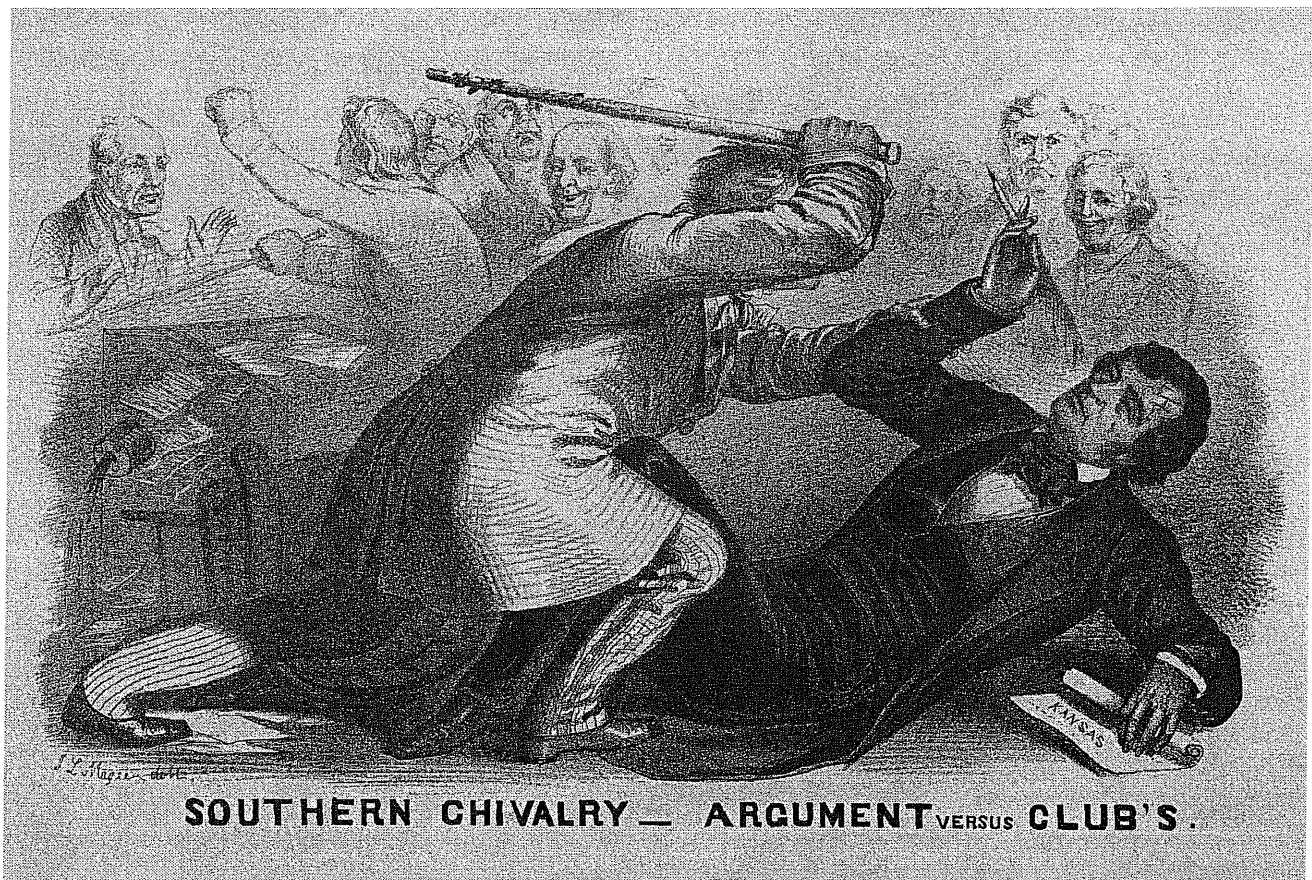


## Document 8

**Source:** Harry T. Peters, "America on Stone" Lithography Collection, National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Smithsonian Institution. Cartoon created in 1856.

**Document Note:** On May 19 and 20, 1856 Senator Charles Sumner, an abolitionist from Massachusetts, delivered a long speech entitled "The Crime Against Kansas." The occasion was the Senate debate over the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Sumner attacked pro-slavery men as "hirelings from the drunken spew and vomit of an uneasy civilization." He then went on to insult South Carolina and one of its Senators, the well-liked Senator Andrew Butler.

Two days after the speech, Butler's kinsman, Preston Brooks, himself a member of the House of Representatives, burst in to the Senate chambers and beat Sumner with a cane. Sumner's injuries were serious enough that he had to retire from the Senate for three years. Sympathetic Southerners sent Brooks dozens of gold-headed canes to replace the one he broke over Sumner's head. Northerners published thousands of copies of Sumner's speech and vilified "Bully Brooks."



## Document 9



**Source:** The Dred Scott Decision, 1857. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Roger Taney.

**Document Note:** Dred Scott was a slave whose owner had taken him from a slave state to the free North to live for several years. After returning to Missouri, Scott sued for his freedom on the grounds that he had become free by living in free territory. His case eventually made it to the US Supreme Court where all eyes, North and South, eagerly awaited a verdict.

The question is simply this: Can a Negro, whose ancestors were imported into this country, and sold as slaves, become a member of the political community.

...(T)he legislation and the histories of the times and the language used in the Declaration of Independence, show, that neither ... slaves, nor their descendants, whether they had become free or not, were ... a part of the people.... (and) they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.... And, accordingly, a Negro of the African race was regarded by them as an article of property....

... (T)he fifth amendment to the Constitution ... provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law.... (I)t is the opinion of this court that the Act of Congress (the Missouri Compromise) which prohibited a citizen from holding and owning property of this kind (slaves) in the territory of the United States north of the line therein mentioned, is not warranted by the Constitution, and is therefore void.