
Synopsis

An Irishman boards the train from Greenock to Glasgow. He upsets the ladies in the carriage and is accused of travelling without the proper ticket. He reacts by attacking his accuser. The conductor and the police are called but Paddy uses his shillelah to see them off. He then swears he will return to Ireland.

Text

A Paddy once in Greenock town,
For Glasgow city he was bound,
Staring all round and round,
At length he saw the railway
Then up the stair he did repair,
And a sixpence paid down for his fare,
And with great wonder he did stare,
When he got on the railway.

Chorus: Engine, boiler, water tight,
 Driving in with all his might;
 Upon my soul it was a sight
 To see the Greenock railway.

The ladies were all Pat's delight,
And he sat down amongst their whites;
I once was wrong, but now I'm right
This morning on the railway.
A Gent sat there with curled hair,
At Paddy he began to stare;
And said he did not pay his fare,
For that class on the railway,

Paddy's blood began to rise,
He took the spalpan by surprise,
And hit him then between the eyes,
That morning on the Railway.
The people all then made a fuss,
To get the conductor in they must,
Pat told him to enter if he durst,
That morning on the railway.

But now in sight of Glasgow town,
And at the station we came down,
They looked if a Police could be found,
To drag me from the railway.
But now my shillelah quick I drew,
The conductor on the ground I threw,
And then with legs so swift I flew,
And left them on the railway.

Now to the harvest I will go,
And tell them there of all I know,
I'll tell them of each friend and foe,
That I met on the railway
Then off to Ireland I'll repair,
And tell them all the wonders there,
For never a one in county Clare,
Ever saw or heard of a railway

Glossary:

Spalpan	usually spelled "spalpeen", and used to mean a rogue, rascal, or small-scale troublemaker.
Shillelah	A cudgel of blackthorn or oak

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Music. No tune given

Source of Music: No tune given

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Variant Set: variant set 007

Notes on the Song and Its Historical Background

See Variant set 007