

“The Tammany Tiger Loose”

(McDougal Little, The Americans)

Political cartoonist Thomas Nast ridiculed Boss Tweed and his machine in the pages of Harper’s Weekly. Nast’s work threatened Tweed, who reportedly said, “I don’t care so much what the papers write about me – my constituents can’t read; but ... they can see pictures!”



Questions:

1. Under the Tammany tiger’s victim is a torn paper that reads “LAW.” What is its significance?
2. Boss Tweed and his cronies, portrayed as noblemen, watch from the stands on the left. The cartoon’s caption reads “What are you going to do about it?” What effect do you think Nast wanted to have on his audience?