

SECESSION TO SIEGE  
1860 / 1865

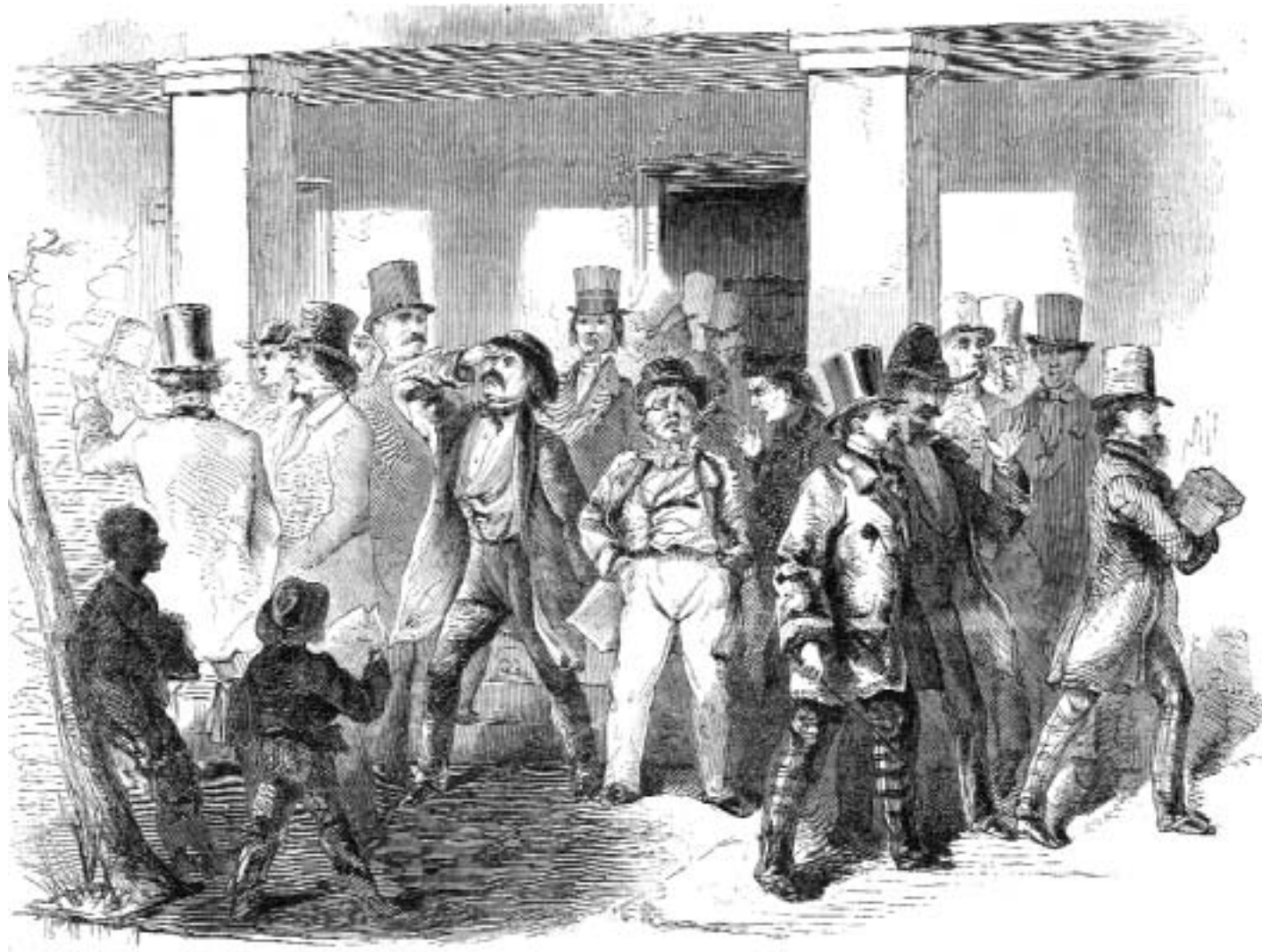
THE CHARLESTON ENGRAVINGS

BY  
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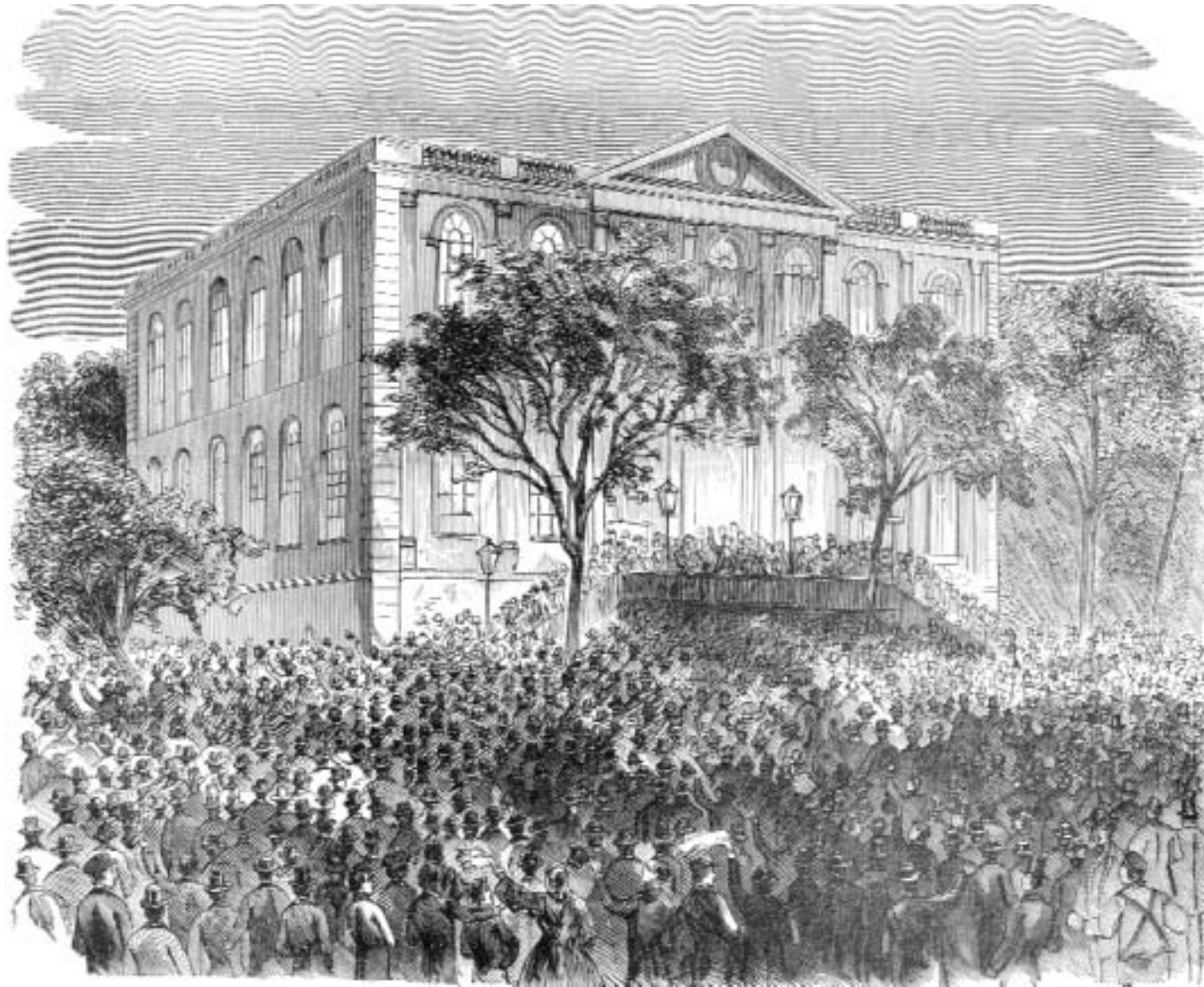


## Delegates to the Democratic Convention

Artist: unknown  
*Harper's Weekly*

Charleston was too small to host a convention of this magnitude. The city lacked sufficient hotel and boarding rooms to accommodate the many delegates and spectators in attendance. Delegates began arriving as early as April 18, 1860, for the convention, which began on April 23.

*Harper's Weekly* describes the convention as “momentous... and upon the fruit of whose labors the destiny of the Union may depend.” As the convention unfolded, the party split between Northern and Southern factions over the issue of slavery in the Western territories. The factions deadlocked.



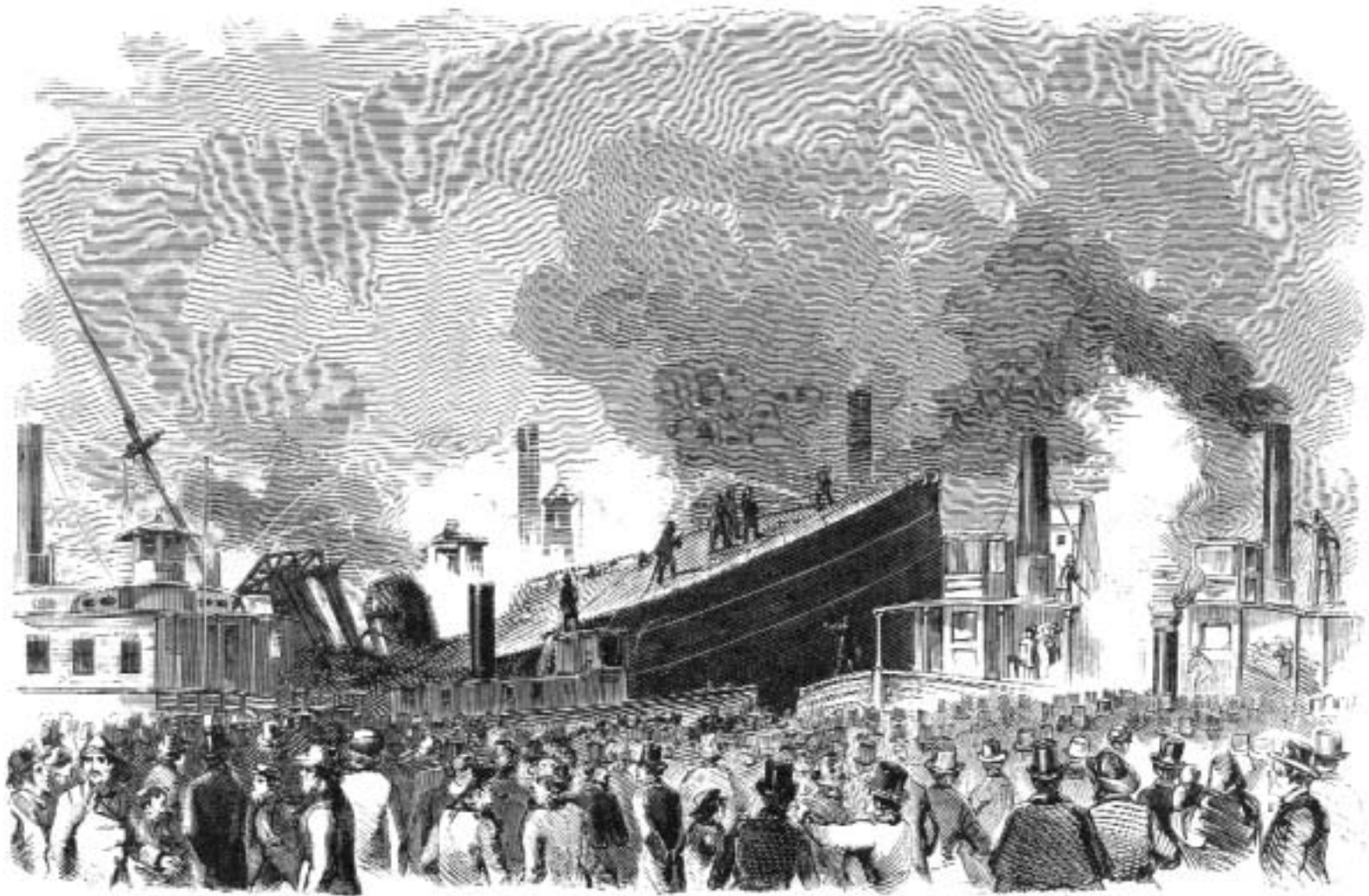
### **Charleston at the News of the Election of Lincoln and Hamlin**

Artist: William Waud

*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*

South Carolinians received the news of Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency on Nov. 7, 1860, at Charleston City Hall, a day after the election. That same day, the Palmetto Flag was raised in Charleston. The governor and the Council of South Carolina went into secret session. When their deliberations were complete, Gov.

Francis W. Pickens announced the decision to raise and equip 10,000 volunteers and to convene a state convention to address the question of South Carolina's secession from the Union.



## Burning of the *John P. King*

Artist: unknown  
*Harper's Weekly*

The steamship *John P. King* was a 1,600-ton ship built for passenger trade between Charleston and New York. In December 1860, she embarked on her maiden voyage, a trial run leaving Charleston and arriving in New York in mid-December.

Early on Dec. 18, as the *John P. King* was tied to the docks, a fire broke out aboard the steamer. Quickly, the flames spread out of control, engulfing the new passenger ship. Efforts to control the fire failed. The steamer was towed to deep water to prevent the

flames from spreading to the docks and other ships tied up at Pier 4. Built at a cost of \$160,000, she was only insured for \$76,000.

*Harper's Weekly* reported rumors in New York asserting that the *John P. King* would fly the Palmetto Flag upon her return to Charleston. Many believed the fire that destroyed the steamer may have been deliberately set.