXPEDITION.* Portsmouth Harbor.

VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

TAKEN FROM TELEGRAPH HILL, APRIL 1850, BY Wth B. MURPHY, DRAUGHTSMAN OF THE U. S. SURVEYING EXPEDITION.

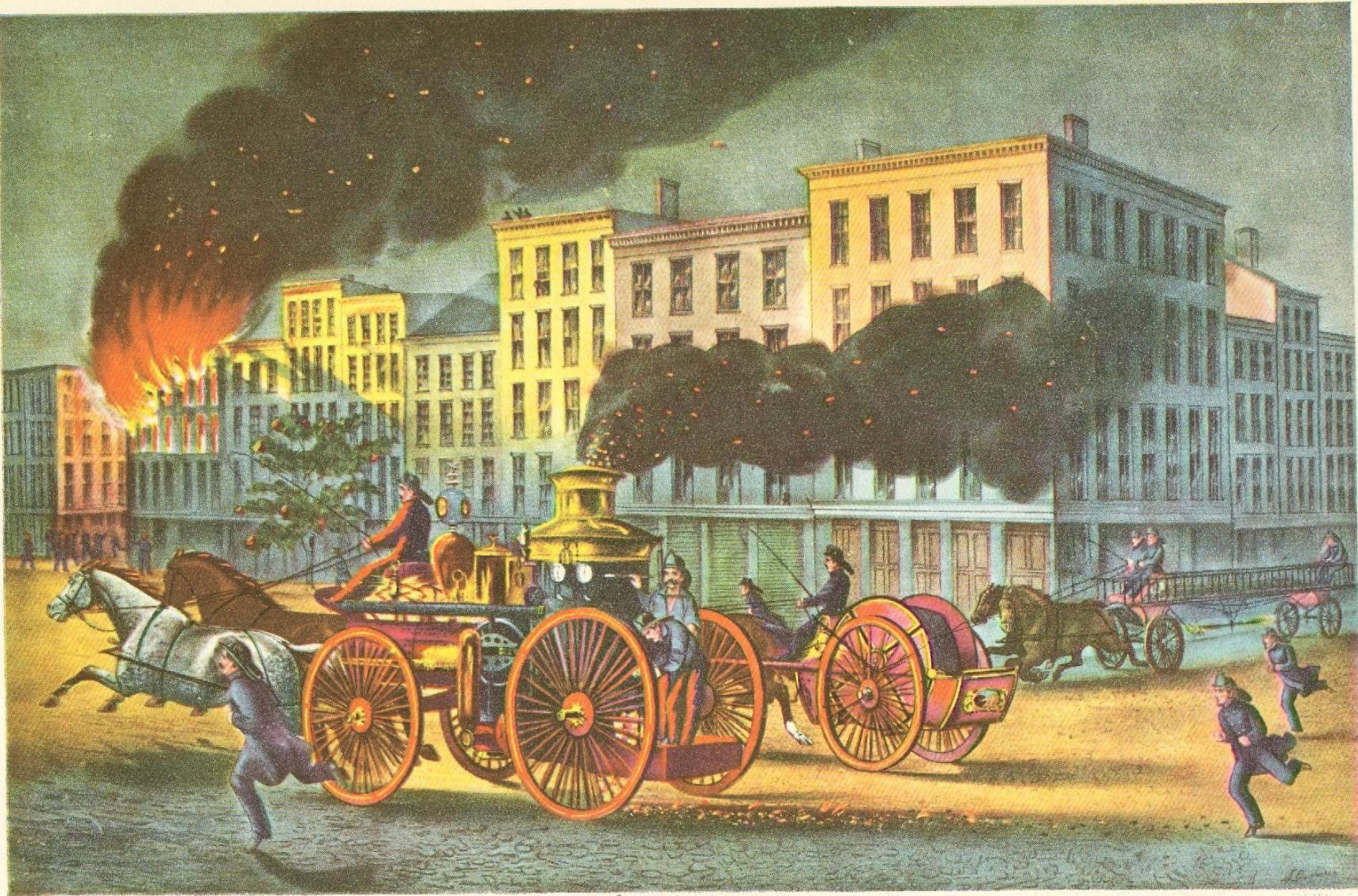
Published by S. CURTIS, N. Y. W. B. MURPHY, THE TRADER.



Engraved according to a plan of F. C. Johnson, © 1863, by Currier & Ives in the Office of the Stationer General for the Southern District of N. Y.

THE "LIGHTNING EXPRESS" TRAINS.
"Leaving the Junction"

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 150 NASSAU STREET.



THE LIFE OF A FIREMAN.

The Metropolitan System.

Illustration by J. G. Thompson. Published by the Metropolitan Fire Engine Co., New York.



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL GAME OF BASE BALL.

GRAND MATCH FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE ELIYIAN FIELDS, HOBOKEN, N. J.

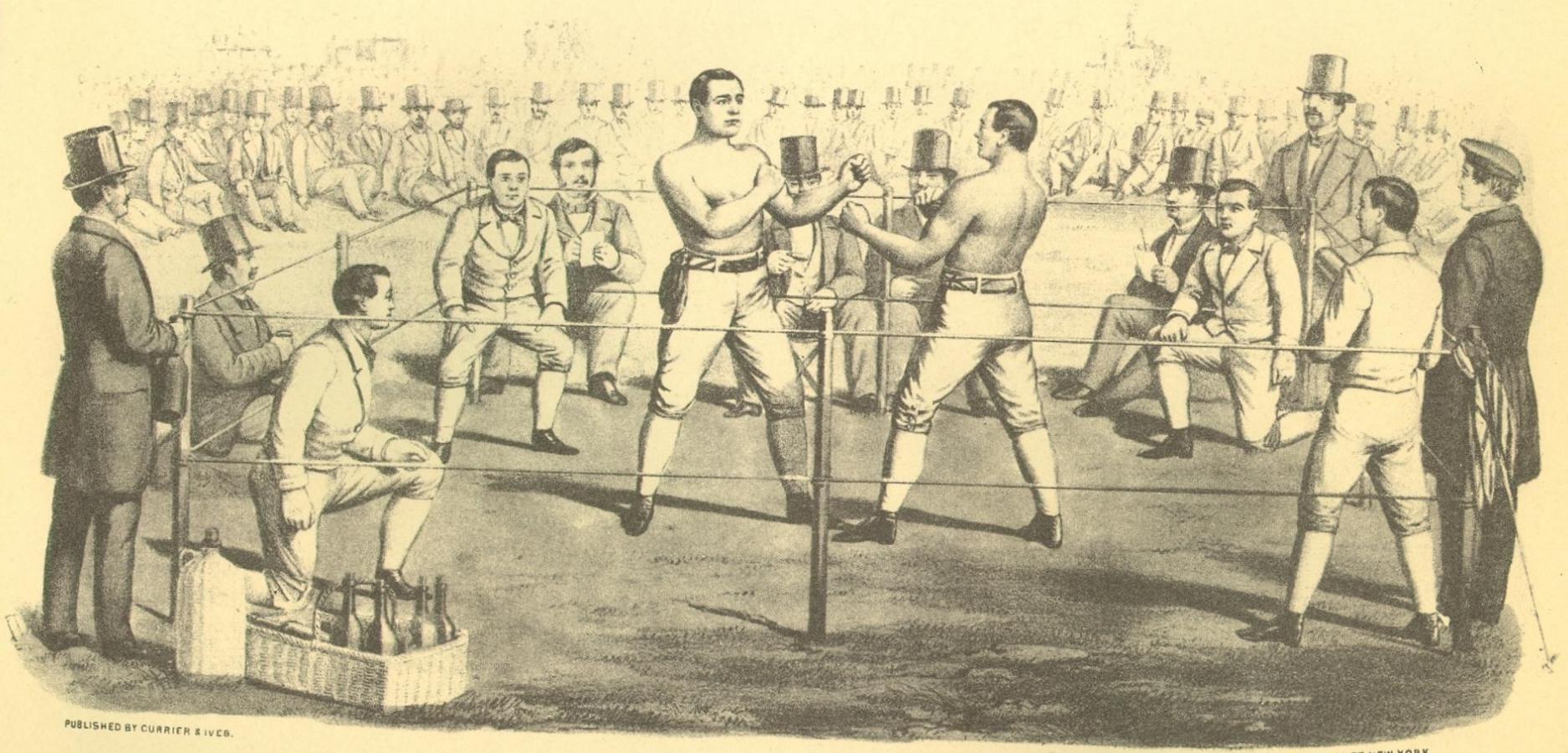


17 TAKED BY SPA

Painted from the original London. At 1865, by Charles Kline, in the Civil Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York.

CHURCH & DWIGHT, N.Y.

THE MISSISSIPPI IN TIME OF WAR.



PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES.

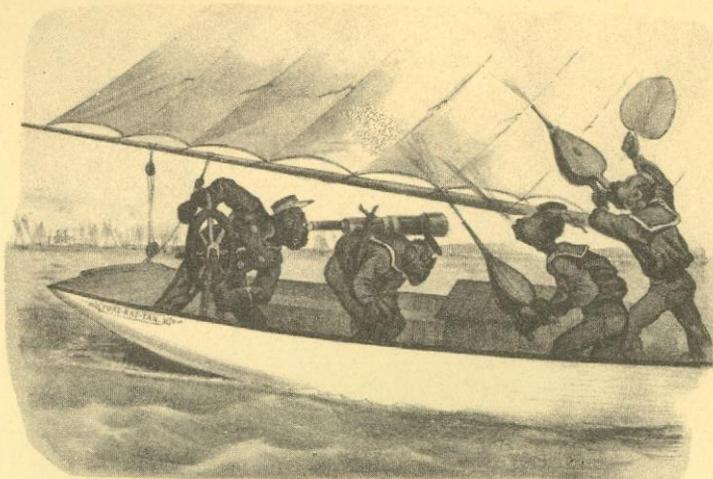
152 NASSAU ST NEW YORK.

THE GREAT FIGHT FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

BETWEEN JOHN C. HEENAN "THE BENICIA BOY," & TOM SAYERS "CHAMPION OF ENGLAND."
Which took place April 17th 1860, at Farnborough, England.

THE BATTLE LASTED 2 HOURS 20 MINUTES 42 ROUNDS, WHEN THE MOB RUSHED IN & ENDED THE FIGHT.
HEENAN stands 6 ft 1½ in. fighting weight 190 lbs. Born May 2nd 1835. SAYERS stands 5 ft 8 in. fighting wt 150 lbs. Born 1826.

Part 2 – Political Cartoons

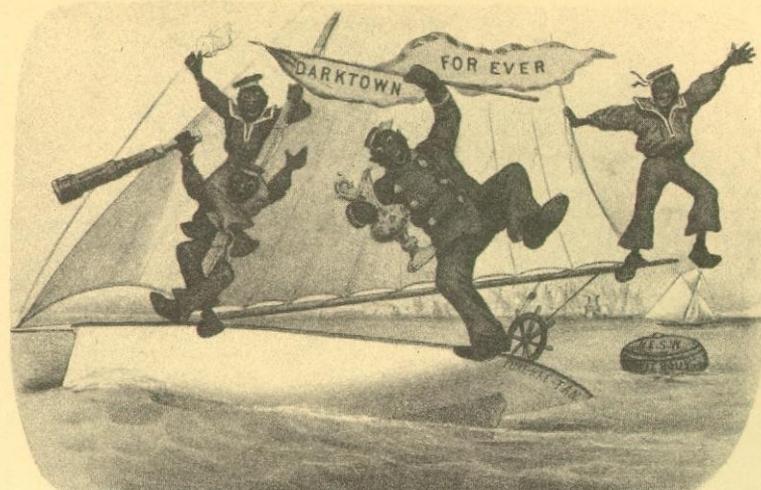


PUBLISHED BY GARBER & HES.

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IN HARLEM BY NEW YORK.

THE DARKTOWN YACHT CLUB—HARD UP FOR A BREEZE.
The cup in danger.

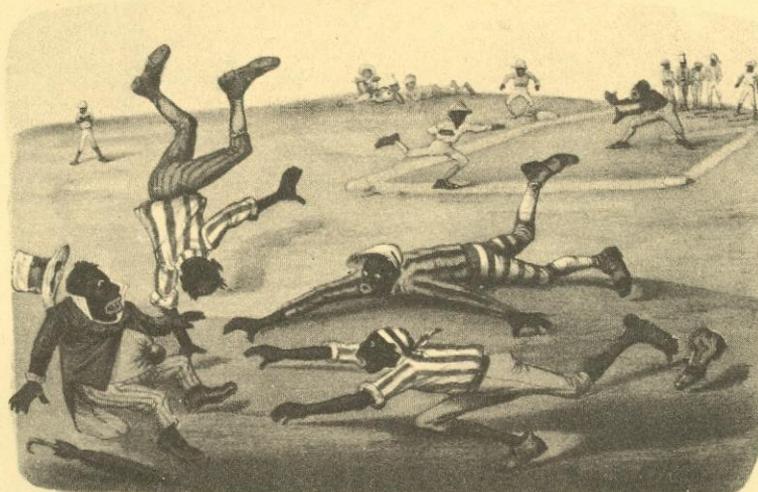


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COPYRIGHT 1888, BY GARBER & HES., N.Y.

IN HARLEM BY NEW YORK.

THE DARKTOWN YACHT CLUB—ON THE WINNING TACK.
The cup secure.

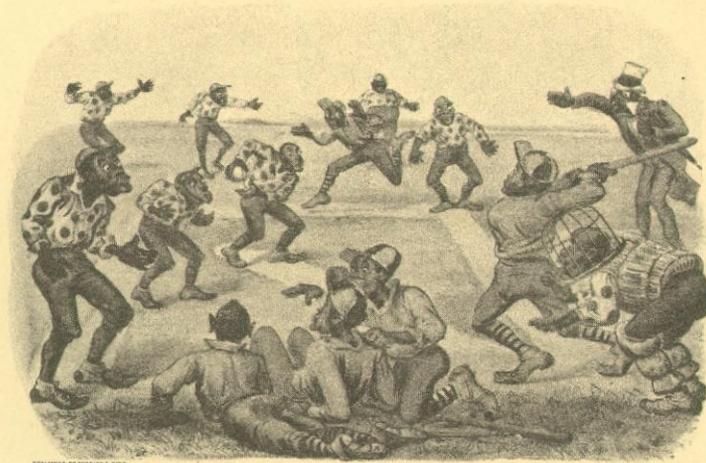


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IN HARLEM BY NEW YORK.

A BASE HIT.



PUBLISHED BY GARBER & HES.

COPYRIGHT 1888, BY GARBER & HES., N.Y.

IN HARLEM BY NEW YORK.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE BALL RACKET.
On the Diamond Field



PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES

COPYRIGHT 1861, BY CURRIER & IVES, N. Y.

115 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

A MULE TRAIN ON AN UP GRADE.
"GOLLY! WHERE IS DIS YERE PROMIS LAND."

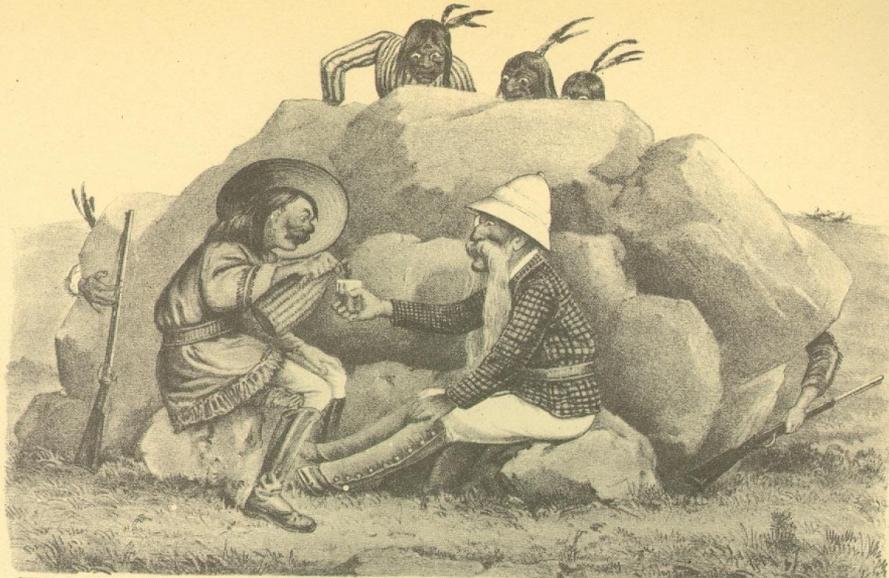


PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES

COPYRIGHT 1861, BY CURRIER & IVES, N. Y.

115 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

A MULE TRAIN ON A DOWN GRADE.
"CLAR DE TRACK FOR WE'S A COMIN'"



PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES

COPYRIGHT 1890 BY CURRIER & IVES, N.Y.

115 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

A HOWLING SWELL - ON THE WAR PATH.

Aw! I say Billay! pour us a sniffer, and bring on your Injuns!



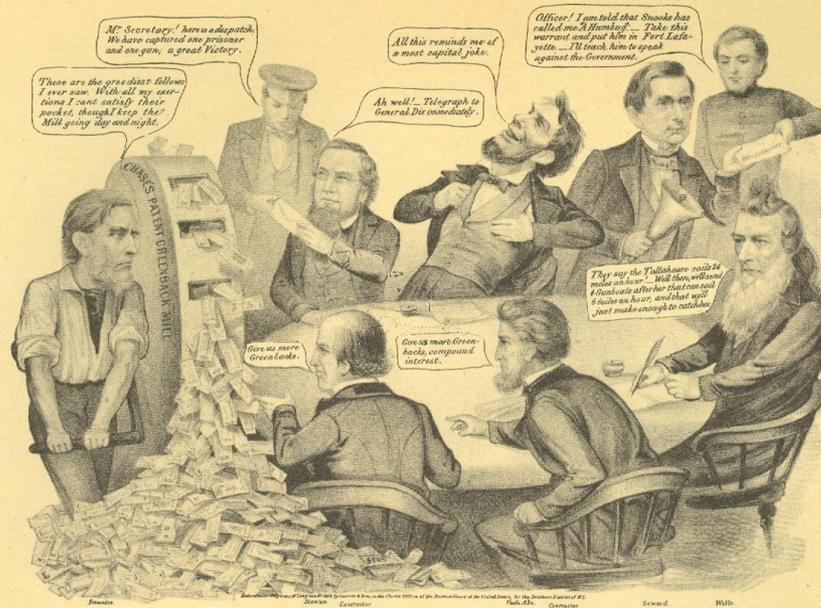
PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES

COPYRIGHT 1890 BY CURRIER & IVES, N.Y.

115 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

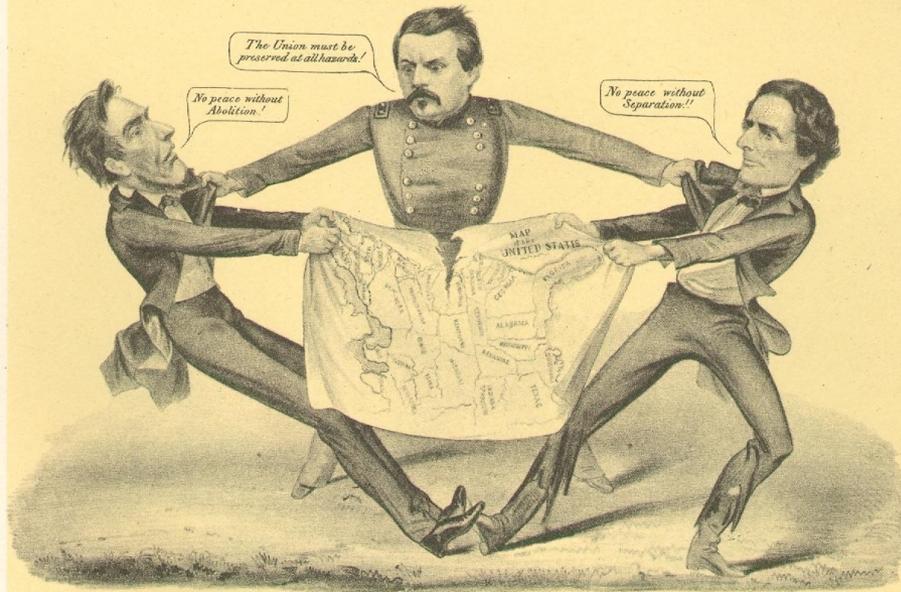
A HOWLING SWELL - WITH HIS SCALP IN DANGER.

'Aw! I dont want to hunt Injuns anymore, I want to go home!'



RUNNING THE "MACHINE":

Published by Currier & Ives, 27 Nassau St., N.Y.



THE TRUE ISSUE OR "THATS WHATS THE MATTER".

Published by Currier & Ives, 152 Nassau St., N.Y.



LITH. & PUB. BY H. COCHRAN.

Engraved according to list of Engraver in the year 1844 by N. Currier in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of N. Y.

182 NASSAU ST. COR. OF SPRUCE N. Y.

STOCKS UP.

653.



LITH. & PUB. BY H. COCHRAN.

Engraved according to list of Engraver in the year 1844 by N. Currier in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of N. Y.

182 NASSAU ST. COR. OF SPRUCE N. Y.

STOCKS DOWN.

653.



THE DRUNKARDS PROGRESS

— FROM THE FIRST GLASS TO THE GRAVE.



PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES,

Entered according to act of Congress, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Southern District of New York.

152 NASSAU ST NEW YORK.

THE AGE OF BRASS

or the triumphs of Woman's rights

Sources

Peters, Harry T. *Currier & Ives, Printmakers to the American People*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co, Inc. 1942

- and -

Slide 7 is from an unknown web source part of personal research by this author on the shipwreck *Mexico*, January 1837