

**Synopsis**

Description of the demolition of buildings in central Glasgow entailed in the building of the Union Railway across the city.

**Themes:** Impact of the railway upon cities

**Text**

Come listen now both old and young / Eo (sic) what I am going to say  
About the changes taking place / In Glasgow every day  
But if they keep on changing / I'm very much afraid  
They'll change the town from where it is / And leave us in the shade

Chorus            Our city is improving  
                      Every day we all do know  
                      So long may Glasgow flourish  
                      And her sons where'er they go

With the union railway I'll commence / It extends across the town  
Many a handsome building / For that change they have pulled down  
The Theatre Royal they took away / In Dunlop street it did stand,  
And built a station in its place / Where once they did the grand.

The directors of the railway / For to facilitate their trade  
Of our ancient seat of learning / Now a station they have made.  
For that venerable building / So famed for law and skill  
Has got a change from what it was / It's gone to Gilmore hill

And the barracks from the Gallowgate / Will quickly get the rout  
It will be changed to near Maryhill / There is but little doubt  
And a' tho bonny lasses there / I'm sure will jump for joy  
When they walk on a Sunday night / Linked with a sodger's boy

Next there is Paddy's market / That stands on the jail square  
Will have to change its quarters too / Before our annual fair.  
I hear they've took the city hall / Perhaps that's but a lark  
But I'm told by good authority / 'Twill go to the West End Park

The Albert bridge that spans the Cly[de] / Convenient to the jail  
For architectural beauty / Attraction cannot fail  
It's an honour to the builder / And a credit to the town  
So long may Glasgow flourish / In great honour and renown

**Glossary:**

Paddy's Market	Market popular with irish immigrants
Linked	Arm in arm

**Source of Text:** Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads; 2806 c.11(251)

**Music.** No tune given

**Source of Music:** No tune given

**Printer:** Unknown

**Where Printed:** Probably Glasgow

**Author :** Anonymous

**Date:** 1864-67; 1871

### **Notes of the Song and Its Historical Background**

The first section of City of Glasgow Union Railway between Shields Road and Dunlop Street opened on 12 December 1870, a section of line which included the first railway bridge built across the Clyde.

The Union Railway connected two pre-existing lines; the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway in the north and the Glasgow and Paisley in the south.

[http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/City\\_of\\_Glasgow\\_Union\\_Railway](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/City_of_Glasgow_Union_Railway)

The song says that "*Paddy's market... Will have to change its quarters Before our annual fair.*"

The market was moved to make way for a viaduct built between 1864 and 67. Ref:

<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/91770/details/glasgow+clyde+street+union+railway+bridge/>

The use of the future tense suggests the song was printed before 1867 and may be earlier than 1864 (Paddy's market may have moved to allow preparation for the building works).

However, the last verse refers to the Albert Bridge opened in 1871.

[http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Parks\\_Outdoors/Heritage/HeritageTrails/ClydeBridges/albertbridge.htm](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Parks_Outdoors/Heritage/HeritageTrails/ClydeBridges/albertbridge.htm)

The Albert Bridge is a road bridge while all the preceding verses are about the railway. It may Perhaps the last verse was added to an earlier song in order to enable the re-sale of old news.