Stephen Finding his Mother political cartoon, 1860

Columbia, sitting in a chair bearing the seal of the United States, holds 1860 presidential candidate Stephen Douglas over her knee and beats him with a multi-tailed whip labeled "News from Maine," scolding him for supporting the "Nebraska Bill" (the Kansas-Nebraska Act). An elderly man, labeled "Uncle Sam," observing at left, encourages Columbia to beat Douglas harder. In 1860, Douglas was criticized for the relatively unusual practice of making nationwide campaign tours and was accused of making a campaign visit to New England and New York under the ruse of visiting his mother. In this cartoon, likely a sequel to another cartoon entitled "Taking the Stump, or Stephen in Search of His Mother," Douglas has found his mother (Columbia, the female embodiment of the United States), and she is very disappointed in him.

It is a lithograph by Courier & Ives, the artist is Louis Maurer.
ARTIST:
Louis Maurer, 1832-1932; Moloshok, Rachel; Moloshok, Rachel; Historical Society of Pennsylvania;
Stephen A. Douglas, 1813-1861; Currier & Ives