



## Now for a Good Wash it is Necessary

### Date

published June 4, 1892

### Primary Maker

Thomas Nast

### Medium

Lithograph

### Description

This cartoon depicts an elephant cleaning itself in a pool of water. An inset image at the upper left shows a "Dear Elephant" standing atop five blocks formed into the shape of an arch. The blocks each read "Platt," "Dudley," "Quay," "Clarkson," and "Blaine," and in the arch appear the words "This support will not prove substantial." In the primary image, the arch has collapsed under the weight of the elephant, who is spilled into the water. The caption reads "Now for a Good Wash - it is Necessary: The Bridge of Sighs - Crumbed - Elephant is in Clean Water - At Present." This is a direct jab to the Republican Party, critiquing that Platt, Clarkson, Blaine, Dudley, and Quay are "political bosses" that cannot be relied on to run the party. This is likely a reference to a previous work by Nast titled "Platt. Clarkson. Blaine. Dudley. Quay." that he made in 1892, the same year as "Now for a Good Wash it is Necessary". In the former, the bridge is crumbled and the building blocks of the

bridge have detached from each other. The elephant is in the water.

### Dimensions

Composition: 8 1/8 x 6 5/8 in. (20.6 x 16.8 cm) Sheet: 12 in. x 9 1/2 in. (30.5 x 24.1 cm)