



I Had a Magnificent Chance and Threw it Away

Date

c. 1884

Primary Maker

Thomas Nast

Medium

Wood engraving on paper

Description

This cartoon depicts Uncle Sam with his back turned to the viewer, carrying a long plank that reads "Republican Tariff Platform of 1884. The Republican party pledges itself to correct the inequalities of the tariff and to reduce the surplus." He stands before a "Stage Door" labeled "Republican Convention, Chicago - 1888." A jug hangs nearby that reads "Free in the arts. G.O.P." At the lower right is a hobo's bag tied to a stick that reads "Unnecessary taxation for the benefit of monopolists only." The caption below reads "It had a magnificent chance and threw it away. Uncle Sam: 'I thought I should find relief here, but I can at least rescue this from the wreck.'"

Dimensions

Composition: 8 1/4 x 6 in. (21 x 15.2 cm) Sheet (Irregular): 12 x 9 1/2 in. (30.5 x 24.1 cm)