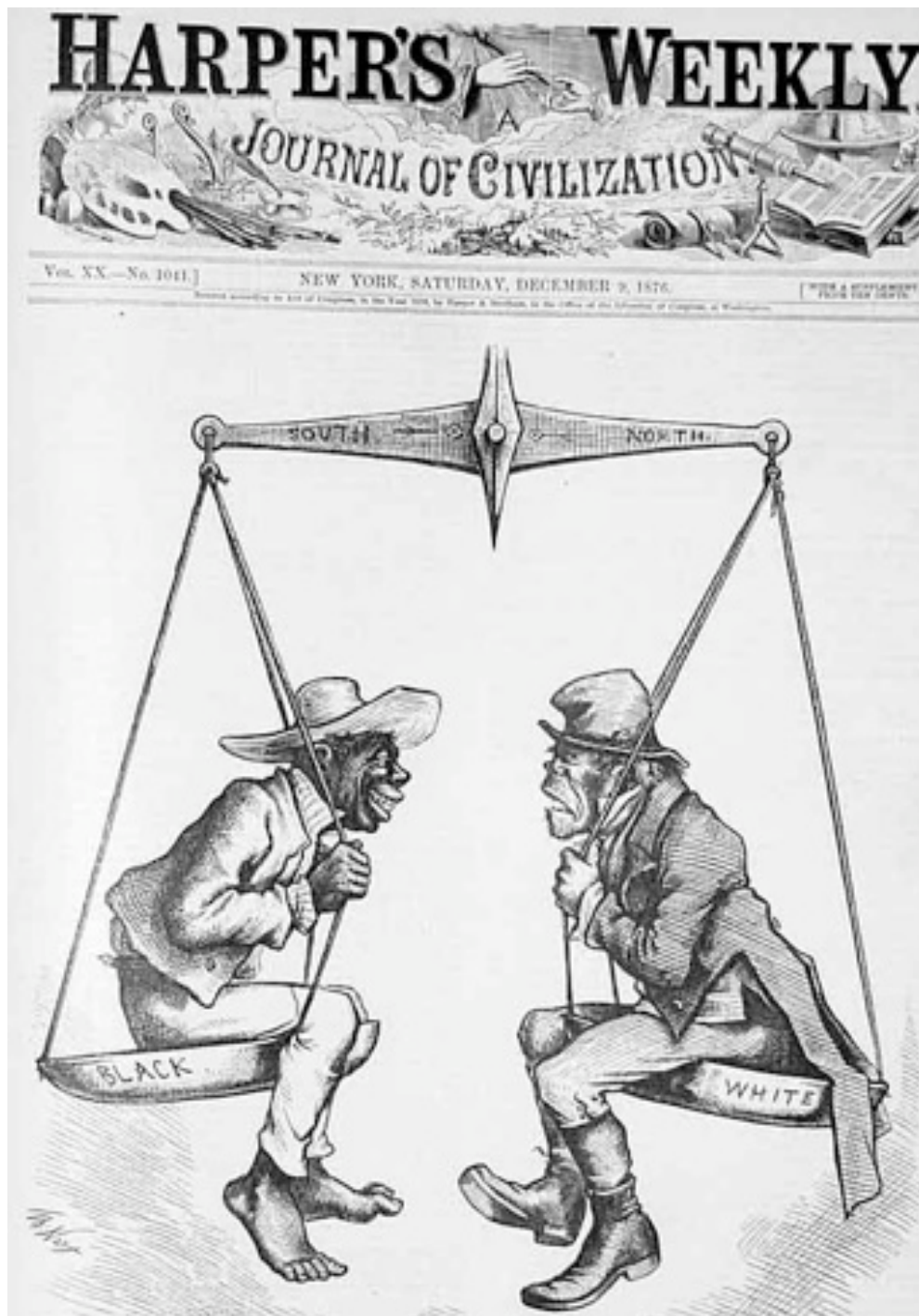


Document A: Thomas Nast Cartoon, 1876



## Document B: Excerpt from a 'Know-Nothing' Newspaper, 1854

### THINGS WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND ALL TRUE ROMAN CATHOLICS HATE

Providence, July 22, 1854

1. They HATE our Republic, and are trying to overthrow it.
2. They HATE our *Flag*, and they grossly insulting it.
3. They HATE the liberty of the Press.
4. They HATE the liberty of speech.
5. They HATE our Public School system.
6. They HATE the Bible, and would blot it out of existence *if* they could!
7. They HATE Protestants, and are sworn to *exterminate* them from our country and the earth.
8. They HATE all rulers that do not swear allegiance to the Pope of Rome.
9. They HATE to be *ruled* by *Americans*, and say 'WE WILL NOT BE RULED BY THEM!'
10. They HATE to support their own paupers and they are left to be supported by the tax paying Americans.
11. They HATE, above all, the '*Know-Nothings*,' who are determined to rid this country from their cursed power.

—UNCLE SAM

## Document C: Historian account

“Irish-Americans were sometimes used as substitutes for slaves in the South. Gangs of Irish immigrants worked ditching and draining plantations, building levees and sometimes clearing land because of the danger of death to valuable slave property (and, as one account put it, to mules) in such work. One Southerner explained the use of Irish labor as follows: ‘n-----s are worth too much to be risked here; if the Paddies (Irish) are knocked overboard. . . nobody loses anything.’

“Irish youths were likely to be indentured servants from the early 1800s through the Civil War. In that position they were sometimes called ‘Irish slaves’ and more frequently ‘bound boys.’ In New York City, Irish women made up the largest group of prostitutes, or as they were sometimes called in the 1850s, ‘white slaves.’”

*Source: From David R. Roediger, Wages of Whiteness, 1991, p. 146.*

## Document D: Cartoon in a Newspaper, 1883



## Guiding Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Document A

1. (*Close Reading*) The man in the “white” scale is supposed to be Irish. What is the message of this cartoon?
2. (*Sourcing*) Thomas Nast, the cartoonist, drew for *Harper’s Weekly*. Based on this cartoon, what sort of people do you think read *Harper’s Weekly*?

### Document B

1. (*Close reading*) Why did the ‘Know-Nothings’ hate the Catholics so much? List at least four reasons.
2. (*Close reading*) According to the ‘Know-Nothings’ could the Irish ever be true Americans? Why or why not?

### Document C

1. (*Contextualization*) Why were Irish used for difficult labor in the South?
2. (*Close reading*) Based on this document, do you think the Irish were treated like slaves?

### Document D

1. (*Close reading*) The angry woman in the cartoon is supposed to be Irish. Describe what she looks like and how she’s acting.
2. (*Contextualization*) Based on this cartoon, what job do you think many Irish women had in the 1880s? What were some stereotypes about Irish women?

## Were the Irish considered white in 19<sup>th</sup> century America?

Evidence that the Irish were considered white	Evidence that the Irish were NOT considered white
<p><b>Final conclusion:</b> Were the Irish considered white in 19<sup>th</sup> century America? Please explain your answer using the documents and cartoons above.</p>	