

THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

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Free Edition

\$10,000 REWARD FOR WILLIAM BOSS TWEED SENSATIONAL ESCAPE FROM JAIL

William Boss Tweed's life of political power and corruption came to an end at the hand of an artist. Proving once again that the pen is mightier than the sword. Boss Tweed's life of greed and power was depicted in a series of larger than life political cartoons in *Harper's Weekly* drawn by the famous illustrator of Saint Nicolas, Thomas Nast. Nast also created the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey.

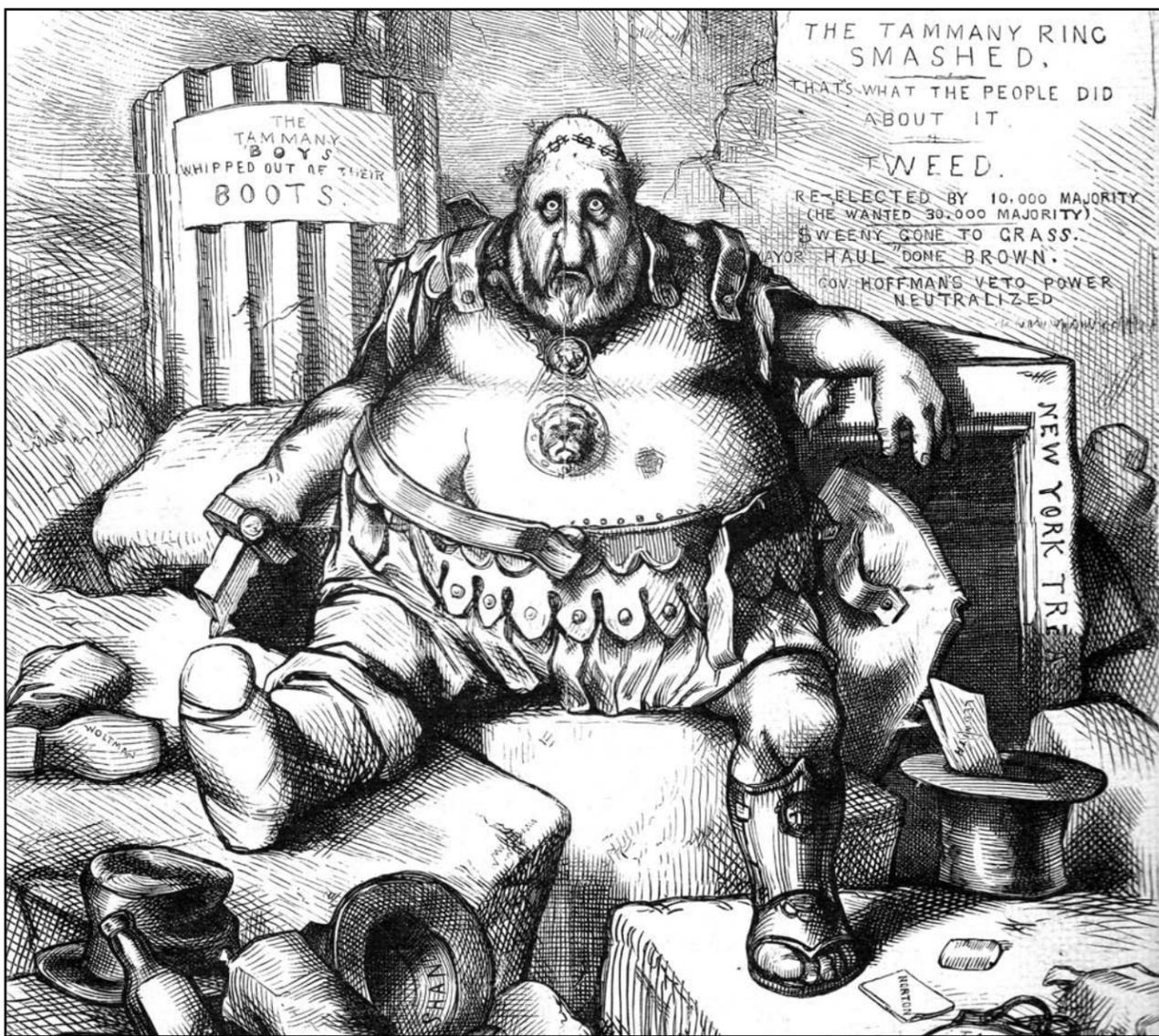
On seeing these drawings Tweed said, "Stop them damned pictures. I don't care so much what the papers say about me. My constituents don't know how to read but they can't help seeing them damned pictures!"

William Marcy Tweed or as he was called Boss Tweed, was the leader of Tammany Hall, (the Democratic Party Political Machine). Tweed's corrupt political organization operating out of Tammany Hall, 145-47 East 14th Street controlled the city for years, rigging elections, falsifying payrolls, bribing public officials, and taking enormous payoffs from private contractors using strong-armed tactics.

Tweed was arrested in 1871 and his bail was set at \$8 million dollars. He was convicted of forgery and larceny and sentenced to twelve years in jail but only spent one year in jail.

December 4, 1875 Boss Tweed Escapes

Boss Tweed, in jail for a second time for his corruption, was awaiting trial when he made a sensational escape from jail. Disguised as a seaman he fled to New Jersey, Florida, Cuba and finally Spain where he was recognized by authorities from the Thomas Nast cartoons and returned to New York City. Deprived of power, wealth, and fame he died in Ludlow Street Jail on April 12, 1878.



INSPIRED POET PAYS HOMAGE TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Dateline: 1883

Sonnet written to aid building
of the statue's pedestal

Miss Emma Lazarus, the American poet whose childhood home stood at 36 West 14th Street, (the current location of Hearn's Department store) has penned a stirring tribute to the Statue of Liberty, that grand colossal symbol of freedom that stands over our harbor. Miss Lazarus wrote her sonnet to contribute to an auction of art and literary works for "The Art Loan Fund Exhibition in Aid of the Bartholdi Pedestal Fund for the Statue of Liberty" to benefit the building of the pedestal for the 151 foot structure. Her poem was the only entry read at the auction.



YOUNG POET DEAD AT THE AGE OF 38

Dateline: 1887

The American poet Emma Lazarus is dead at the age of 38. She had been suffering from Hodgkins disease. She is lauded as a writer and translator of Goethe and Heinrich Heine by luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry James.

EMMA LAZARUS' SONNET "THE NEW COLOSSUS" IS ETCHED AT THE BASE OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Dateline: 1903

To honor the memory of her dear friend Emma Lazarus, Georgina Schuyler began a successful campaign to have Emma Lazarus, sonnet etched on a plaque and mounted on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Reprinted below are the famous last lines of her sonnet which has given hope to all who cross these shores for a new life of freedom:

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



Photo: Paul Takeuchi

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in the spectacle of daily life



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THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

THE ART WORLD ON 14TH STREET

by R.A.C.

Dateline: 1873

The Metropolitan Museum of Art departed from its location at the Dodsworth building, 681 Fifth Avenue, for larger quarters on West 14th Street. The recent acquisition of the magnificent collection of Cypriot Antiquities collected by Luigi Palma di Cesnola during his years in Cyprus as American Consul necessitated a move to larger quarters. The museum's collection which mainly consisted of European paintings and a stone sarcophagus is now greatly enhanced by these treasures of Cypriot art.

The museum also acquired thirty-eight paintings from the estate of the Hudson River painter, John Frederick Kensett, a founder and trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Kensett died of heart failure in his studio in 1872 due to heroic circumstances. Mary Lydia Colyer, the wife of his friend, the artist Vincent Colyer, was crossing a bridge by horse buggy to get to Contentment Island when her horse bolted and she was tossed into the cold chilly waters of Long Island Sound. John Kensett dove into the waters in an attempt to save her life but to no avail. He contracted pneumonia due to the severe temperature of Long Island Sound which led to his death.

Prominent businessman and a leading figure on 14th Street, George Hearn of the Hearn's Department store is a devoted benefactor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A true patron of the arts, Mr. Hearn has promised to bequeath his collection of one hundred and thirty paintings to the museum.



SCANDAL AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Dateline: 1883

Feurardent-Di Cesnola Libel Suit

Did Luigi Palma di Cesnola alter the artifacts he found in Cyprus to enhance their worth?

Did the acquisition of these artifacts help promote di Cesnola to become the Director of the Museum?

Did di Cesnola engage in looting 6,000 works of art from Cyprus?

At the libel trial which shocked the art world in 1883, Feodore Gehan a cabinet maker testified that at the Metropolitan Museum on 14th Street where he was employed he had restored and repaired many of Mr. di Cesnola's statues from Cyprus. Mr. Gehan said he had made a leg for the one-legged Hercules. He had also put a dove into the hand of the bearded Venus and a tail of wood covering it with plaster and making it look like the original statue. The jury acquitted Mr. di Cesnola deciding that only few of the artifacts had been overly restored. Many people in the art world disagreed with the jury's verdict.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dateline: 1895

Dear Editor,

It is a sad state of affairs when women and children are afraid to cross Union Square and Broadway, due to the speed of the cable cars when they make their turn at Dead Man's Curve.

Mrs. Olivia Hopkins of East 14th Street

Dear Mrs. Hopkins,

The matter of the dangerous situation caused by Dead Man's Curve was brought to the attention of the Chief of Police who has ordered that policemen be posted at Dead Man's curve to warn everyone when the cable car is making its turn.



The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

Present day update:

The Statue of Gandhi peacefully graces Dead Man's Curve.

FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

by the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter

DOWNTOWN PRINTER ARRESTED

The police arrested a printer in downtown Manhattan for having printed fraudulent tickets for the Charles Dickens readings at Steinway Hall. Fortunately the arrest was made in time before the public was duped. Tickets went on sale at 9am on December 11th and overnight 150 people had been standing in line to purchase tickets.(1867)

THE NOTORIOUS GANGSTER MONK EASTMAN SHOT DEAD ON 14TH STREET



King of New York Gangsters Killed by Hail of Bullets December 26, 1920

Monk Eastman, King of New York Gangsters, the boss of the Eastman Gang, was shot dead by one of his own partners, Jerry Bohan, a corrupt Prohibition agent. The two men had been arguing all night at the Bluebird Café in Lower Manhattan. Eastman walked out of the café in a huff and Bohan followed him uptown to 14th Street where he shot Eastman as he entered the 14th Street subway station.

Monk and his gang operated with the blessing of Tammany Hall delivering votes with their strong arm

tactics for Tammany Hall boss Big Tim Sullivan. Monk was a familiar figure around 14th Street with his battle scarred and mangled face, carrying a club with carved notches marking the number of times he used it to crack heads. He often walked around with a pigeon on his shoulder and a kitten inside his coat. Monk had a soft spot for animals especially pigeons but his kindness to animals didn't extend to people.

One of New York City's most famous gangster battles arose from the Eastman Gang's feud with the Five Points Gang which erupted into The Battle of Rivington Street in 1903, when one hundred hoodlums fought with revolvers blazing for five hours over two miles of streets. "They shot up the town in regular Wild West style." said one of the detectives.

Even though Monk Eastman lived a life of crime, he served his country during World War I fighting against the enemy and becoming a war hero. He will be buried with full military honors in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY.

SIGHTINGS ON 14TH STREET

by Madame LuLu LoLo

The painter John Sloan and Walter Pach the artist and critic were seen helping the Mexican painter Diego Rivera who they named "People's Artist of America" carry painting supplies up to the top floor of the 51 building on West 14th Street where Rivera is working on his mural Portrait of America at the New Workers School.(1933)

Cynthia Leonard, the first woman to run for Mayor of New York (1888) was seen on 14th Street with her beautiful daughter Lillian Russell, the talented actress, singer, and star of Tony Pastor's on 14th Street.

Everyone in town is heading to Steinway Hall to hear Mr. Charles Dickens read from his works. Mr Dickens has traveled from London via Boston where he read from *A Christmas Carol* and *The Trial from Pickwick*. The New York literary world awaits Mr. Dickens on December 11, 1867

The Russian virtuoso pianist Anton Rubenstein has been giving a concert tour of 215 performances in 239 days. His last concert at Steinway Hall was sold out—3,000 music lovers—many of whom had to stand due to lack of seating—were enraptured by his music. (1872-3) Rubenstein was paid 200 dollars in gold because he distrusted United States banks and paper money.

William Steinway of Steinway and Sons pianos built the grand concert hall which opened in 1866 at 71-73 East 14th Street. The auditorium seats 2,000 people and the hall and the rooms for piano lessons are illuminated with over 700 gaslights. Steinway Hall was the home for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra until Carnegie Hall opened in 1891. Mr. Steinway was often quoted as saying: "One concert on Saturday night sells pianos on Monday mornings!"

Outside of his home at 319 West 14th Street, I bumped into the exciting young director, Orson Welles. He was heading uptown to Harlem's Negro Theater where he is directing an all black production of *Macbeth* (1936).

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