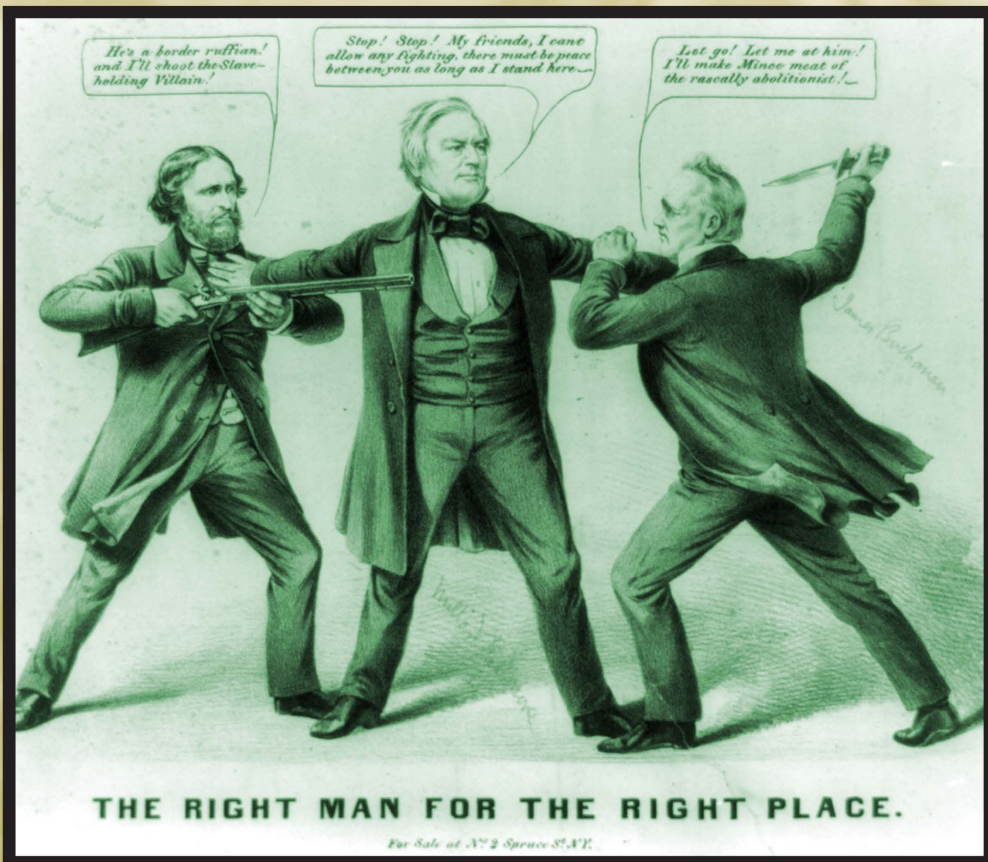


THE GATHERING STORM

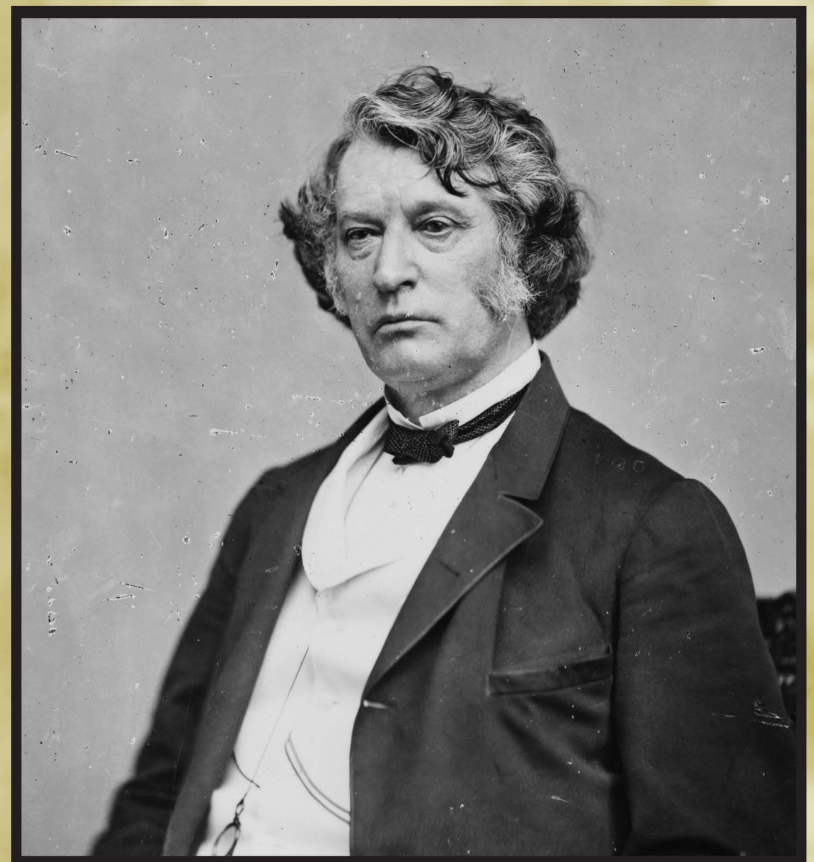
IMAGES OF AMERICA ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR

Bleeding Kansas

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 established Kansas and Nebraska as territories, and set the stage for "Bleeding Kansas" when it decreed that residents would decide whether or not slavery would be allowed within their borders through public referendum. Settlers from North and South poured into Kansas, hoping to swell the numbers on their side of the debate. Passions were enflamed and violence raged. In the fall of 1855, abolitionist John Brown came to Kansas to fight the forces of slavery. He and his supporters killed five pro-slavery settlers in the so-called Pottawatomie Massacre in Kansas in May, 1856. That August, Brown led a group of men into battle with about 400 pro-slavery men in the Battle of Osawatimie. The violence subsided in late 1856, after Brown departed, and the warring parties forged a fragile peace, but not before more than 50 settlers had been killed.



Former U.S. President Millard Fillmore ran for a non-consecutive second term in 1856 as a level-headed third party candidate who could mediate between the abolitionists and pro-slavery forces. In this cartoon, Fillmore stands between the armed and hostile Republican candidate John C. Fremont (left) and the club-wielding Democrat, James Buchanan. *Library of Congress*



Sen. Charles Sumner, an anti-slavery legislator from Massachusetts, was attacked on the Senate floor in May 1856 by Rep. Preston Brooks, a cane-wielding South Carolinian. Sumner had vilified Brooks's uncle, Sen. Andrew Butler of South Carolina, who, along with Illinois Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, co-authored the Kansas-Nebraska Act. *Library of Congress*



Henry Ward Beecher was a Congregationalist preacher and abolitionist from Brooklyn who raised money to buy rifles for northerners willing to settle in Kansas and Nebraska and fight against slavery. The rifles his funds purchased became known as "Beecher's Bibles." *Library of Congress*



This drawing depicts Brooks just before the attack on Sumner. In a Senate address, Sumner had poked fun at Butler's stroke-impaired speech and physical mannerisms, prompting his nephew to beat the northerner until his cane broke. Sumner was so badly injured he wasn't able to return to the Senate for three years. *Library of Congress*