



Nast, Thomas. Knight Scorpio Blaine scaling the Reed and Mckinley Chinese Wall. Ca. 1882. Folger ART Box N269 no. 13 (size XL)

The career of editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) spanned a period of increasing corruption in the American political system. In this unpublished cartoon, Nast lampoons discord in the 1890s Republican Party with a twist on lines 149-153 of Jacques' *Seven Ages of Man* speech (Act 2, Scene 7): "The Political Stage / Then an old political soldier; / Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard, / Jealous in greed, sudden and quick in quarrel, / Seeking the bubble spoils / Even in the Cannon's mouth." The lines are inscribed on the back of the image, while its front depicts Secretary of State James G. Blaine (far left) in battle with Congressmen William McKinley (above center), Joseph G. Cannon (below center), and House Speaker Thomas B. Reed (far right). At the time, McKinley, Cannon, and Reed were thought to be conspiring for Blaine's removal and ejection from the Republican Party.

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