

## HANDOUT

# Thomas Nast's "Emancipation"

Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was a famous editorial cartoonist, considered to be the "Father of the American Cartoon." He created "Emancipation" for the magazine *Harper's Weekly* in 1863, in response to President Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation." Issued on January 1, 1863, this proclamation set free all enslaved people in the 11 rebel states that had seceded from the Union.

In "Emancipation of the Negroes—The Past and the Future," Nast depicts life for Black Americans before and after freedom. What predictions does he make? Which do you think were attained during the period of Reconstruction?



Thomas Nast. *Emancipation of the Negroes—The Past and the Future* (from "Harper's Weekly"), January 24, 1863, digital file from original print. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pga.03898>.