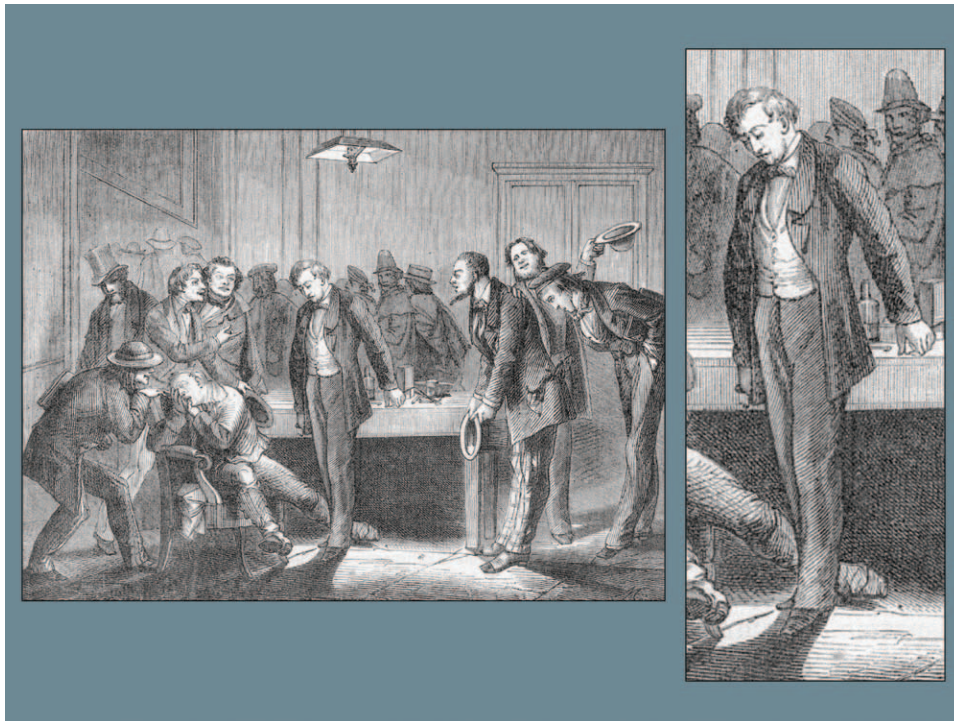


Figuier's Forlorn Figure: Horace Wells and the "Humbug Affair"



From Paris, France, in 1868, Furne, Jovet and Company published the second volume of author Louis Figuier's *Les Merveilles de la Science ou Description Populaire des Inventions Modernes* [The Wonders of Science or Popular Description of Modern Inventions]. This volume focused on telegraphy, electroplating, ballooning, and etherization. In Chapter 3, on page 645, figure 341 (*left*) depicts an anguished medical student-turned-dental patient seated next to the forlorn standing figure of dentist Horace Wells (*close up, right*). The illustration's legend translates to: "Horace Wells' [*sic*] experience, of the extraction of a tooth, after the inspiration of nitrogen protoxyd [nitrous oxide] made before the students of a Boston hospital." This incomplete anesthetic would later be dubbed the "Humbug Affair" by Wells' detractors. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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